

December 2 2005

Greenpeace bid to halt Le Havre uranium cargo

'Secret' shipments claim, writes Andrew Spurrier in Paris — Friday December 02 2005

A FRENCH police intervention squad arrested a number of Greenpeace activists at the port of Le Havre yesterday after they took action to stop the loading of a Russian ship which they claimed was being used for secret shipments of nuclear waste.

Greenpeace claimed that the Northern Shipping cargoship Kapitan Kuroptev was being loaded with uranium waste for dumping in Siberia. But this was denied by the French nuclear fuels group Areva, which said the material being loaded was low-grade uranium destined for enrichment in Russia.

Cranes

Police arrested 17 French and three Swiss nationals, most whom had been occupying a quayside gantry crane and two cranes aboard the **Kapitan Kuroptev**, and transferred them to the Le Havre police commissariat.

The Greenpeace activists halted the loading of the ship shortly after 0100 hrs yesterday. They claimed it was being loaded with 47 containers containing 450 tonnes of waste which had been brought by train from the Areva Eurodif plant in southern France

They said the waste was being taken to St Petersburg and then overland to Tomsk in Siberia, where it was to be stored without protection in the open.

A Greenpeace representative claimed that the shipment was part of a nuclear waste transport chain which had been kept secret by the nuclear industry and the French authorities.

Proof

He added that the organisation had proof that at least 100,000 tonnes of nuclear waste had been shipped to Russia by different European countries since the 1970s.

"The export of uranium waste is an immense scandal," said Frédéric Marillier, head of Greenpeace France's anti-nuclear campaign.

"Thousands of tonnes leave by sea each year and cross Russia to be abandoned in sites among the most polluted on the planet.

Areva insisted that the shipment from Le Havre consisted of low grade uranium, which would be returned to France as nuclear fuel once it had been enriched in Russia.

"The level of radioactivity of this cargo is very low, about the level of natural radioactivity," a spokesman said.

Greenpeace rejected this explanation, however, claiming that the material being shipped was waste comprising two types of uranium, one produced by reprocessing and the other by enrichment, processes carried out by Areva for Electricité de France and its electricity generating customers elsewhere in Europe.

"To claim, like EdF, that the aim of this traffic is recycling is a lie," said Greenpeace International anti-nuclear campaigner Shaun Burnie.

"More than 90% of waste sent to Russia is abandoned there."

* French fishermen blockaded the northern French ports of Calais, Boulogne and Dunkirk yesterday morning to protest over reduced European Union fishing quotas due to come into force in 2006.

Ferry services out of all three ports were halted for varying periods by the protest but were able to resume when the fishermen lifted their blockade at the end of the morning.

SeaFrance said that the fishermen had given advance notice of their action, enabling it to advise its customers planning to take sailings yesterday morning.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>ABDULRAHMAN</i>	ore	PRK	—	3,923	5,735	1971	Master requested assistance as crew wanted to abandon ship due engine damage and not under command in lat 37 52.8N, long 24 30.7E, Nov 23. Anchored in lat 37 53.34N, long 24 30.43E attempting to effect repairs.
<i>ADORACION</i>	chem tanker	PAN	NK	1,899	2,297	1996	Drifting with engine problems in lat 32 16.3N, long 128 47.2E, Nov 17. Reported removed from navigation warnings Nov 18. Arrived Shimonoseki Nov 19.
<i>ALDRIN</i>	general	BHS	LR	4,297	6,570	1978	Had engine problems in lat 57 01.29N, long 04 24.9E, Nov 20. Taken in tow for Haugesund. At Kopervik Nov 22, effecting repairs.
<i>ALLORA</i>	general	HND	—	285	549	1964	Grounded in lat 58 47N, long 13 11E, Nov 24. Water ingress reported.
<i>AMADA</i>	general	PRK	—	995	1,228	1971	Reported not under command in lat 36 48N, long 21 43.12E, Nov 19 due to engine damage. Taken in tow for Kos. Arrived Kalamata Nov 22 in tow.
<i>AN JIN</i>	general	CHN	CS	3,124	5,118	1982	Distress signal received in lat 08 59.9N, long 109 01E, Nov 21. Nine crew rescued; 13 missing. Oil slick & debris found in area but no sighting of vessel. Sank.
<i>BRIGHT SUN</i>	bulker	KOR	KR	22,271	37,574	1985	Capsized and sank 25 nautical miles off Currimao, Luzon Province, in lat 18 17N, long 120 16E, Nov 18. Twenty of the 21 crew rescued. Neither vessel nor missing crewman located as of Nov 21.
<i>EURO FJORD</i>	general	NOR	—	634	599	1962	Grounded in lat 62 20N, long 05 44.5E, Nov 23 due steering gear problems. Refloated same day. Diver inspection completed at Averoy. Discharging cargo the to proceed repair yard at Hitra.
<i>GUOYUAN 1</i>	bulker	CHN	CS	36,606	69,755	1987	Dragged anchor from position at G3 anchorage, Chesapeake Bay, and grounded on mud Nov 22. Refloated herself on tide and escorted back to anchorage by tugs. No damage or pollution.
<i>ISSAQUAH</i>	ro-ro	USA	—	18,405	32,574	1980	Stranded in Washington State's Puget Sound Nov 23 for 15 mins due propeller problem. Tied up on Vashon for repairs and out of service until further notice.
<i>KARMSUND</i>	general	BRB	NV	2,728	1,250	1979	Grounded in lat 58 02.4N, long 06 57.3E, Nov 24. Refloated by own means same day and proceeded Lyngal. Minor hull damage & small leak.
<i>NOVA SCOTIA</i>	refrig	ATG	BV	5,875	6,060	1983	Towed into Montevideo Nov 21 due to engine trouble. At anteport Nov 22, awaiting surveyor. Will probably undergo repairs at Montevideo.
<i>SPERCHIOS</i>	product tanker	LBR	NK	39,964	61,540	1982	Ran aground in lat 17 57.69N, long 66 46.06W, Nov 21. Tugs on scene. Booms placed around vessel as a precaution. Lighter barges on scene. Refloated Nov 23 and anchored in Guayanilla Bay for inspection.
<i>TRIZAN</i>	general	PRK	—	1,652	2,074	1967	Sent Mayday near Thassos Nov 23. Drifted from anchorage & grounded coast of Potamias, Thassos, in lat 40 43N, long 24 45E. Still aground Nov 24. Water ingress in engine-room.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



ABDULRAHMAN (North Korea)

London, Nov 23 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: This morning, the master of North Korean general cargo *Abdulrahman* HMV19, requested assistance from the Coast Guard, stating he wanted the crew to abandon ship. The vessel had sustained engine damage and remained not under command near the islets of Mantili, Evia, in lat 37 52.8N, long 24 30.7E. Immediately, all vessels in the vicinity were alerted, and a Coast Guard salvage craft, a naval frigate, two helicopters and nearby c.c. *MSC Annamaria* were mobilised, to rescue the 19 crewmembers. However, when the helicopters arrived on scene, the vessel's master advised that it was no longer the intention to abandon ship. The vessel was then anchored 3.5 nautical miles south of the islets Mantili. It is understood that the vessel had previously sailed from Smyrni bound for Portugal loaded with 5,500 tons of cement and was to call at Piraeus for bunkers. The frigate, *MSC Annamaria* and the Coast Guard salvage vessel are all remaining near the vessel. Winds in the area are south-westerly, force 8.

London, Nov 23 — Following received from Piraeus MRCC, timed 0910, UTC: General cargo *Abdulrahman* remains at anchor, in position lat 37 53.34N, long 24 30.43E. The crew are attempting to effect repairs.

Piraeus, Nov 23 — General cargo *Abdulrahman*, Izmir for Portugal, loaded with a consignment of 5,500 tons of cement had mechanical failure area of Kafireas Strait, Euboea Island, this morning. She was expected to call Piraeus for bunkering. Vessel remains anchored 3.5 nautical miles from Mantili, a rocky island off Euboea and her crew members are trying to repair the damages. Coast Guard, navy and c.c. *MSC Anna Maria* remain nearby ready to provide assistance if necessary. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 24 — Following received from Piraeus MRCC, timed 0550, UTC: General cargo *Abdulrahman* (ex *Iron Castle*, 3923 gt, built 1971) remains at anchor, however, vessel has been abandoned by crew who will probably return to the vessel when the weather improves.

Piraeus, Nov 24 — General cargo *Abdulrahman* is still anchored three nautical miles from Mantili island, Euboea. The vessel's crew have reportedly repaired the damage. The port authority at Karystos has prohibited the vessel from sailing until it is inspected by a Class surveyor. — Lloyd's Agents.

ADORACION (Panama)

London, Nov 17 — Following Navigational Warning, dated today,

states: Chem.tank *Adoracion* (1899 gt, built 1996) with engine trouble, is adrift in 32 16.3N, long 128 47.2E at 1500, UTC, today.

London, Nov 17 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 1945, UTC: Chem.tank *Adoracion* is drifting due to engine problems. Awaiting local assistance.

London, Nov 18 — Following Navigational Warning, dated today, states: Engine troubled chem.tank *Adoracion* removed.

London, Nov 21 — Chem.tank *Adoracion* was reported arriving at Shimonoseki on Nov 19.

AEGITNA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Vigo, Oct 30 — General cargo *Aegitna* is still under repair at Vigo. — Lloyd's Agents.

AGGRESSOR (U.S.A.)

London, Nov 23 — A Coast Guard Boston press release, dated Nov 22, states: A Coast Guard HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter crew from Air Station Cape Cod, Mass. rescued three fisherman after their fishing *Aggressor* (139 gt) ran aground on a shoal roughly 100 yards from the southern shore of Block Island, RI, while enroute to their homeport of New Bedford, Mass, at about 2230 yesterday. The crew notified Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound and a helicopter was launched. The fishermen put on survival suits and were preparing to abandon ship when the helicopter arrived on scene near midnight. The crew of the HH-60 Jayhawk hoisted the fisherman from the battered vessel and transferred them to Rhode Island Hospital, at 0046 hrs. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

London, Nov 23 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 0050, UTC: Fishing *Aggressor*, official No.1108300, is hard aground in lat 41 08.42N, long 71 35.57W. The weather in the area is very bad so no salvage efforts have been made and no assessment has been made to ascertain whether the vessel can be salvaged.

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated Nov 23, states: A Coast Guard helicopter rescued three fishermen from fishing *Aggressor* after the vessel ran aground near Block Island, Rhode Island, on Monday night (Nov 21.). The fishermen were flown to Rhode Island Hospital in Providence, where they were treated and released, said Fleet Fisheries president Lars Vinjerud, who owns the vessel. "The men are back home," Mr. Vinjerud said yesterday. He added that he had not yet spoken with the vessel's skipper, Thomas C. Wicherski, about what happened. The vessel was returning from a Mid-Atlantic fishing trip when it ran aground on a shoal approximately 100 yards from the southern shore of Block Island, according to a Coast Guard report. The vessel's crew reported the accident to Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound at approximately 2230 hrs. The

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fishermen were dressed in their survival suits and preparing to abandon the vessel, which was taking on water, when a Coast Guard helicopter from Air Station Cape Cod arrived at about 2330 hrs, Coast Guard Petty Officer Lisa Hennings said. The Coast Guard hoisted each fisherman from the deck into the helicopter, Petty Officer Hennings said. The cause of the accident remains under investigation, she said. "It is difficult to assess" if weather was a factor, she said. Weather conditions at the time of the accident included four-foot seas, 10-knot winds and visibility of two nautical miles, she said. Fleet Fisheries arranged for a salvage company to recover the vessel, but yesterday's bad weather delayed the operation, Petty Officer Hennings said. Mr. Vinjerud said he did not know the condition of the vessel or its catch.

AL-KAHFAIN (Panama)

London, Nov 22 — Passenger ro/ro *Al-Kahfain* is lying up side down but not completely submerged off Safaga. Vessel is not obstructing navigation.

ALDRIN (Bahamas)

London, Nov 22 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 1040, UTC: General cargo *Aldrin* (4297 gt, built 1978), cargo cement, had engine problems in lat 57 01.29N, long 04 24.9E at 2143, UTC, Nov 20. Vessel taken in tow by *Gjert Wilhelmsen* to Haugesund, ETA one hour.

London, Nov 22 — Understand that general cargo *Aldrin*, Gdynia for Leith, is currently at the port of Kopervik effecting repairs to damaged engine. Vessel's ETA at Leith is now Nov 26.

ALEXANDRA I (Panama)

See "Persian Gulf" under "Piracy".

ALLIANCE (Germany)

Genoa, Nov 21 — Research *Alliance* is still at Genoa, under repair. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALLORA (Honduras)

London, Nov 24 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 1140, UTC: General cargo *Allora* (285 gt, built 1964) ran aground in lat 58 47N, long 13 11E, just after midnight. Vessel remains aground. Coast guard are on scene arranging salvage. Water ingress reported.

ALTAIRE (U.K.)

See "Illegal Fishing, Denmark" under "Awards & Settlements."

AMADA (North Korea)

London, Nov 21 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: General cargo *Amada* (995 gt, built 1971) Egypt for Albania, loaded with a cargo of rice, was sailing 17 nautical miles west of Pylos (in lat 36 48N, 21 43.12E) not under command due to engine damage Nov 19. Engine-room sustained flooding. Immediately the Coast Guard stations of Pylos and Kalamata were alerted and dispatched

a patrol vessel. On board were 10 crew members who are good in health. Following the incident vessel anchored in the Gulf of Methonis and awaited the arrival of a tug and divers. The master was instructed by the Coast Guard to take precautions to avoid sea pollution.

London, Nov 21 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1023, UTC: *Amada* was taken in tow by a tug to Pylos. Vessel remains in port.

Piraeus, Nov 23 — General cargo *Amada* arrived at Kalamata Nov 22 in tow of tug *Aegean Pelagos* due to mechanical failure to her main engine. The vessel, loaded with a consignment of 1,000 tons of rice in bags, remains in port awaiting inspection. — Lloyd's Agents.

AN JIN (China)

London, Nov 23 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0415, UTC: A distress signal was received from general cargo *An Jin*, BILM, 3124 gt (built 1982) in lat 08 59.9N, long 109 01E, at 1618, UTC, Nov 21. Of the 22 crew on board nine have been rescued and 13 are still missing. An oil spill and debris has been found in area by vessels which are searching for the missing crew members but no sighting of the vessel.

London, Nov 23 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 2240, UTC: General cargo *An Jin*: Thirteen crew remain missing. Search operation will resume at dawn.

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Thirteen Chinese sailors are missing and feared dead after their ship (general cargo *An Jin*), Shanghai for Singapore, cargo steel, sank in waters off southern Vietnam, a local official said today. Nine sailors were rescued by a relief ship from the Vietnam-Russia joint venture oil company VietSovPetro that is operating in the region, said Nguyen Ngoc Hung, official of the Vung Tau people's committee. "A search for the missing sailors is still ongoing but we fear they may be dead," Hung said, adding the cause of the incident was not yet known.

AN LAN (China)

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated Nov 19, states: A cargo vessel, carrying 4,880 tons of steel materials, struck a container ship after losing control on the Huangpu River about 0615 yesterday. No one was injured in the collision.

Shanghai, Nov 22 — At 0600, local time, Nov 18, general cargo *An Lan* collided with c.c. I.Dong Hong 12. At 0630, local time, *An Lan* temporarily berthed at Zhanghuabang port (Shanghai) with a hole at starboard bow, and ingress of water. *Dong Hong 12* proceeded to Wusong anchorage. At 0750, local time, the ingress of the water had been controlled and *An Lan* stopped sinking. At 0900, local time, 360 tonnes of steel coils had been discharged from *An Lan* and transhipped by barge crane and 30 tonnes of fresh water had been discharged for refloating the ship. At

0940, local time, *An Lan* was refloated. At 1500, local time, the hole in ship starboard bow had shown up. At 1630, local time, "stopped up the hole". At 1730, local time, *An Lan* departed Zhanghuabang port to shift to another pier for discharging operation, and berthed at Bailianjing port No.4 pier at 1815 hrs for discharging at 0630, Nov 19. The hole had been disengaged from the water, the ingress of the water stopped. At 1600, local time, Nov 20 *An Lan* completed discharging operation and proceeded to Lu Shan Dry Dock for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

ANTJE (Netherlands)

London, Nov 23 — General cargo *Antje* was reported arriving at Perth on Nov 21 and sailing on Nov 22, bound for Amsterdam.

ARCO AXE (U.K.)

London, Nov 20 — Trailing suction dredger *Arco Axe* (3498 gt, built 1989), owned by MCC Leasing No. 21 in Southampton, ran aground while entering the Outer Harbour of Flushing, near the green entrance light, at approximately 1930 hrs, yesterday. The tug *Walcheren* was soon on the scene and secured a towage connection. The dredger was refloated shortly afterwards and was able to proceed to its berth in the Outer Harbour to discharge its cargo. The vessel sustained no known damages in this grounding incident.

London, Nov 21 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: On Oct 19 trailing suction dredger *Arco Axe* ran aground in the outer harbour of the Dutch port of Vlissingen at 1930 hrs. The tug *Walcheren* was at the grounding site within short time and succeeded in getting the vessel free shortly after the grounding.

London, Nov 24 — Trailing suction dredger *Arco Axe* was reported arriving at London at 0021 hrs, Nov 23 and sailing later in the day, at 0537 hrs.

ARCTIC OCEAN (Canada)

London, Nov 17 — Fishing *Arctic Ocean* (148 gt, built 1988) touched a reef just off the Inner Port Hardy Bay, BC, at 1730, PST, Nov 15. The vessel was towed off at high tide.

ARIS (Thailand)

Hanoi, Nov 23 — It is reported that efforts on refloating operations for general cargo *Aris* were not successful. Yesterday, Salvage Company 2 said refloating operations were obstructed by rough weather with wind scale 6 (strong breeze), 7 (near gale) and strong waves. At 0800, Nov 19, during discharge of timber to barge *Jay Abadi*, hired by shipowners, *Aris* listed 14 degrees to starboard and cracked between two holds. The two remainder crews on board were rescued safely. However, it is worried that surrounding buoys were seriously damaged by the barge and strong waves, anchor was also broken and the barge drifted to shore. A large amount of timber fell to the sea and now

floating around the area that may cause danger to the sea transportation. Danger of oil pollution is also concerned if the vessel capsizes. The salvage company has given notice to the shipowners that due to force majeure, no salvage and refloating operations will be continued. — Lloyd's Agents.

B.G. IRELAND (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Nov 20 — C.c. *B.G. Ireland* arrived at Rotterdam at 2355 hrs, Nov 12, departing at 1425 hrs, Nov 14, bound for Dublin.

BARGE W543 (U.S.A.)

See *R.S. Sterling*.

BEACON 3 (Belize)

Piraeus, Nov 17 — C.c. *Beacon 3* still remains in Piraeus port. No repairs have been reported up to today. ETD: Unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

BOKA STAR (Tonga)

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

BOTANY TROJAN (Panama)

London, Nov 17 — Chem.tank *Botany Trojan* (9553 gt, built 1996) struck the wharf while berthing at Valleyfield at 1645, EST, Nov 16. Vessel sustained damages. No pollution or injuries reported.

Montreal, Nov 17 — Chem.tank *Botany Trojan*: On arrival vessel contacted the pier at Valleyfield afternoon, Nov 16, causing damage to a section of concrete and local indents to the vessel's starboard side ballast tanks. No repairs required to the vessel and it has continued on its planned voyage to Clarkson, Ontario. Damage to the pier is considerable and repairs will be required. — Lloyd's Agents.

BRIGHT SUN (South Korea)

Manila, Nov 18 — Bulk *Bright Sun* (22271 gt, built 1985) sank at 1400 hrs, today, 25 nautical miles off Currimaio town, in the northern Luzon province of Ilocos Norte, the Philippine Coast Guard reported. The vessel was on its way to China from Vietnam when it encountered rough waters off Ilocos Norte and capsized. Twenty crew members were plucked from their lifeboats by the passing Japanese vessel *Bishu Maru*. The South Korean chief engineer remains missing, however. Coast Guard spokesman Lt. Armand Balilo said that the rescued seamen would be disembarked in China. The exact cause of the sinking is still to be determined, he added. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Nov 19 — The Philippine Coast Guard today said that it had dispatched a search and rescue vessel and a rescue helicopter to search for a missing crewman from bulk *Bright Sun* which sank yesterday. The search and rescue team, which includes divers, were searching the area, 25 nautical miles off Currimaio town in the northern Luzon province of Ilocos Norte, where the bulk carrier sank. A

tropical typhoon passing through the Philippines was generating large waves and strong winds making rescue operations difficult. The missing crewman, a South Korean chief engineer, remained missing. The rest of the crew, made up of 10 Filipinos and 10 South Koreans were picked up from their life boats by a passing cargo vessel heading for Dalian. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Nov 20 — Following received from Coast Guard Manila, timed 0410, UTC: Bulk *Bright Sun* sank in lat 18 17N, long 120 16E. The vessel's crew were rescued by bulk *Tian Rong Hai* which en route to China.

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: No sign of a Korean engineer has been found two days after his ship, bulk *Bright Sun*, sank off Ilocos Norte on Friday, the Philippine Coast Guard said. Efforts to look for the engineer, whose name was not given, have been hampered by rough seas, according to PCG spokesperson Lieutenant Armand Balilo. Balilo said the PCG Auxiliary Squadron was forced to halt search and rescue operations yesterday after its two tugs were battered by big waves. But two PCG helicopters were still looking for the engineer. Balilo said no definite date to end the search had been set, adding that this would depend on the assessment of the situation by the search coordinator. *Bright Sun's* 20 other crew members, 10 Filipinos and 10 Koreans, were rescued on Friday as they sat in life rafts after their vessel sank. They were taken on board LNG *Bishu Maru* and later transferred to the China-bound bulk *Tian Rong Hai*.

Manila, Nov 21 — After three days of continuous searching, salvage tugs have been unable to locate bulk *Bright Sun* which sank Friday. Harbour tugs *Monarch* and *Stanford* have been searching an area, 25 nautical miles off Currimaio town, province of Ilocos Norte, where the bulk carrier sank. The two 3,000 hp tugs are owned by Manila-based Malayan Towage and Salvage Corp which has been contracted by SMIT International to search and if possible salvage *Bright Sun*. SMIT International has been hired by the insurance underwriters of *Bright Sun*. Having no tugs in the Philippines, SMIT International has chartered the tugs of Malayan Towage to salvage the vessel. Rough seas have hampered the search for *Bright Sun*. "Even if we find the vessel, it will be difficult to salvage it because of the water's great depths," Capt. Renato Torreno, Malayan Towage operations manager said. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Nov 21 — The Korean chief engineer of the bulk *Bright Sun* is still missing four days after his ship sank, the Philippine Coast Guard have reported. Efforts to look for the officer have been hampered by rough seas, brought about by typhoon "Bolayan". Coast Guard spokesman Lieutenant Armand Balilo said. A Coast Guard helicopter continues to search for the missing crewman, however, Balilo

added. The 20 other crew members were rescued on Friday (Nov 18) by the Japanese-flagged LNG *Bishu Maru*. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

BULGARIA (Bulgaria)

Rotterdam, Nov 23 — Bulk *Bulgaria* (30596 gt, built 1978) laden with soya beans grounded on the Amazon River Oct 7. A salvage officer/naval architect was immediately mobilised from Belem and was backed up by a salvage master from Rotterdam. Two tugs were chartered from local Brazilian partners and after bunker transfer and an inspection the tugs were connected. Under instruction of the salvage master the bulk carrier was successfully refloated and redelivered to the owner Oct 10. — SMIT Salvage BV. (Note — *Bulgaria* had sailed Aarhus Sep 7 for Itacoatiara, River Amazon. Vessel subsequently arrived Belfast Oct 29.)

BUMI JAYA (Indonesia)

Chittagong, Nov 19 — The local agents of general cargo *Bumi Jaya*, Unicorn Shipping Lines Limited, have informed that the vessel is presently lying at Chittagong outer anchorage. The owners of the vessel have decided to tow the vessel to Singapore for the necessary engine repairs, but the date and time of sailing of the ship is yet to be fixed. — Lloyd's Agents.

CANADIAN LEADER (Canada)

London, Nov 18 — Bulk *Canadian Leader* arrived at Thunder Bay on Nov 15.

London, Nov 22 — Bulk *Canadian Leader* sailed from Thunder Bay on Nov 17, bound for Sorel.

CP AMBASSADOR (Bermuda)

See *Passaden*.

DAGNA (Netherlands)

London, Nov 18 — General cargo *Dagna* (4000 gt, built 2005) bound Canada: The emergency generator room of the vessel flooded, damaging its emergency generator and switchboard in lat 45 00N, long 55 00W at 1045, EST, Nov 17.

St. John's, Nov 21 — General cargo *Dagna* was in Montreal "on Sunday Nov 21" and is currently mid-Lake Ontario upbound for Clarkson. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

DBL 152 (U.S.A.)

London, Nov 18 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1523, UTC: Tank barge *DBL 152* is still lying in the same position. Cargo removal has commenced and is expected to take about three weeks.

London, Nov 20 — A Coast Guard Port Arthur press release, dated today, states: Salvage and clean-up operations resumed yesterday after rough weather that moved into the area Tuesday had suspended all operations. Divers surveyed tank barge *DBL 152* yesterday evening and discovered a 2.5-foot by 8-foot hole in the top of the No. 3 starboard cargo tank. The No. 3 starboard cargo tank was damaged sometime after the barge

capsized, it contained approximately 563,000 gallons of oil. It is not known how much oil has leaked from the No. 3 tank, but divers located oil under the barge. Today's operations are focused on locating the submerged oil, beginning the clean-up process and preparing to remove the remaining oil in the barge's cargo tanks. There was submerged oil located near where the accident occurred. Assets are being mobilized to begin removal of this oil. At approximately 2330, Nov. 14, *DBL 152* capsized. Progressive flooding had caused the barge to roll onto its starboard side at about 1630, Nov 14. As a weather front moved into the area responders worked quickly to stabilize the barge, and oil clean-up operations were suspended at about noon Tuesday due to the rough seas. The barge is now in lat 29 12.3N, long 93 28.14W.

London, Nov 21 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1545, UTC: Tank barge *DBL 152* is still lying in the same position. A large anchor has been attached to the vessel to prevent it drifting.

London, Nov 21 — A Coast Guard Port Arthur press release, dated today, states: Divers completed the damage assessment of the capsized tank barge *DBL 152* today, which revealed that a third cargo tank has breached. The No.1 port cargo tank hatch was damaged sometime after *DBL 152* capsized on Nov 14. The cargo tank contained approximately 440,000 gallons of oil. A diver survey of the barge on Saturday evening discovered a 2.5-foot by 8-foot hole in the top of the No.3 starboard cargo tank. It also had been damaged sometime when or after the barge capsized, and it contained approximately 564,000 gallons of oil. The No.1 starboard cargo tank was damaged in the contact with debris on Nov 10. The entire contents of all three damaged cargo tanks were 1,309,000 gallons of oil. It is not known how much oil has escaped the damaged tanks. There is no visible surface oil. Response teams are conducting multiple surveys to locate submerged oil. Concentrations of submerged oil have been found, and assets are being mobilized to begin clean-up. The Texas General Land Office has created a network of individuals to monitor Texas beaches for any indication of oiling. This network will remain active for several months. The TGLO, the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office, the barge owner, the Coast Guard, and other agencies have developed a shoreline clean-up plan, which will be implemented if oil is found along the Texas or Louisiana coastlines. Company officials and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are conducting surveys on a submerged platform with which the barge is suspected to have struck. The platform was damaged during the recent hurricane.

DONATELLO (Italy)

London, Nov 22 — Hydrofoil *Donatello* (173 gt, built 1980) in the

Aeolian Isles struck the quay with its left foil whilst departing for Lipari Island at about 1900, Nov 19. Understand that the foil sustained considerable damage and also that the peralluman side-plating was torn and that sea-water made ingress. All passengers were able to leave the vessel unharmed but understand that one passenger did sustain light injuries. The vessel was subsequently beached on the beach at Rinella, Salina.

DONG HONG 12 (China)

See *An Lan*.

DORIA (Germany)

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The master of c.c. *Doria* (10811 gt, built 1987), currently on the Eldock floating dock in Durban has admitted guilt with regards a spill of between 80 and 100 tonnes of oil into Durban harbour earlier this month. The vessel had grounded off the West Coast but after refloating was able to proceed to Durban for repairs where the ship's master neglected to advise that he still had about 300 tonnes of bunker oil in the fuel tanks before going onto the floating dock. As the vessel began to rise cracks in the hull opened allowing the oil to spill into the harbour, where most of it was held behind floating booms. However a SW 'buster' blew up that night causing some of the oil to spill over the booms and spread across the Bayhead area of the harbour.

EAST EXPRESS (DIS)

London, Nov 21 — General cargo *East Express* was reported passing Gibraltar at 0453 hrs, Nov 20, in an easterly direction, destination unknown.

EIDER (Hong Kong)

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated Nov 22, states: At 0100, Oct 31 bulk *Eider* grounded on the rocky shores of Antofagasta. A large amount of diesel was discharged into the sea, along with heavy mechanical lubricant hydrocarbons. Around 7 km of coastal shore has been directly impacted by the resulting oil slick. The Chilean authorities have been preventing oil entering small bays known as "caletas", using floating booms. Working with volunteers of the Wild Fauna Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre of the University of Antofagasta, a number of stricken seabirds and several migratory Franklin Gulls were captured, although access to the birds proved difficult. In addition at least 80 oiled Brown Pelicans, several Gray, Band-tailed and Kelp Gulls, and Red-legged and Neotropic Cormorants have been sighted, but have not been rescued. Peruvian Boobies are regularly feeding within the affected area but none have been recovered to date. Green Turtles *Chelonia mydas* were among the other significantly affected wildlife. Further casualties are expected. Contingency action undertaken by the Chilean Navy to

date has been limited to the use of floating booms and the application of dispersant and degreaser solutions, which while reducing oil at the surface has resulted in spreading it throughout the water column.

ENOL FRIO (Panama)

London, Nov 18 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1044, UTC: Ref *Enol Frio* is currently effecting repairs at anchor and expects to be under way at about 1200, UTC, today.

London, Nov 18 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 2130, UTC: Ref *Enol Frio* is still effecting repairs. ETC not known.

London, Nov 19 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0755, UTC: At 2300 hrs, yesterday, ref *Enol Frio* reported it was underway and proceeding to East London, where ETA approximately 0900, UTC, Nov 19.

London, Nov 19 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0848, UTC: Ref *Enol Frio* arrived off East London. The vessel did not enter the port, solely offloading the equipment it had used to effect repairs. The vessel is underway, on passage for Maputo.

EUGENIO

London, Nov 24 — As of Nov 23 general cargo *Eugenio* was still berthed at the Dormac repair quay, Durban.

EURO FJORD (Norway)

London, Nov 23 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 1040, UTC: General cargo *Euro Fjord* (634 gt, built 1962) ran aground in lat 62 20N, long 05 44.5E at 0448, local time, today. Vessel remains aground. A refloating attempt will take place at high tide at 1500, UTC, today. No damage or injuries.

London, Nov 23 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 2315, UTC: General cargo *Euro Fjord* refloated at 1615, local time. A diver inspection was carried out and no problems found. Vessel is now in Fosnavaag harbour.

Trondheim, Nov 24 — General cargo *Euro Fjord*, loaded, grounded outside Heroy at about 0440, Nov 23, due to steering problems, according to the vessel's master. The vessel refloated under its own power at about 1430 the same day, and arrived at Averoy at 0345 today, escorted by rescue vessel *Plato*. Cargo discharge is now in progress. The vessel is awaiting permission to proceed to a repair yard at Hitra. — Lloyd's Agents.

EVER MIGHTY (Panama)

London, Nov 18 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1107, UTC: Operations have now commenced to lighter cargo from bulk *Ever Mighty*. Lightering is expected to take approximately 48 hours.

London, Nov 18 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Lighter vessel *Aalmeergrach* arrived on Nov 17, after improvement of the weather at the grounding site of bulk *Ever Mighty* off the Danish island of

Samsøe. As soon as the authorities approve the plans, 8,500 tons of coal should be lightered from the casualty. Lightering works are expected to start today. A salvage attempt could be attempted on Nov 20 if the weather permits.

London, Nov 20 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1050, UTC: Bulk *Ever Mighty* was successfully refloated at 2220, UTC, yesterday. The vessel is currently in Kalundborgfjord, where inspections have been carried out. The Class Society has given approval for the vessel to complete one voyage to Tilbury.

London, Nov 21 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: At 2320 hrs, Nov 19, SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage B.V. refloated the grounded bulk *Ever Mighty*, in a controlled operation, using four tugs. The vessel thereafter was towed to Kalundborg Fjord for completion of salvage services. The operation had earlier included the lightering of nearly 10,000 tons of cargo to give the vessel the necessary buoyancy. Refloating operations were completed yesterday, when tugs scheduled to take part in the refloating operation were mobilised in. Under control of the SvitzerWijsmuller salvage team the SvitzerWijsmuller tugs *Sigyn*, *Egil* and *Fenja* as well as the tug *Aros* refloated *Ever Mighty* in a fully controlled and planned manner, at the first attempt. The lightered cargo is planned to be reloaded from the lightering vessel after the necessary diving surveys, to determine the condition of the casualty, have been completed.

Copenhagen, Nov 21 — Discharge of coal from bulk *Ever Mighty* to lighter vessel *Aalmeergrach* stopped during the afternoon of Nov 19 and the vessel was refloated at 2320, local time, same day. Early yesterday morning *Ever Mighty* arrived at the roads of Kalundborg Fjord where divers examined it for possible damage. Classification society recommended reloading of coal and this operation started on Nov 20. Class also required internal inspection of double bottom tanks 1, 2 and 3 to be carried out at Tilbury, where final discharge of the coal is to take place. — Lloyd's Agents.

Gothenburg, Nov 21 — Bulk *Ever Mighty* refloated after discharging cargo into another vessel, came off the ground by itself with own engines, supported by tugs from SvitzerWijsmuller at Hatter Reef. Vessel proceeded to Kalundborg for reloading of cargo and survey of vessel/divers etc. It was allowed to depart from Kalundborg with a pilot on board. — Westax Marine Services AB.

FEHN STAR (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Nov 21 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: On Nov 16, the Antigua & Barbuda-flagged general cargo *Fehn Star* (2867 gt, built 1989), collided with the German river vessel *Holsatia* (length 67 metres, 904 dwt), when leaving the port of Hamburg for Sittingbourne. The *Fehn Star* was leaving its berth stern first, and hit

the *Holsatia* amidships. *Holsatia* was on passage from the Sandau harbour to Salzgitter port. The stern of the *Fehn Star* was slightly damaged. The vessel returned to Hamburg for inspection. Both ships have subsequently departed the harbour after completion of and inspection of, repairs. (Note — *Fehn Star* was subsequently reported sailing Hamburg at 0210 hrs, Nov 17, bound for Grovehurst Jetty, where it arrived on Nov 19.)

FENIX (Panama)

Chittagong, Nov 20 — Bulk/c.c. *Fenix* (19385 gt, built 1985) was reportedly damaged by lighter vessel *Protul* at 0525 hrs, Nov 17, while casting off after taking a load from the mother vessel. Reportedly *Fenix* has sustained damage in way of the starboard double bottom tanks Nos.2 & 4. *Fenix* is presently lying at Chittagong outer anchorage with approximately 5,000 tonnes of wheat on board. — Lloyd's Agents.

FILIPINAS MAASIN (Philippines)

See *Our Lady of Rule*.

FINNSAILOR (Sweden)

Malmo, Nov 17 — Ro/ro/c.c. *Finnsailor* was in collision at 0445 hrs, Nov 13, with bulk *General Grot-Rowecki* in the south Baltic, in position "Kadettrannan bouy 70." German police have been on board after the collision. *Finnsailor* was damaged on its starboard aft, close to the stern-ramp. It proceeded to Malmo for discharge and then to Landskrona shipyard for repairs, which will take about a week. *General Grot-Rowecki* proceeded to the Gruth shipyard in Szczecin, Poland. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 19 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: Ro/ro/c.c. *Finnsailor*, of the Nordoe-Line, which collided while on passage from Luebeck-Travemuende to Malmoe, with bulk *General Grot-Rowecki* at 0525, Oct 13, was drydocked at Oerosund Yard, Karlskrona, on Oct 14. The repairs to the starboard side of the stern will take about one week, so the ferry will probably not return to service before Nov 21. To unload the trucks which were carried from Travemuende to Malmoe, the stern ramp first had to be welded open in Malmoe where the *Finnsailor* arrived five hours behind schedule. *General Grot-Rowecki*, which was in ballast, on passage to Ventspils went to Swinemuende for inspection. The ship had flooding in a hold after a ballast tank on the port side was torn open. On scene after the collision were the tug *Fairplay 25*, the environment protection vessel *Arkona*, the rescue vessel *Theo Fischer* and the patrol boat *BG 26* as well as a police helicopter. *Arkona* accompanied the bulk carrier until it had left the German zone. The cause of the accident is still under investigation. There was some mist and force 4 seas, in the so-called Kadettrinne between Denmark and Germany.

FOSTRAUM (NIS)

London, Nov 18 — Chem.tank *Fostraum* was reported passing through the Dover Strait on Nov 17, on passage from Corunna for Delfzijl.

London, Nov 19 — Chem.tank *Fostraum* arrived at Delfzijl at 1016 hrs, Nov 18.

FOWAIRET (Qatar)

Maassluis, Nov 18 — C.c. *Fowairet* is still under repair. Damen shipyard is presently engaged in removing a part of the (damaged) hull. After that the vessel will (a bit shorter) sail on its schedule. Subsequently, it will get a new part in the hull. Dates etc. currently unknown. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

GALINA (Cambodia)

Falmouth, Nov 18 — General cargo *Galina* is still under detention at Falmouth and is undergoing repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

GENERAL GROT-ROWECKI (Malta)

See *Finnsailor*.

GOLDEN BELLS 2

See *Plato*.

GRETA R. (Myanmar)

London, Nov 17 — Bulk *Greta R.* was reported passing through the Panama Canal, in an easterly direction, on Oct 30.

GUOYUAN 1 (China)

London, Nov 22 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 2215, UTC: Bulk *Guoyuan 1* (36606 gt, built 1987), loaded, dragged anchor from its position at the G3 anchorage, Chesapeake Bay, and became soft aground on mud earlier today. Vessel refloated by itself when the tide came in and it was escorted back to the anchorage by tugs. No damage or pollution.

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated Nov 22, states: Bulk *Guoyuan 1* broke free from its anchorage and ran aground near Naval Station Norfolk today. The Coast Guard says the ship, was moored at the G3 anchorage when there was a problem with its anchor. The ship broke free and drifted .85 mile before running aground 200 yards from shore at Sewells Point Spit. The ship sat on the mud bottom until the incoming tide refloated it. Tugs from Moran Towing Company towed the vessel back to its anchorage. The Coast Guard said there was no pollution as a result of the grounding. The ship is normally used to carry grain, and was scheduled to take on cargo tomorrow. The ship will be required to undergo a damage assessment before it's allowed to load and depart.

HAJ SALEH AL JADID (Egypt)

Beirut, Nov 18 — Schooner *Haj Saleh Al Jadid* completed repairs and sailed from Tyr at 0400, local time, today. Declared destination Damietta. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

HELSE (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Nov 19 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: On Nov 18 general cargo *Helse* (1582 gt, built 1992), struck the west jetty of German port of Busum at 1300 hrs, when entering port. Both the jetty and the ship were severely damaged. The vessel's bow hit the jetty, at a right angle and damage is estimated at several thousand Euros. The incident happened "one hour before flood caused probably by the current". The vessel had a pilot on board. *Helse* reached the harbour without assistance after the incident. The police have started an investigation.

London, Nov 23 — General cargo *Helse* was reported transiting the Kiel Canal, in an easterly direction, at 0031 hrs, Nov 22.

HOLLY ANN (U.S.A.)

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated Nov 18, states: The U.S. Coast Guard says tug *Holly Ann* (220 gt, built 1926), with two large barges, may have lost power trying to bring them into the harbour around 1030 today. *Holly Ann*, out of Chicago, was towing two 110-foot, 220-ton barges and heading to Holland (Lake Michigan) to escape bad weather. The boat lost power as it headed toward the pier. The master then tried to steer, which is when he lost control of the empty barges. No one was injured and no citation has been written as the investigation continues. One barge ended on the rocks has since been taken away. As for the other barge, efforts could take a while as most salvage boats are in dry dock this time of year. Any of those boats that are not in dry dock may have to wait for more favourable weather to move the barge.

Troy, Mich., Nov 19 — As at 1900 hrs, today, one barge remains on the beach at Holland State Park. Reports indicate that the group left Muskegon and was returning to Chicago with tug *Holly Ann* in the lead. Increasing wind and waves prompted them to seek safe harbour at Holland (MI). Around 1030 hrs while attempting an entry, the tug lost power and steering. The barges then hung up on the end of the north breakwater. The tug and one barge were pushed inside the breakwall and on the rocks which protect the structure. The other barge broke loose and was driven on the beach to the north. Plans to remove it are unknown at this time. It is thought that the tug lost power and was forced against the pier causing the barges to break loose. The tug and a second barge are in the Holland channel. The Coast Guard is working to get all the vessels back to shore. It's currently unknown if anyone was injured in the incident. — Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping News.

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated today, states: High waves and strong winds hampered tug *Holly Ann* from recapturing two 195-foot barges that broke free yesterday, one drifting to Holland State Park beach and the other just inside the pier head. The

empty barges, connected by steel cabling, broke free about 1030 hrs as the tug, owned by Holly Marine Towing, of Chicago, was trying to enter the harbour from the north. Holly Headland, owner of Holly Marine, said the tug and barges were seeking safe harbour from the weather after dropping off a load in Muskegon. The tug was en route back to Chicago. The tug retrieved the barge inside the pier head yesterday afternoon, and Headland said they expected to get the beached barge when the waves subsided, perhaps today. U.S. Coast Guard officials said 35 mph winds prevailed at the lakeshore yesterday, with gusts to 45. The tug's crew told the Coast Guard the boat overheated and the rudder jammed as they entered the harbour, possibly causing the mishap. Headland later reported the tug was fine.

London, Nov 19 — A press report, timed 1758, today, states: One of two barges that broke away from tug *Holly Ann* yesterday remains beached at Holland State Park. The barges separated from the tug yesterday morning while being towed from Muskegon to Chicago. The tug and one barge have been moved into Lake Macatawa. The Coast Guard is making plans on how to move the one that is still beached.

London, Nov 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Crews removed a barge from Holland State Park today. The barge was one of two that came loose Friday morning while being moved from Muskegon to Chicago. The Coast Guard says the 200 yard towing cables broke on the breakwater as tug *Holly Ann* pulled into the Holland Channel to escape rough waters. Witnesses say the cables got caught on the pier, snapped, and set the barges loose. One ended up on the rocks in the mouth of the channel. The other, on the beach. After the accident, the boat and other barge were moved to Lake Macatawa.

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Crews removed a barge from Holland State Park yesterday that had been beached there for days. The barge was one of two that came loose Friday (Nov 18) morning while being moved from Muskegon to Chicago by tug *Holly Ann*. The Coast Guard says the 200-yard towing cables broke on the breakwater as the tug pulled into the Holland Channel to escape rough waters. After the accident, the boat and other barge were moved to Lake Macatawa.

HOLSATIA (Germany)

See *Fehn Star*.

HOPE (Croatia)

See "Croatian Vessel Blockaded Off Gdynia, Poland" under "Miscellaneous".

ILKA (Germany)

London, Nov 20 — General cargo *Ilka* arrived at Rotterdam at 0255 hrs, Nov 19, from Perth.

ISSAQUAH (U.S.A.)

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Ro/ro *Issaquah* (18405 gt, built 1980) was stranded in Washington State's Puget Sound this afternoon on the way to Vashon Island with hundreds of passengers on board. The ferry, which serves the Southworth-Vashon-Fauntleroy run, was inoperable for about 15 minutes due to a propeller problem, according to a spokeswoman for the state ferries. It has since been tied up on Vashon for repairs and it will be out of service until further notice. The popular triangular ferry run was placed on an emergency two-boat schedule. It is unclear how long the *Issaquah* will be out of service. The route serves the terminals at Southworth, Vashon Island and Fauntleroy, and long queues could form at all of them if the *Issaquah* is out for a prolonged period.

JAGUAR (Poland)

Gothenburg, Nov 18 — Tug *Jaguar* (280 gt, built 1970) sent a Mayday, two nautical miles west-north-west of Barsebaecks port at 1318, local time, today. At 1400, today a helicopter found one man who was taken to hospital at Lund and confined dead upon arrival. The man having sustain serious head injuries. Still at this point, a large numbers of units are participating, and pilots ordered on board the casualty and negotiations where to proceed. The cause of the accident is not known. The other man still missing. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Nov 18 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 1825, UTC: Tug *Jaguar*: One person has died as a result of serious head injuries. SAR operations for the missing crewmember have ceased and presumed dead. Understand the crew members were injured and thrown overboard by the tow line which was connected to an unknown subject. *Jaguar* anchored about one mile from an anchoring area in lat 55 48.5N, long 12 49E. It is not known if *Jaguar* was damaged.

JAMES NORRIS (Canada)

London, Nov 18 — Bulk *James Norris* (12962 gt, built 1952) while attempting to depart St. Lawrence Cement dock in Colborne, in lat 44 00.30N, long 77 51W became pinned against the dolphins by high winds at 1015, Nov 9. Both vessel and dock sustained damage.

London, Nov 22 — Bulk *James Norris* arrived at Hamilton(CAN) on Nov 16, sailing on Nov 17, bound for Port Colbourne.

KALINA (Germany)

London, Nov 21 — C.c. *Kalina* was reported arriving at Oslo at 0550 hrs, Nov 18, sailing later the same day at 2305 hrs.

KAPITONAS MARCINKUS (Lithuania)

London, Nov 21 — Bulk *Kapitonas Marcinkus* was reported arriving at Uddevalla, Sweden, on Nov 20.

KARAVI (Malta)

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) authorities said today that general cargo *Karavi* (4337 gt, built 1986) had experienced engine breakdown in the Canakkale Strait. Rescue teams will help the crew fix the vessel's engines.

London, Nov 23 — General cargo *Karavi* was reported passing Istanbul at 0255 hrs, Nov 22, on passage Oran for Nikolayev.

KARMSUND (Barbados)

London, Nov 24 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 1118, UTC: General cargo *Karmsund* (2728 gt, built 1979) bound Mandal, ran aground in lat 58 02.4N, long 06 57.3E at 0330, local time, today. Vessel refloated by its own means and proceeded to Lyngdal. Vessel sustained minor hull damage and a small leakage.

KINSMAN INDEPENDENT (Canada)

London, Nov 22 — Bulk *Kinsman Independent* now renamed *Voyageur Independant*, sailed from Hamilton(CAN) on Nov 17, bound for Thunder Bay.

KOREX INCHEON (South Korea)

London Nov 18 — General cargo *Korex Incheon* arrived Busan on Nov 10.

LA VELLA (Cambodia)

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A border police cutter held Cambodia general cargo *La Vella* (641 gt, built 1968) after the ship collided with a Bulgarian fishing boat near the St. Anastasia island at 1815 hrs (yesterday) and tried to escape, the National Border Police Service said. After the collision the ship continued its course en route Bourgas for Izmit. The cutter started the chase and *La Vella* was held at 2000 hrs and convoyed back to the port of Bourgas. Meanwhile the rescue operation for saving the fishermen had been launched. Two of the fishermen were saved and they are hospitalized. The doctors claim there is no risk for their lives. The rescue operation for searching the third fisherman continues for 13 hours now. (Later): The search for the fisherman Todor Alarmiev, 67, in Bourgas Bay who went missing yesterday after the collision between a ship and a fishing boat with three men onboard continues, BNR reports. The ship was held in Bourgas Bay by a police cutter. The fishing boat was discovered close to the place of incident. Two of the fishermen Stoyan Arnaudov and Nikola Minosyan are in good condition. They are in the Bourgas hospital. The maritime administration is still searching for the missing third fisherman with two rescue ships and a cutter of the Border Police. Their actions are hampered by the bad visibility and the strong wind.

Bourgas, Nov 21 — General cargo *La Vella* collided with a Bulgarian fishing

vessel, with three crew on board, near Bourgas at around 1740-1800, local time, Nov 18. As a result, the fishing vessel capsized. One of the fishermen was killed and the other two were injured. *La Vella* was detained by the Bulgarian Border Police and is presently under arrest at Bourgas Port. — Lloyd's Agents.

LADY HAMILTON (Hong Kong)

London, Nov 17 — Bulk *Lady Hamilton* (22388 gt, built 1983) lost its starboard anchor while manoeuvring to leave the anchorage of Pointe aux Trembles, Montreal, at 1015, EST, today.

Montreal, Nov 17 — Bulk *Lady Hamilton* lost its starboard anchor and several links of chain when it hauled it up at the Montreal anchorage. Class has allowed it to continue on its planned voyage to load grain at Port Cartier for Europe. The anchor will be replaced in Europe at the end of this voyage. — Lloyd's Agents.

LB 200 (Panama)

Bergen, Nov 22 — Pipe layer *LB 200* is in port at Hanoeytangen, near Bergen. The vessel will stay in port for approximately five months for repair and maintenance. — Lloyd's Agents.

LIAOPUYUN-777

Dalian, Nov 18 — On Nov 8, cargo vessel *Liaopuyun-777* sailed from Pikou port to Haiyang Island port for discharging. The vessel was also carrying passengers at the time because the ferry *Zhangzidao 5* between Pikou and Haiyang Island had been suspended for two days due to mechanical problems. There were 58 tons of air bricks, six tons of cement, 120 boxes of beer, 39 passengers and seven crew members on board. The cargo was loaded on the top deck and most people stayed on the lower deck. *Liaopuyun-777* overturned while it was being discharged at a berth at Haiyang Island at about 1900, local time, Nov 8. All but one of the 46 people on board fell into the sea. Twenty-seven of them were rescued. The other 19 died in the accident. The vessel was refloated with the help of the 350-ton revolving crane engineering ship *Zhiffudao*, belonging to Yantai Salvage Bureau, in the morning of Nov 11. Understand that the stability of the vessel was not good and the incident remains under investigation by the MSA. *Liaopuyun-777* is at the berth of Haiyang Island, Lujun port now and all the cargo has been discharged. Understand that the vessel itself was not badly damaged and looks in normal condition. The next step regarding repairs will determined by the result of the investigation. — Lloyd's Agents.

LODBROK (Sweden)

Gothenburg, Nov 24 — Repairs to the Stockholm bridge which was struck by crane barge *Lodbrok* are proceeding according to plan, and are scheduled to be completed Dec 30. — Westax Marine Services AB.

MAERSK ENSENADA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Nov 21 — A SvitzerWijmsmuller Salvage BV report, dated Nov 19, states: A 1998 build container vessel (c.c. *Maersk Ensenada*) grounded on Cuba during hurricane "Wilma" at the end of October. The Cuban state salvage company was contracted to assist the vessel, but a week later requested SvitzerWijmsmuller Salvage to assist in the salvage operation. Immediately SvitzerWijmsmuller salvage experts were flown to Cuba and a tug and barge were loaded with a considerable amount of special salvage equipment, flown in from SvitzerWijmsmuller warehouses in the area. The salvage team flown in consisted of a salvage master, a naval architect and salvage divers and technicians. Upon arrival of the tug, barge and equipment on site, the north coast of Cuba, the salvage operation was continued in full force. The operation concerned so-called "regaining-buoyancy" techniques and environmental precautionary actions which included cargo discharge, removal of the bunkers and pressurising breached tanks; most of the double bottom of the container vessel was breached. With all preparations executed the planned refloat operations Nov 16 succeeded in freeing the vessel during the first controlled attempt. The container vessel was subsequently towed to Havana to be re-delivered in dry dock for repairs.

MARIA V (Marshall Islands)

London, Nov 18 — Bulk *Maria V* (36679 gt, built 1987) berthing at section 15 of the Port of Sorel, struck the wharf at 0110, EST, Nov 18. Vessel sustained some damages. No pollution and injuries reported. (Note — *Maria V* passed Dover Strait west Oct 31 for Sorel.)

MARVITA (Malta)

See "France" under "Port State Control".

MAWASHI AL-GASSEEM (Kuwait)

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The crew of livestock *Mawashi Al-Gasseem*, impounded at Adelaide's outer harbour, has won an eight-month battle for unpaid wages. The 69 mostly Filipino crew members, who were stranded on the ship, were owed almost \$500,000 in wages. She has since been sold to a Jordanian company as part of a Federal Court order. Jamie Newlyn, from the Maritime Union, says crew members should be paid in the next week. The ship sailed last night with some of the original crew on board. The MU says they will be protected under an agreement between the International Transport Federation and the new owners.

MEDEA K. (Panama)

See "Nigeria" under "Piracy".

MOKAMI (Canada)

London, Nov 21 — Product tanker *Mokami* (2968 gt, built 1989) made contact with the bottom while approaching Natashquan harbour, in lat 50 11 12N, long 61 50 43W, at 2347, UTC, Nov 20. No apparent damage.

MSC RACHELE (Panama)

Maassluis, Nov 20 — C.c. *MSC Rachele* (90745 gt, built 2005) grounded at Buoy 48 while outbound from Antwerp at 1522, local time, Nov 20. Vessel refloated by own engine at 1531, local time, and is proceeding to Flushing anchorage for inspection. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Nov 23 — C.c. *MSC Rachele* was reported passing Cape Finisterre on Nov 22, on passage Antwerp for Valencia.

MUIRNEAG (U.K.)

Glasgow, Nov 21 — Ro/ro *Muirneag* only sustained minor damage, and repairs were carried out alongside at Stornoway Nov 11-15. The vessel re-entered service on Nov 16 and is currently operating a daily ferry service between Ullapool and Stornoway. — Lloyd's Agents.

MYSTIC (Netherlands Antilles)

Poznan, Nov 24 — Ref *Mystic* is lying afloat at GRYFIA shipyard in Szczecin. No repairs have commenced so far. — Lloyd's Agents.

NAFTOCEMENT V (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Nov 21 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Cement *Naftocement V* (1606 gt, built 1970), was making berthing manoeuvres at the port of Samos in collision with general cargo *Super Georgia* (1135 gt, built 1974) afternoon, Nov 19. Both vessels sustained some hull damage but there was no pollution caused. Samos port authority prohibited departure of the vessels pending issuance of class maintain certificates.

NATHALIE (Finland)

Helsinki, Nov 22 — General cargo *Nathalie* (852 gt, built 1989), with four crew, ran aground off Hanko at the western gulf of Finland early this morning. According to the Finnish Coast Guard, the vessel is safe and no leakages are reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 22 — Following received from Turku MRCC, timed 1109, UTC: General cargo *Nathalie* has been refloated and arrived at Hanko under its own power.

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Nathalie* ran aground south of the island of Russaro in Finland's southern archipelago this morning but managed to sail to Hanko for repairs under its own steam. The Gulf of Finland Coast Guard District told the Finnish News Agency (STT) that the crew of four had not been in danger. The vessel reportedly has a small hole in its forepeak. (See issue of Nov 23.)

London, Nov 23 — Information received from Kiel, Dated today, states: General cargo *Nathalie* (852 gt, built 1989) ran aground west of the Finnish port of Russaro, near Hanko, during the night of Nov 22. The vessel was on a voyage from Kantvik to Taalintehdas, both in Finland, without cargo and was holed in the hull. Later it was able to get off the ground without help and reached Hanko in the morning.

NDS PROSPERITY (Belize)

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Container vessel *Prosperity* (? general cargo *NDS Prosperity*, 13237 gt, built 1992) has gone to anchor about five miles off Saldanha Bay after experiencing a loss of engine power. Earlier in the week the vessel reported it was having difficulty but when it began to drift close to the coast SAMSAs (SA Maritime Safety Authority) gave instructions for the ship to go to anchor. In addition salvage tug *Zakher Delmon* has been instructed to remain on standby near the vessel, which is attempting to make repairs without incurring a salvage tow. (Note — *NDS Prosperity* sailed Durban Nov 17, arrived Cape Town Nov 20 and sailed Nov 21 for Luanda.)

London, Nov 23 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1355, UTC: General cargo *NDS Prosperity* is still effecting repairs off Saldanha Bay. ETC not known.

NINA 1 (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Nov 21 — General cargo *Nina 1* (998 gt, built 1984) bound for Antwerp, had to drop anchor because its engine had stopped, due to polluted fuel oil, in the entrance of the Noordgat near West Kapelle at about 0700, local time, this morning. The tug *Gent* towed it to the anchorage in the Everingen, River Scheldt, where it did anchor in position Delta at about 1330, local time. Here a bunkering vessel came alongside to refuel the coaster. Understand that *Nina 1* has been towed to Flushing for repairs.

NORMAND NEPTUN (NIS)

London, Nov 23 — Tug/supply *Normand Neptun* was reported arriving at Ferrol (? in tow) on Nov 6.

NOVA SCOTIA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Nov 21 — Ref *Nova Scotia* sailed from Buenos Aires on Nov 16.

Montevideo, Nov 22 — Ref *Nova Scotia* (5875 gt, built 1983) arrived Montevideo Nov 21 in tow of an Argentinean tug due to engine trouble. The vessel was then taken in tow by a Uruguayan tug, and is presently at Montevideo Anteport awaiting a surveyor nominated by the owner. The vessel will probably undertake repairs at Montevideo. — Lloyd's Agents.

OCEAN FOXTROT (Canada)

London, Nov 17 — Anchor handling tug/supply *Ocean Foxtrot* (700 gt, built 1971) lost its tow, barge *OTM 3072*

(2706 gt, built 1972), near the entrance to Forestville harbour, in lat 48 44 22N, long 69 02 53W, at 1250, EST, Nov 16. *OTM 3072* grounded nearby but was subsequently refloated and brought to port.

OTM 3072 (Canada)

See *Ocean Foxtrot*.

OUR LADY OF RULE (Philippines)

Manila, Nov 18 — Ferry *Our Lady of Rule*, in collision with ferry *Filipinas Maasin* while leaving Cebu port, Nov 14, resumed normal operations on Nov 16 after undergoing repairs to its damaged forecastle at Cebu. The vessel left the port at around 1900 hrs, bound for Ozamiz port on Leyte island. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Nov 21 — Ferries *Our Lady of Rule* and *Filipinas Maasin* both sustained very minimal damage to their accommodation ladders during the slight contact with each other. Both vessels proceeded to their destinations after the incident. — Lloyd's Agents.

OVERSEAS COLMAR (Marshall Islands)

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated Nov 22, states: Crude oil tanker *Overseas Colmar* lost its anchor and rudder gear as it ran aground near Sakhalin Island. The hull of the vessel sustained punctures and dents that were found by divers of the Sakhalin emergency-rescue department at Korsakov port who inspected the underwater part of the vessel. The tanker has absolutely no manoeuvring capability, it is staying at one anchor and guarded by Sakhalin tugs at the port, the Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk sea rescue sub-centre, which is controlling the situation with the tanker in distress, said today. Following the grounding tugs *Atlas* and *Rubin* towed the tanker to the Korsakov port. Now the problem is where to repair the tanker, as there is not a single dock on Sakhalin where an almost 200-metre-long vessel could be placed.

PARKER DRILLING RIG 247

London, Nov 24 — Parker Drilling Company reported that Rig 247, operating in Turkmenistan, sustained a well control incident. All non-essential personnel were safely evacuated, and no injuries have been reported. A team of well control specialists is currently on location and working to control the flow from the well. The gas content of the mud and water flowing from the well is not material, resulting in minimum risk of fire. In addition, certain equipment is being cleared from the well site and stored at a safe distance. Although no final damage assessment to the rig has been made at this time, the company does not anticipate a material financial impact from this incident based on the estimated insurance payments for the physical damage to the rig and lost revenues. Once the well is under control, the rig will undergo repairs. It is expected to return to service in mid-2006.

PAROS (Cyprus)

London, Nov 23 — Bulk *Paros* was reported arriving at Veracruz on Nov 12.

PARSIVAL (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Nov 23 — General cargo *Parsival* was reported passing Tarifa on Nov 22, proceeding to the U.K.

PASSADEN (Finland)

London, Nov 21 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Passaden* (3828 gt, built 1991) in collision with c.c. *CP Ambassador* (40436 gt, built 1987) on the river Weser Nov 18. *Passaden* arrived from Hamburg to unload containers in the port of Bremerhaven. While trying to turn around, it made contact with the *CP Ambassador*. Both vessels sustained damages of some thousand Euros. They were released after the classification had been renewed.

London, Nov 20 — General cargo *Passaden* was reported sailing from Bremerhaven at 0720 hrs, Nov 18, bound for Hamburg, arriving later the same day, at 1640 hrs. The vessel sailed from Hamburg at 1745 hrs, Nov 19, bound for Klaipeda, c.c. *CP Ambassador* sailed from Bremerhaven at 1250 hrs, Nov 18 and was next reported passing through the Dover Strait on Nov 19, bound for Le Havre.

London, Nov 22 — General cargo *Passaden* arrived at Klaipeda on Nov 21, sailing later the same day. C.c. *CP Ambassador* arrived at Le Havre on Nov 19.

PATRIZIA D'AMATO (Panama)

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

PAVO (Antigua & Barbuda)

Bremen, Nov 17 — General cargo *Pavo* called at Bremerhaven Nov 11 and sailed same day for Swinoujscie shipyard to effect repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

PHILIPP (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Nov 18 — Following received from Coastguard Liverpool MRCC, timed 0847, UTC: General cargo *Philipp* (2567 gt, built 1978), Manchester for Greenock, with empty containers, was at 0800, UTC, today, reported in the position, lat 54 05.1N, long 04 58.5W, 5.5 nautical miles east-north-east of the Calf of Man. Vessel's rudder is jammed at 10 degrees to starboard. Vessel has main engines, but is unable to steer. Vessel is maintaining its position off the Isle of Man. Its' owners have arranged for a tug to attend the vessel. ETA on scene is 1600, UTC. MRCC are maintaining contact with the vessel. Weather conditions on scene: winds, easterly or southeasterly, force 4 or 5, becoming variable force 3 or 4, Visibility is good.

London, Nov 18 — Following received from Coastguard Liverpool MRSC, timed 1358, UTC: Tug *Trafalgar* contracted to tow general cargo *Philipp* from current position, lat 54 08.4N, long 05 08.2W, to Liverpool. *Trafalgar* ETA 1900, UTC. Once towed

connected towage/passage plan will be given to the Isle of Man and UK authorities. Port of Liverpool have agreed to accept vessel.

London, Nov 18 — Following received from Coastguard Liverpool MRSC, timed 2310, UTC: General cargo *Philipp*: Tug *Trafalgar* reported 10 minutes ago that it will arrive at casualty in approximately 30 minutes.

London, Nov 19 — Following received from Coastguard Liverpool MRSC, timed 0041, UTC: Tug *Trafalgar* commenced towing general cargo *Philipp* from lat 54 15.5N, long 03 23.5W, at 2350, UTC. Tow speed agreed at six knots. Passage plan submitted to Isle of Man authorities and Liverpool MRSC. ETA Liverpool basin 2000, UTC, Nov 19.

London, Nov 19 — Following received from Coastguard Liverpool MRSC, timed 1259, UTC: Tug *Trafalgar* towing general cargo *Philipp* passed Liverpool Bar, inbound to the River Mersey at 1015, UTC. *Philipp* is now berthed in Princess Dock, Birkenhead.

PLATO (Barbados)

London, Nov 22 — Following received from Coastguard Belfast MRSC, timed 1000, UTC: At 0208, UTC, fishing *Golden Bells 2* (25 gt), on channel 16 VHF, reported it had been involved in collision with an unidentified green coaster in lat 53 55N, long 05 18W, approximately 25 nautical miles east-south-east of Kilkeel. The fishing vessel had sustained damage on its starboard side, but was not taking water. It was in the process of letting go of its nets with the intention to proceed to Kilkeel harbour. The colliding vessel was now two nautical miles to the north of them. Fishing *Havilah* responded on channel 16 and commenced hauling nets to proceed to escort *Golden Bells 2* towards Kilkeel. Coastguard Holyhead MRCC, identified general cargo *Plato* (1990 gt, built 1989), in the vicinity, according to AIS. Vessel was on passage to Londonderry, with an ETA of 1600/1700 hrs, today. Belfast MRSC contacted *Plato* confirming that the vessel had been involved in the collision with the fishing vessel. *Plato*, not taking water, was requested to remain in the vicinity of *Golden Bells 2* until *Havilah* arrived on scene. Newcastle RNLI all weather lifeboat was requested to launch. At 0332, UTC, *Golden Bells 2* proceeded toward Kilkeel with *Havilah* escorting. *Plato* was released to continue passage to Londonderry and requested to keep Belfast MRCC informed of progress at three hourly intervals. Newcastle lifeboat arrived on scene at 0411, UTC, and took over escort of *Golden Bells 2*. *Golden Bells 2* arrived Kilkeel where met on arrival by Kilkeel Coastguard at 0600, UTC. SAROPS terminated. There were five persons on board *Golden Bells 2* and eight on *Plato*.

London, Nov 22 — Following received from Coastguard Belfast MRSC, timed 2155, UTC: General cargo *Plato*, collision with fishing *Golden Bells 2*:

Plato entered Lough Foyle about three hours ago and appears to be heading towards Londonderry.

POCAHONTAS (U.S.A.)

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Service at the Jamestown Scotland Ferry was suspended for 45 minutes yesterday after fully loaded ferry *Pocahontas* (1272 gt, built 1995) struck a dock following a mechanical failure. There were two minor injuries, said Tiffany Erbach, a spokeswoman for the Virginia Department of Transportation, which operates the free ferry service. Erbach said it's thought a propeller failed to slow down as the boat neared the Jamestown dock at 1645 hrs, causing it to strike the dock at about 5 mph. She said cars were waiting on the dock, and the ferry, capable of carrying 70 cars, was loaded. The service, which shuttles cars across the James River from Surry to Jamestown, was stopped from 1645 to 1730 hrs, causing significant backups. It resumed with another ferry operating alone. Erbach said *Pocahontas* will be out of service until an investigation by the Coast Guard and VDOT is completed. Because of the decreased ferry capacity, she said riders should expect delays.

PROSPERITY NO.28 (Bolivia)

London, Nov 23 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0335, UTC: A Cospas/Sarsat alert was detected from fish carrier *Prosperity No.28*, CPA736, 251 gt, MMSI 730601000, length 34.4 metres, yesterday. Hong Kong MRCC helicopter was sent to the area to investigate and rescued all 15 crew from the vessel that had sunk in lat 20 29N, long 114 04E. The 15 crew members are now in a Hong Kong hospital.

PROTUL

See *Fenix*.

PUERTO DE ALTAMIRA (Panama)

Veracruz, Nov 23 — The owners of cutter suction hopper dredger *Puerto de Altamira* inform that the vessel is still afloat at the TNG shipyard in Veracruz. They have not yet made a decision as to who is going to repair her and when. — Lloyd's Agents.

R.S.STERLING (U.S.A.)

Veracruz, Nov 22 — Ferry *R.S.Sterling* (797 gt, built 1950) dragged its anchor and ran aground in heavy weather in front of a small town called El Conchal in the Municipality of Boca del Rio, a few miles south of the port of Veracruz. We understand the ferry was being towed by tug *Verona*, which had been travelling from Freeport, Texas, to Guatemala and thence to the Cayman Islands for scrapping. The ferry owner has been trying to get a tug to pull the ferry off the shore and refloat it but there was heavy weather on scene until this morning. The ferry had been anchored by the tug personnel while the tug

entered Veracruz to discharge the cargo carried on barge *Bruce W543* (1139 gt, built 1992), which was also being towed by the same tug. While the tug was placing the barge alongside No 1 Pier in Veracruz to be tied up and discharged, it lost control of the barge in the heavy weather and it struck the pier several times, causing damage to itself and the pier. The Veracruz Port Captain has been refusing to let the tug and barge out of the port while the damages to the pier are either paid for or guaranteed. — Lloyd's Agents.

RAINBOW WARRIOR (Netherlands)

Manila, Nov 20 — Yacht *Rainbow Warrior* is now in Loboc Port, Iloilo City, in central Philippines, after leaving Manila on Nov 15. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

RODINA (Bulgaria)

Gothenburg, Nov 21 — Fredericia repair yard confirmed additional time for docking of bulk *Rodina* would be required as the actual damage to vessel's bottom is worse than previously reported in accordance with the general survey carried out, where a total of 80 tons of steel is to be replaced in the bottom section. It is now confirmed that double that amount will be required to carry out satisfactory repairs which will require considerable extra time. — Westax Marine Services AB.

ROYAL PACIFIC (Panama)

London, Nov 23 — A SMIT Salvage BV report states: In July passenger *Royal Pacific* capsized in the port of Kaohsiung. In the first weeks of August SMIT Salvage was contracted by the P&I club to remove the constructive total loss vessel. A salvage team and the 1,000 tonnes sheerleg crane *Smit Cyclone* were mobilised to remove the wreck. Before removing the wreck it had to be cut into nine liftable sections. The cutting was done by using our advanced cutting wire. After the cutting was finished the sheerleg crane lifted and landed the wreck sections on a barge, which subsequently transported the sections to a local scrapsite. The operations were carried out in close conjunction with the local port authorities and the Taiwanese Environmental organisation. The last wreck section was landed on the barge on Nov 11.

RYUHO MARU (Japan)

See "Gulf of Thailand" under "Pollution".

SAMAR STAR (Philippines)

London, Nov 21 — The Philippine registered passenger ro/ro *Samar Star* (128 dwt) caught fire shortly after docking at Pier 2 of the port of Cebu in central Philippines today. Initial reports from a local radio station DYAB-Cebu said that the fire broke out on the coastal passenger/cargo vessel at around 1100 hrs after it arrived from Samar province. The

vessel is owned by Cebu-based Maypalad Shipping Lines. There were no reported injuries. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Nov 22 — Authorities reported that negligence caused the fire which consumed the cargo hold of passenger ro/ro *Samar Star*. According to the Cebu Fire Department, the fire was caused by construction workers performing a welding job above the cargo deck. Sparks from the welding rods fell through the ceiling and set fire to wooden crates carried on the cargo deck. The fire quickly spread through the cargo area, fire department officials said. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SAN CARLO (MALTA)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy".

SARAH JANE

Vigo, Oct 30 — Ref *Sarah Jane* is still under repair at Vigo. — Lloyd's Agents.

SD TRIUMPH (Panama)

London, Nov 22 — Bulk *SD Triumph* (38267 gt, built 1994), shifting in Vancouver Harbour from United Grain Growers west berth to Pacific Elevator No 2 in fog, struck the dock in position lat 49 18N, long 123 16W, at 1552, PST, Nov 20. Vessel sustained damage to forepeak and No 1 hold above the waterline.

SEA MAGNOLIA (Panama)

London, Nov 23 — Following received from Coast Guard Seattle, timed 2015, UTC: We have just been informed that bulk *Sea Magnolia* (35350 gt, built 1991), currently at Elliot Bay, Seattle, is experiencing very minor water ingress. (Note — *Sea Magnolia* arrived Seattle Nov 22 from Zhoushan.)

SEVEN STARS (U.S.A.)

Honolulu, Nov 18 — Fishing *Seven Stars* is breaking up on the rocks. No salvage has been attempted due to weather conditions at the site. None of the 700 gallons of diesel was removed and it is reportedly spilling, but the spill is going out to sea. The vessel reportedly had on board approximately 4,000 lbs of fish, which is now spilling into the ocean adjacent to the vessel. The State has put out a warning not to swim in the area due to an abundance of sharks the fish is attracting. — Lloyd's Agents.

SHANGHAI PRIDE (Panama)

Colombo, Nov 22 — Both general cargo *Shanghai Pride* and bulk *Salam 4* are still lying in anchorage. Understand that the repair work to *Salam 4* has already commenced, while the owners of *Shanghai Pride* are still negotiating with regard to repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

SPERCHIOS (Liberia)

London, Nov 21 — Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 1530, UTC: Product tanker *Sperchios* (39964 gt, built 1982) ran aground in lat 17 57.69N, long 66 46.06W, between 0530-0730, local time, this

morning. Understand tugs are in vicinity of the casualty.

London, Nov 21 — Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 2015, UTC: Product tanker *Sperchios* is still aground about two metres into coral reef, with tugs on scene and booms being placed around the vessel as a precaution. Lighter barges are en route to take off some fuel from the vessel if this proves necessary.

London, Nov 22 — Following received from San Juan, timed 1230, UTC: Product tanker *Sperchios*: A meeting is taking place between the vessel's representatives and salvage authorities. Vessel remains aground, lightering barges on scene.

London, Nov 22 — Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 1745, UTC: Product tanker *Sperchios* is still aground and some cargo will need to be taken off before refloating efforts are carried out.

London, Nov 23 — Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 1430, UTC: Product tanker *Sperchios* is still aground in the same position. Salvors will attempt to refloat the vessel this afternoon.

London, Nov 23 — Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 2335, UTC: Product tanker *Sperchios* was refloated at 1350, local time, and is now anchored in Guayanilla Bay for inspection.

London, Nov 24 — A Coast Guard San Juan press release, dated Nov 23, states: Product tanker *Sperchios* was successfully refloated at 1350 today. The refloating efforts were undertaken by the Unified Command composed of federal and state agencies, along with private stakeholders representing the tank vessel. As part of the refloating evolution and in an attempt to lighten the weight of the vessel an approximate quantity of 60,000 barrels of crude oil were transferred to a barge brought alongside the grounded ship. Simultaneously, the grounded vessel pumped sea water into its ballast compartments in order to hold in place the position of the vessel, awaiting to be freed from its grounded location during high tide. The U.S. Coast Guard deployed safe boats along with local law enforcement vessels to enforce a safety zone around the ship and the area of operations. As a preventive measure a U.S. Coast Guard HH-65 Dolphin helicopter was at the scene monitoring the refloating of *Sperchios* along with a specialized oil spill recovery vessel from the National Response Corporation, St. Croix. At 1200 hrs. water in the vessel's ballast compartments was pumped out to lighten the weight of the vessel, and slowly *Sperchios* began moving away from its grounded location under a controlled refloating operation involving the assistance of five tugs. During the refloating of the vessel, the preliminary assessment revealed no indication of any type of oil spill or pollution taking place in the Guayanilla Bay. *Sperchios* was able to operate under its own propulsion, however, tugs were at the scene and guided the ship to a

designated anchorage site where the vessel finally anchored at 1500 hrs. At this time a thorough underwater hull integrity assessment is being conducted. As a preventive measure the ship has been surrounded by protective booming and an environmental team is currently at hand 24 hours until the vessel is determined to be seaworthy to continue operations by the U.S. Coast Guard.

London, Nov 24 — Following received from the managers of product tanker *Sperchios*: Pleiades Shipping of Greece is pleased to report that *Sperchios* has been successfully re-floated with no loss of cargo or pollution. The vessel has proceeded to the inner anchorage under her own power, where she will undergo an inspection and all being well, will then berth to discharge her cargo. The vessel grounded on a sandy bottom some 1.5 miles south of the port of Guayanilla, on the southern coast of Puerto Rico at 0600 hrs, Nov 21. The Company will work closely with the vessel's crew and with the authorities in order to establish how this grounding occurred. Pleiades Shipping would like to thank the US Coast Guard for their professionalism and assistance during this incident.

STEVA (Malta)

Piraeus, Nov 23 — Marine pollution from bulk *Steva* (13227 gt, built 1980), covering 40 square metres, was observed by Piraeus Port Authority Nov 22. The pollution occurred while the vessel was performing slops delivery at Neos Molos, Drapetzone. The vessel's third engineer was arrested and is liable to prosecution. — Lloyd's Agents.

STRILEN (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Nov 23 — General cargo *Strilen* was reported arriving at Fredericia on Nov 22.

SUPER GEORGIA (Greece)

See *Naftocement V*.

SUZIE Q. (Antigua & Barbuda)

Yokohama, Nov 22 — General cargo *Suzie Q.* had engine trouble near the Tokala Islands, Kagoshima Pref., and was towed to Yosu Nov 14. — Lloyd's Agents.

SVIR (Russia)

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire broke out on board general cargo *Svir* (2794 gt, built 1980) in the Bosphorus today. Vessel's crew extinguished the fire and there were no injuries.

London, Nov 21 — Following received from Ankara MSRCC, timed 1835, UTC: General cargo *Svir* is still anchored off Istanbul, fire out, no danger, situation under control.

TAHITI NUI IV (French Polynesia)

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated Nov 22, states: Leonard Puputauki, the former controversial head of the French Polynesia government's intervention group, is

under investigation for alleged manslaughter in connection with the seven deaths stemming from the capsizing of ferry *Tahiti Nui IV* in Sep 2003. Puputauki, former head of the GIP, as the intervention group is known, was questioned Friday (Nov 18) in the capsizing of the vessel, which is operated by the GIP. Examining Magistrate Anne Barruol put Puputauki under investigation for alleged manslaughter after questioning him, French daily newspaper "Les Nouvelles de Tahiti" reported. He was head of the GIP when the shipwreck occurred off Rimatarara in the southernmost Austral Islands of French Polynesia. Seven persons who died in the incident were either sailors working for the GIP or employees of a private construction company. Fourteen passengers had to be rescued. *Tahiti Nui IV* was the subject of a damning report last January from the Accident and Investigation Office (BEA), the newspaper said. The report corroborated the testimony by the survivors, who said water entered the hull through the forward part of the vessel, the added weight causing it to capsize, according to "Les Nouvelles." The *Tahiti Nui IV* did not undergo a sufficient amount of maintenance during the last months of its operation, becoming increasingly difficult to navigate, the newspaper quoted from the report. Puputauki claimed that the freeboard certificate necessary for obtaining a navigation permit had been issued and renewed until January 2004. The BEA does not challenge that but noted that the certificate had been granted in the absence of any dry dock inspection or visit of the ballast area, according to the newspaper. The BEA further noted that in the vessel's final months of operation it could only sail by nearly permanently pumping out the forward compartments of the vessel, "Les Nouvelles" reported. The vessel required increased maintenance, which in 2002-2003 became increasingly insufficient. Under such conditions, the question arose as to whether the vessel deserved its freeboard certificate, without which a navigation permit cannot be delivered, the newspaper reported, citing the BEA report.

TONG CHENG 818

See "China" under "Weather & Navigation."

TRANS ASIA I (Philippines)

Manila, Nov 21 — Ro/ro *Trans Asia I* (3797 gt, built 1972) arrived at Cagayan de Oro port at approximately 1145 hrs, today, after suffering a mechanical breakdown, during its voyage from Cebu to Cagayan de Oro, the Philippine Coast Guard reported. An inspection by Philippine Coast Guard personnel at Cagayan de Oro indicated that water had seeped into its fuel tank contaminating the vessel's fuel supply. There were no reported injuries. *Trans Asia I* is

owned by Cebu-based Trans Asia Shipping Lines. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

TRANSFER (Antigua & Barbuda)

Belize City, Nov 18 — Part c.c. *Transfer* remains aground on Lighthouse Reef, Belize. Belize salvage company Pinnacle Construction & Engineering Ltd have expressed an interest to salvage the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

TRANSMODAL (Argentina)

Buenos Aires, Nov 21 — Ro/ro *Transmodal* is expected to complete repairs by Dec 15. — Lloyd's Agents.

TRINITY SEA (Canada)

London, Nov 18 — Tug/supply *Trinity Sea* (2623 gt, built 1983) reported it had a shaft generator fire in engine-room in lat 44 01.00N, long 60 57W at 2243, UTC, Nov 17. Fire self extinguished. Vessel proceeding to Halifax.

TRIZAN (North Korea)

London, Nov 23 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: The Coast Guard received a Mayday from general cargo *Trizan* (1652 gt, built 1967), Porto Lagos bound for Turkey, loaded with 1657 tons of cotton seed, near Thassos, this morning. Immediately the nearby vessels were notified to keep a look out and a helicopter was despatched. The nearby *Minerva Nounou* located the casualty which had drifted from its anchorage and grounded at the coast of Potamias, Thassos. The master of the vessel requested assistance for the crew to abandon ship. Four out of the seven crew were rescued by helicopter while the master, chief and second engineer remain on board. In the area the are winds east-south-east 8 Beaufort (gale).

London, Nov 23 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0905, UTC: *Trizan*, seven persons on board, is still aground in lat 40 43N, long 24 45E. Three persons remain on board vessel, four persons rescued by helicopter.

Piraeus, Nov 23 — General cargo *Trizan*, Lagos, Greece, for Turkey with 1.657 tons cotton seed, drifted while anchored near Thasos Island and subsequently grounded at Potamia bay, Thasos, this morning, due to strong winds. Four crew members were rescued by a Coast Guard helicopter. The vessel's master, first engineer and second engineer are still on board. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 24 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0455, UTC: General cargo *Trizan* is still aground.

Piraeus, Nov 24 — General cargo *Trizan* is now experiencing water ingress in the engine-room. The remaining three crew members have been picked up by a Coast Guard helicopter. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 24 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1200, UTC: General cargo *Trizan* remains aground.

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

TU KING (Hong Kong)

Santos, Nov 21 — Bulk *Tu King* arrived at Santos at 1555 hrs, Nov 20, from Rio de Janeiro. — Lloyd's Agents.

VERONA

See *R.S.Sterling*.

VOC GALLANT (Antigua & Barbuda)

Dubai, Nov 20 — Bulk *VOC Gallant* sailed (from Dubai Drydocks) on Oct 26, bound for Doha, Qatar. — Lloyd's Agents.

WESTWOOD MARIANNE (Bahamas)

London, Nov 17 — Bulk/c.c. *Westwood Marianne* sailed from Nagoya on Nov 14, bound for Osaka, where it arrived later the same day.

XIN QIN HUANG DAO (China)

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: C.c. *Xin Qin Huang Dao* (66433 gt, built 2004) Hong Kong for Long Beach, lost six containers overside Nov 18. Claim of heavy weather will likely be disputed by cargo interests. Determined that upper container in six container stack exceeded stack weight by 159%. Broke twist locks, tore deck pads when six container stack broke loose and toppled overside. (Note — *Xin Qin Huang Dao* arrived Long Beach Nov 21.)

YULIA (Malta)

See "Irish Republic" under "Port State Control".

ZENITH (U.K.)

Glasgow, Nov 21 — Following the outbreak of fire on board, while fishing *Zenith* was moored in Fraserburgh Harbour at 0800 hrs, Nov 8, attempts were made to tackle the fire, but difficulty was met in bringing this under control. Eventually, the vessel was placed into the drydock at Fraserburgh and the fire was extinguished by "sinking" the boat in the dock. This course of action successfully extinguished the fire and averted any harbour pollution. The vessel is reported to have sustained severe damage due to the fire and the damages will have been exacerbated by the action needed to extinguish it. Subsequently, on Nov 14, *Zenith* was towed out of the drydock and placed on the shiplift at Fraserburgh where the damage has been assessed and possible repair options are being considered by insurers. At present, this is still in progress. — Lloyd's Agents.



NIGERIA

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Greek registered bulk *Medea K.* (9529 gt, built 1978),

was on Sunday (Nov 13), raided by privates who stormed the vessel at the outside bar, some 15 nautical miles outside the Lagos Port Complex, the "Daily Sun" has learnt. The vessel which was chartered by Messrs Yinka Folawiyo and Sons Limited, was loaded with bulk cement from Europe for Lagos but was delayed at the sea for some days, owing to the port congestion being experienced in Nigeria now. Reliable sources told the "Daily Sun" on Monday (Nov 14) that the vessel which loaded 14,100 metric tones of bulk cement was low enough in the waters, which made it easy for the pirates to climb on board with hooked ladder ropes. The Group Managing Director of Yinka Folawiyo and Sons Limited, Captain S. Kadiri, confirmed the attack but could not give any details. He said the vessel arrived outside bar on Saturday (Nov 12) and moved some 15 nautical miles away from the Lagos harbour. She would have sailed straight into Yinka Folawiyo Jetty but for the letter of waiver granted this company some weeks ago by the Minister of Transport, Dr. Abiyi Sekibo, which we were yet to receive at the ship's arrival. He said his company had been chasing the waiver for days without success, stressing that without it, the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), would not allow the vessel to berth. Captain Kadiri said he could not give details of the ship's invasion because even though the vessel informed us of the attack, the Master of the ship, Captain Fassulis Hristos, a Greek national, was very reluctant to talk to anybody. Although no life was lost during the raid, the "Daily Sun" learnt that the marauders collected a reasonable ransom from the vessel. At the time of filing this report, the "Daily Sun" counted 32 vessels at the outside bar, waiting to berth.

PERSIAN GULF

London, Nov 21 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 1711, UTC: Bulk *Alexandra I* (35886 gt, built 1994) reported at 2250, UTC, Nov 19, that the vessel had been boarded by pirates in lat 29 43.5N, long 48 38E. The pirates had entered the master's cabin and stolen property. No crew injuries reported.

SOMALIA

Nairobi, Nov 19 — Somali pirates have freed a vessel and its crew after holding them hostage for almost one month off Somalia's northeast coast, a maritime official said today. The Maltese-owned product tanker *San Carlo*, with a 24-member Greek crew, was hijacked on October 20 in the Indian Ocean as it made its way from Bahrain to South Africa. "We have information that the vessel was released yesterday and we believe that it is making its way to its original destination which is South Africa," said Andrew Mwangura, programme co-ordinator at the Kenyan Seafarers' Association. "We don't know whether any ransom was paid, but I am sure

that some compensation would have been given to the captors for them to release the ship," he told Reuters in Nairobi. There are still six ships being held along with their crews by pirates and at least five ships have been attacked weeks in a sharp rise of banditry in the busy Indian Ocean corridor off the coast of the East Africa. — Reuters.



FRANCE

St Malo, Nov 18 — Due to discrepancies found by the port state control, general cargo *Marvita* (2061 gt, built 1980) detained in St Malo evening of Nov 17. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Marvita* arrived St Malo Nov 16.)

St. Malo, Nov 23 — General cargo *Marvita* was released by from the Port State Control detention at 1415 hrs, Nov 22. The vessel departed from St. Malo, yesterday evening, bound for Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Agents.

IRISH REPUBLIC

Dublin, Nov 18 — General cargo *Yulia* (2598 gt, built 1992) was detained at Drogheda after failing to fulfil Fire Safety Standards. The Department of Marine and Natural Resources carried out an inspection of the vessel and found that it needed fire doors. An engineer has been called in to survey the vessel and then fire doors will be ordered. It is expected that these may take two weeks to be delivered and fitted. — Lloyd's Agents.



ATLANTIC MERCADO (Antigua & Barbuda)

Durban, Nov 23 — General cargo *Atlantic Mercado* is set for auction on Dec 8. — Lloyd's Agents.

AUDREY

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated Nov 13, states: Four Filipino sailors marooned on tug *Audrey* off Bahrain's coast for eight months say they will forfeit \$17,000 in unpaid wages if it means they will get to go home soon. Seamen Romeo Dacanay, Luis Lamigo, Ruben Archangel and Novi Peregua are all that remain of the original nine-crew members of *Audrey*. They had planned to sit it out until a legal dispute between the ship's Filipino owner and the Dubai-based company that was renting it is settled in the hope that they would be paid. However, they want to call it a

day after the Philippine Embassy advised them that the case could drag on for some time. "We understand now that the court case in Bahrain could take a long time, possibly years," Mr Dacanay said from the ship yesterday. "I feel as if we are just sitting here and waiting for nothing, whereas if we go back home we could find other jobs. However, sending them back home is easier said than done, according to embassy officials who are working closely with port authorities to allow the *Audrey* to dock at Mina Salman. It was detained with the approval of Bahrain's courts because of a financial dispute between the ship's Filipino owner Richard V Jorge, whose company R V J Shipping is based in Ajman, and Dubai-based company Venture that chartered it. The RVJ Shipping's phone and fax numbers are no longer in service and Mr Jorge has failed to respond to e-mails. Sources said that Mr Jorge has left the UAE and is now back with his family in Las Pinas City, in the Philippines. Embassy officials have not been able to get in touch with Mr Jorge or the charter company. Meanwhile, over a month has passed since the embassy sent port authorities an official request to dock *Audrey* at Mina Salman. "We have not received a response yet, but we are remaining hopeful," said embassy consular assistant Ramon Nerida yesterday. The embassy is also encouraging the families of the sailors to file complaints at the OWWA in the Philippines against Mr Jorge. The sailors are getting humanitarian support from the boat's agent, the Gulf Agency Company, and the Bahrain International Seafarers' Society, as well as charity groups and other private establishments. They are being provided with food, water, books, pre-paid phone cards and other necessities.

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Concern is growing for the welfare of four Filipino sailors stranded off the coast of Bahrain after their tug *Audrey* started sinking. A hole has been discovered in the hull of their 36-year-old vessel, which has started taking in water. The only hope for the crew, who have been confined to *Audrey* since March, is to pump out water using a faulty generator. Philippine Embassy officials were yesterday reportedly on alert in case *Audrey* does sink. Embassy officials have been trying to get the ship to dock at Mina Salman and are reportedly still waiting for port authorities to respond to an official request sent last month. "We are very concerned about the fate of our countrymen," said embassy consul Imelda Panolong. "An embassy official last went on board *Audrey* last week and that was when the crew told him that there was a new problem on the ship. "We understand that they only have one generator left to pump out water and that the boat may sink, but we are very much hoping that it does not reach that

stage. One of the seamen, Romeo Dacanay, said the ship was commissioned in 1969 and was in desperate need of maintenance. "The air-conditioning stopped working last year and so did the other generator," he said. "The water is also not that deep where we are anchored. It is about six metres deep." Mr Dacanay said the crew was doing its best to keep *Audrey* afloat, making sure the generator that does work kept pumping water out. "We try to patch up whatever we can, but without proper tools or materials, I don't think we can do it," he said.

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Four Filipino sailors stranded on board tug *Audrey* off the coast of Bahrain were working around the clock yesterday, trying to patch up a hole in the hull of the vessel, which has started taking in water. A Bahraini Coast Guard vessel pulled next to the tug, anchored about two kilometres off Mina Salman, to check on the crew's progress as they worked on keeping the vessel afloat. Three members of the Bahraini Coast Guard reportedly went on board at around noon to inspect the vessel, but left shortly afterwards. "I thought they were there to help us, but they just took a look around and left," said acting deck officer Romeo Dacanay. "I don't know if they are going to come back." The four-member crew said they were concerned that if their vessel sank, they would "get into even bigger trouble". "It will be a big problem if the vessel sinks," said Mr Dacanay. "Sinking means the vessel will pollute the water — with all the crude oil — and that, I understand, comes with great penalties. We don't know if we are going to be blamed by the Bahrain court for this, even though we know we are not at fault." Mr Dacanay and the rest of the crew said they were tired of working to keep the vessel afloat, depending only on a faulty generator to pump out water as they try to patch up the hole. Philippine Embassy officials are on alert in case the vessel does sink. The vessel, owned by Filipino Richard V Jorge — whose company R V J Shipping is based in Ajman, — arrived in Bahrain's waters last December with its original nine-member crew. Their main role was to supply equipment to other vessels in the area. However, *Audrey* was detained with the approval of Bahrain's courts because of a financial dispute between Mr Jorge and the Dubai-based company Venture, which chartered it. Mr Jorge has since gone into hiding. After the vessel's detention, it was moved in March from a mooring buoy to its current location at sea and the crew ordered by the court to remain on board. Embassy officials have been trying to get the vessel to dock at Mina Salman and are reportedly still waiting for port authorities to respond to an official request sent last month. In the event that the vessel does sink, embassy officials said they would do whatever they could to help the

sailors reach dry land. Mr Dacanay and the other seamen hope to return to the Philippines soon and are even willing to forfeit \$17,000 in unpaid wages if it means they will be allowed to go home.

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A hole in the hull of tug *Audrey* was successfully patched up yesterday. The Filipino sailors on board, Romeo Dacanay, Luis Lamigo, Ruben Archangel and Novi Peregua, said they managed to cover the hole with materials provided by the Bahrain International Seafarers Society (BISS).

BALTIC KRISTINA (Latvia)

See "Riga Sea Lines".

CENTURY BRIGHT (Belize)

London, Nov 18 — General cargo *Century Bright* sailed Hong Kong Nov 9.

FAROUK M. (North Korea)

Limassol, Nov 22 — General cargo *Farouk M.* (1285 gt, built 1971) which arrived at Larnaca on Nov 18 from Alexandria, has been detained by the Dept. of Merchant Shipping. — Lloyd's Agents.

JERBA (Tunisia)

Bizerta, Nov 23 — General cargo *Jerba* is still lying at M1 Bourguiba under arrest. — Lloyd's List.

MERWEDESTROOM (Netherlands)

London, Nov 22 — C.c. *Merwedestroom* sailed from Rotterdam at 1945 hrs, Nov 11, for Hamburg, where it arrived at 1544 hrs, Nov 12.

PAN YUN BO 1 (China)

London, Nov 18 — General cargo *Pan Yun Bo 1* is still at Western Anchorage No.1, Hong Kong, under detention.

PISHVA (Iran)

Abu Dhabi, Nov 22 — Ro-ro *Pishva* is still under arrest at Mina Zayed. — Lloyd's Agents.

RED POINT (Italy)

London, Nov 23 — Chemical/oil carrier *Red Point* sailed from Rotterdam at 2125 hrs, Nov 22.

RIGA SEA LINES

Riga, Nov 21 — Passenger ro/ro *Baltic Kristina* is under arrest. The crew are still on board the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

Riga, Nov 21 — Passenger ro/ro *Baltic Kristina* has been at Riga since Oct 15, and has been arrested. The Port Authorities have started court proceedings against the Owner/operator of the vessel, Messrs. Rigas Juras Linija. The Court hearing will continue for at least two months, then RjL will be accepted as bankrupt. The Crew refused to leave the ship until their salaries have been paid. — Lloyd's Agents.

SENTINEL (Comoros)

Genoa, Nov 21 — General cargo *Sentinel* remains under arrest at Genoa. — Lloyd's Agents.

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SPANISH FISHING VESSELS SEIZED BY NORWAY

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Spain has launched a formal protest to the EU against Norway's arrest of two Spanish trawlers in Svalbard waters at the weekend (Nov 19-20). The protest was presented by Spanish Agricultural and Fisheries Minister Elena Espinosa at a meeting of the EU Agricultural and Fisheries Council in Brussels yesterday. In her statement to the council, Espinosa underlined that the two trawlers and their crews must be released immediately. She further claimed that Norway had no right to put into effect measures which would curtail access to the waters around Svalbard for vessels under an EU flag, or to take sanctions against them. The EU Commission has also underlined that in its opinion, Norway has no right to take sanctions on its own against vessels from other flag states. "Our view is very clear on this point. If a fishing vessel is suspected of illegal fishing, it is the flag state which should be informed and which should follow it up," EU Commission spokeswoman Mirelle Thom said. "However, the EU and Norway enjoy excellent relations, and it ought to be possible to sit down and discuss these matters," she said. The issue is expected to be discussed in meetings between the EU and Norway in the near future.

TAPORO V (France)

Papeete, Nov 23 — General cargo *Taporo V* was voluntarily scuttled off Papeete, in the position lat 17 20S, long 149 30W, on Oct 7. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Taporo V* arrived at Papeete on Jun 18, 2004, and in November 2004, was reported still in port, under arrest/retired from navigation by the French Maritime Authorities.)

TOR (Comoros)

London, Nov 20 — General cargo *Tor* sailed from Venice on Nov 11 and was next reported arriving at Rijeka on Nov 17.

Pipeline Accidents**KEMEROVO REGION, SIBERIA, RUSSIA**

London, Nov 23 — A leak occurred on an oil pipeline in the Kemerovo Region in western Siberia early this morning, a duty officer at the Emergency Situations Ministry regional center said. "A track patrolman inspecting the tracks near the town of Predmetkino-Suslovo in the Kemerovo region heard an explosion and saw oil gushing as high as the top of the trees along the roadbed," the officer said. The accident occurred at 0648, Moscow time, today the Anzherka-Rybnoe stretch of a pipeline carrying oil from

Omsk to Irkutsk. There was no fire. Maintenance and rescue teams are now working at the site. The leak has already been fixed. Oil spilled on an area of 300 sq m. At 0832, Moscow time, train service was stopped for fear of an oil fire.

Pollution**GULF OF THAILAND**

London, Nov 20 — A press report, dated today, states: About 50 tons of crude oil spilled into the Gulf of Thailand from a Japan-registered vessel today, as it attempted to dispense some of its cargo at a refinery buoy, a company official said. Crude oil tanker *Ryuhō Maru* (149362 gt, built 1999) had moored to unload oil from the Middle East but it leaked because of faulty equipment, said a refinery relations manager from Thai Oil PLC, who spoke on condition of anonymity, citing company policy. "It failed because of an equipment failure. The dock hose might have leaked," said the manager, adding that there would be an investigation. The company has cleaned up most of the oil, using a spray to disperse the remainder, he said. The oil spill occurred off the Thai coast about 50 kilometres south-east of Bangkok.

Bangkok, Nov 21 — According to a news report, the Japanese crude oil tanker *Ryuhō Maru* was (yesterday) discharging crude oil from Oman when a pipe was stated to have ruptured causing a large oil spill. It was stated that the spill was about three kms long and contained about 100,000 litres of crude oil. The incident occurred while the crude oil was being transferred from the tanker to the Thai Oil refinery plant in Siracha District, Choburi Province in the Gulf of Thailand. The Marine Department will be sending vessels for clean-up. It is feared that the oil slick may head for the beach resort of Pattaya in the same province. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 21 — Following received from Iino Marine Service Co., Ltd., Japan, management company for crude oil tanker *Ryuhō Maru*, dated today: "*Ryuhō Maru* was involved in oil spill accident at 0800 hrs, Nov 20, in Sriracha (Thailand) during the discharge of crude oil which loaded from the Arabian Gulf. The vessel berthed at a Single Bouy Mooring with connection 2 hose to her manifold and has steadied discharge rate. The master could not find any failure of crew handling cargo, her equipments and structure. However duty crew on manifold found leakage of oil from shore floating hose and immediately stopped cargo discharge. However an amount of cargo oil leaked into sea from shore floating hose. The master and loading master supposed the cause of the leakage to be functioned of the brake away system of floating

hose by unexpected external force. At the time of accident, strong winds and high waves have been recognised. The owner has now arranged for P & I Surveyors and also the attendance of marine superintendent to protect oil spillage and investigation of root cause."

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Crude oil from Sunday's (Nov 20) oil spill near Thailand's main aquatic playground of the eastern coast is threatening coral reefs and tourism, and suggesting that Thai Oil Public Company Limited was premature in announcing that it had contained the 20,000-litre "leak." Oil slicks from Thai Oil's leaking tanker delivery pipeline are endangering coral reefs around Koh Khang Khao Island off the country's eastern Chonburi Province, home of Thailand's most visited tourist beaches, Thai News Agency reported. Though government authorities have applied chemical dispersants to make layers of oil slicks submerge beneath the ocean surface in a bid to keep the coral reefs and marine life safe, masses of oil are coagulating on one of the tourist area's few remaining relatively intact coral reefs. The possibility that the reefs might be in critical danger — after the company assured both the government and the public that the problem was contained — is not encouraging, said an environmental observer. The Department of Marine and Coastal Resources said the booms being used to provide a barrier could not contain the oil slicks due to strong winds on the sea surface. Chemical dispersion is the only hope now for the authorities to protect the coral reefs along the northern and eastern shores of the island. Officials from the Marine and Coastal Resources Department and the Pollution Control Department will assess the environmental impact which could affect the coral reefs and other marine life. More compensation may be demanded from the oil firm in addition to the baht five million which the Marine and Coastal Resources Department has already claimed, as the containment and clean-up costs may be much higher than originally estimated. The incident occurred on Sunday when oil was being piped to the Thai Oil refinery in Si Racha from crude oil tanker *Ryuhō Maru*, which anchored offshore while making a standard delivery to the refinery. About 20,000 litres of oil leaked into the sea. Thai Oil, the country's largest refinery, said it accepts full responsibility for damages, but they have had yet to be determined. The company said the oil spill would not affect its refining output of about 200,000 barrels per day.

RYUHO MARU (Japan)

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Thai Oil PCL said today an oil spill yesterday hasn't had any impact on its refining capacity. The company, the country's largest refiner in terms of capacity, said in a filing to the Stock Exchange of

Thailand that around 20 kilolitres (126 barrels) of crude oil had spilled into the sea while the Japan-registered crude oil tanker *Ryuhō Maru* was delivering crude to the company's refinery in Chon Buri. However, the situation is now under control, and the company has cleaned up the spill without any impact on the marine environment, it said. The company's refining capacity is around 200,000 barrels a day.

SONGHUA RIVER, CHINA

See "Petrochemical Plant, Jilin Province, China" under "Fires & Explosions".

Weather & Navigation



AUSTRALIA

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated Nov 21, states: More severe thunderstorms are expected in south-east Queensland today. About 30,000 customers lost power during yesterday's wild weather. A series of severe thunderstorms hit Brisbane about 1600, AEST, yesterday. Jimboomba, Logan City and Ipswich bore the brunt of the storms, with reports of hail, severe winds and rain. About 32,000 homes lost power. Most outages lasted just 90 minutes and power was restored by midnight.

CHINA

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated today states: The Shanghai Salvage Bureau finally managed to raise half-submerged Lpg *Tong Cheng 818* yesterday morning, four days after the ship was swamped during bad weather in the East China Sea. The ship was carrying 799 tons of liquified gas when it hit rough seas on Monday (Nov 14), creating the threat of a major leak if the vessel was not raised quickly and safely. Rescue workers had to move the half-submerged ship to a safe place before they could raise it, as weather in the East China Sea shipping lane was still terrible, said Zhao Guocai, a spokesman from Shanghai Salvage Bureau. The salvage prevented the vessel from sinking along an important shipping route just beyond the mouth of the Yangtze River, officials said. The cargo vessel, which was coming from from Dalian was caught in the cold front from Siberia on Monday afternoon. Officials said giant waves hit the vessel about 100 sea miles from Sheshan Hill. The master ordered the crew to give up the flooded ship in the face of the worsening sea conditions after their efforts to pump out the water failed. All 14 crew members were saved from the sinking vessel by rescuers from the Shanghai-based Donghai Rescue Bureau on Monday. Two rescue boats and a crane ship managed to approach *Tong Cheng 818* the next morning. With winds still blowing at up to 88

kilometres an hour, rescue work progressed slowly. About two-thirds of the ship had submerged into the sea by early Wednesday morning, and rescuers were worried the ship would sink any time. A team of rescuers finally managed to board on the sinking ship and connect cables from two boats. The wreckage was safely pulled to the Luhushan anchoring site. A crane finally raised the ship early yesterday morning. Rescuers say they are still pumping water out of the ship, a must before draining the liquid gas.

CROATIA

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Gale-force winds disrupted road and sea traffic along Croatia's northern Adriatic coast today, causing occasional power failures, national television reported. Due to winds gusting up to 200 kilometers per hour, the bridge linking Croatia's largest northern island of Krk with the mainland was closed to traffic. Ferry lines for the northern islands of Cres, Rab and Pag as well as the one for the southern island of Solta were cancelled for most of the day. In the village of Drazice, near the northern Adriatic town of Rijeka, winds ripped off a roof from a local school. In Rijeka, winds toppled trees and also ripped off parts of roofs, slightly injuring one firefighter. Due to strong winds sections of the Rijeka-Zagreb highway as well as of the highway linking Zagreb with the southern Adriatic town of Split were closed.

GREECE

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A number of flights and ferry services were cancelled in Athens and Thessaloniki yesterday as heavy rainfall and high winds swept across the country, authorities said, forcing at least three large-scale sea rescue operations. Authorities said adverse weather conditions grounded some flights to islands in the Aegean while ferries remained anchored at the port of Piraeus for most of the day. Coast guards were busy across the country. Late yesterday, rescue teams were searching for a sailing vessel that sent out a distress call some 90 miles south of the Peloponnese. The Ukraine-flagged boat had a seven-person crew on board. Earlier in the day, coast guards mounted rescue operations to aid two North Korean-flagged merchant ships (general cargo *Abdul Rahman* and general cargo *Trizan*), stranded in gale-force storms in the eastern and northern Aegean. The master of *Abdul Rahman*, which experienced mechanical failure near the island of Evia, refused help from rescue teams while crew members were evacuated from *Trizan*, which ran aground off Thasos. There were no reports of injuries among the crews of either vessel. The bad weather caused flooding in different parts of Attica, such as in Marathon, but was generally milder than expected,

particularly in Athens. A number of villages in northern Greece were cut off because of snow-covered roads, while several schools were also shut for the day. (See also *Abdulrahman* and *Trizan* under "Marine.")

HURRICANE "KATRINA"

London, Nov 22 — Bulk *Patrizia D'Amato* was reported arriving at Damietta on Nov 16.

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The Federal Emergency Management Agency will remove only three of the remaining 28 vessels blown onto land at Bayou La Batre by hurricane "Katrina" — a decision that upset local officials. FEMA officials said the agency would remove three vessels that are considered a public health threat because they are close to homes. However, FEMA spokesman Jay Eaker in Montgomery cited federal law in refusing to remove the other 28 vessels beached in more isolated and wooded areas. The federal Stafford Act requires that FEMA exercise "due diligence" to recoup the salvage fees it incurs — up to \$60,000 per vessel. "They're doing the same thing in Mississippi and Louisiana that we're doing," Eaker said today. Bayou officials were informed of FEMA's decision last night. Two weeks ago, FEMA officials shut down the federal contractor preparing to move all of the vessels beached in the area by the Aug 29 hurricane. Coast Guard Capt Ed Stanton, in charge of the bayou vessel removal operation, said he had sent the contractor hired for the Alabama vessel removal, Titan Maritime LLC of Fort Lauderdale, Fla, to remove beached vessels in Mississippi. Wright said he will now look for other ways to pay for the boat clean-up. He will ask ConocoPhillips Co as well as former President Clinton each for the \$2 million, he said. Clinton visited the Bayou in October looking for ways to spend the approximately \$100 million he and former President Bush have raised for "Katrina" relief. Wright and Clinton discussed boat removal as one possible use for the money. During the visit, Clinton said the money would be used to address "problems the government can't or won't solve."

HURRICANE "WILMA"

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The Boca Raton Airport sustained nearly \$12 million in damage from hurricane "Wilma," not counting the yet-undetermined costs of aircraft destruction, airport officials said today at the monthly meeting of the Boca Raton Airport Authority. The estimate is preliminary and costs could rise, said Ken Day, the airport manager, adding he hoped to have a final damage estimate by January. He could not provide a figure for aircraft losses although he observed that at least 50 aircraft were damaged. "Every structure in the airport received damage," Day said. Two large hangars with aircraft inside them collapsed at Boca Aviation, one of the airport's five tenants. Other

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tenants reported damage to roofs, walls, and doors of hangars and other aircraft. The airport's air traffic control tower has damage to its parapet wall, beacon, hurricane screens, lighting rods, aluminum siding and ceiling tiles, Day said. Meanwhile, last year's hurricanes did not hit the airport's hangars and only \$85,000 in damage was reported, he said. Since the airport reopened two days after "Wilma" passed, the tenants have begun fixing hangars in order to remove damaged aircraft. The tenants, not the airport authority, are responsible for fixing the hangars and aircraft. Debris collection remains ongoing. Airport officials applied for money from the Federal Aviation Authority and FEMA but Day said there was no guarantee the federal government would provide any financial assistance. The airport may reopen for nighttime air travel by the end of the week, he said. The airport closes at 2300 hrs and reopens at 0700 hrs because of concerns that loose debris may hit incoming aircraft at night when there is no service from the air traffic control tower. Airport authority members braced for higher deductibles and premiums. To avoid paying a new \$250,000 windstorm deductible for the tower, members today approved combining the airport's hangar insurance policies. Previously, the same deductible cost \$25,000.

IRAQ

London, Nov 23 — Basrah Oil Terminal tugs are presently sheltered at Umm Qasr, due to bad weather. Rough conditions have been experienced at the terminal since yesterday afternoon, with a wind speed of 30 knots/hour.

London, Nov 24 — Berthing and sailing operations are temporarily suspended at Basrah Oil Terminal due to continuing rough weather. However, the terminal's tugs returned from Umm Qasr (where they were sheltering) yesterday afternoon.

JAMAICA

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Three persons died yesterday as torrential rains triggered massive mudslides in St. Mary, marooned hundreds of motorists, and caused major flooding in northern St. Catherine and Trelawny. Several roads, such as Camberwalk to Rosemount, Bernard to Freetown and Golden Valley to Gibbs Hill, leading to Border, remained blocked last night. Four houses in Castleton were washed away by the floods. According to weather experts, the intermittent showers in St. Mary last week intensified into fierce thunderstorms Monday (Nov 14) and Tuesday night, dumping several inches of rain on already saturated land, resulting in the mudslides. In the meantime, the rest of the country is bracing for heavy rainfall that authorities warned could cause more deadly mudslides and flash floods. "The remnants of Tropical Depression 27 have got caught up with

a large area of low pressure in the south-west Caribbean. It is now an enlarged system that will expand and affect northern and southern parishes tonight (last night) and tomorrow with heavy thunderstorms on the south coast," duty forecaster Adrian Shaw of the National Meteorological Centre said last night.

MALAYSIA

London, Nov 24 — Floods in Malaysia's northeastern states this week have killed at least three children and forced more than one thousand residents to flee the area, reports said today. Heavy rains have been lashing the east coast of Malaysia's peninsula since Monday (Nov 21). Northeast Kelantan state police chief Zulkifli Abdullah said the bodies of two children were found yesterday. Mohamad Amin Azmi, 16, drowned after falling into a flooded monsoon drain while nine-year-old Nor Amira Sharifuddin was swept away by strong currents as she was playing in an irrigation canal, he was quoted as saying by the national Bernama news agency. In neighbouring Terengganu, the body of three-year-old Tengku Fakhru Razi Idzam was found floating in the Dungun river near his home, district deputy police chief Che Hamzah Che Ismail said. More than 1000 people have been evacuated from Terengganu and Kelantan as well as central Pahang state which borders the other two, while thousands more could be moved soon as water levels continue to rise in local rivers. The water levels in at least eight rivers in the three states had reached dangerous levels as of late yesterday. A Meteorological Department spokesman said heavy rains were expected to continue in Kelantan until tomorrow, followed by intermittent rains over the weekend.

ROMANIA

Bucharest, Nov 24 — Constantza, Midia and Mangalia Ports were closed due to bad weather wind south-south-east beaufort 6-8 (strong breeze-gale), sea 5-6 feet, yesterday. Constantza port was closed at 2200 hrs and was re-opened today at 1200, today. Midia port was closed at 2140 hrs and it still closed at present. Mangalia Port was closed at 1945 hrs and it is still closed at present. Sulina Channel was closed at 0600, today due to bad weather, wind east-south-east beaufort 6-7 (strong breeze-near gale), sea 5-6 feet and it is still closed. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOUTH AFRICA

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The Port of Durban is again experiencing delays this week with ships being held outside the port due to adverse weather conditions. According to a statement issued by the port manager, Basil Ndlovu, extraordinary weather conditions are being experienced, including sustained wind and swell conditions that have only rarely been experienced in previous years and

then for short periods of time. "The occurrence of these unique weather conditions has forced the temporary closure of the port on a number of occasions over the last few weeks, resulting in a negative impact on the operations of the port," he said. According to Ndlovu the decision to close the port was taken in a carefully considered operational manner by senior marine personnel acting in the interests of safe port working and those of the port's clients. "The risks that are faced in continuing to handle marine vessels in such weather conditions are many and the potential for catastrophe is great as one of the outcomes could result in the grounding of a vessel in the entrance channel which would have a negative effect on the entire economy of the country." He said that the procedure before closing the port is that the senior pilot on duty consults with the harbourmaster in making an assessment of the situation, before making the decision whether or not to close the port. In the event that the port is closed the situation is re-assessed every two hours, with the senior pilot traveling to the port entrance on the pilot boat to make the assessment. As soon as conditions begin to improve, the re-assessment gaps are reduced to every 30 minutes. However, the weather has not been the only factor causing the port to close in recent days. Twice in the past week the pilot boat *Tsitsikama* has broken down and been unable to ferry pilots to waiting ships. The marine helicopter is currently undergoing a major overhaul and is not available, and ships agents say it is ludicrous that a port as busy as Durban, with an average of more than 30 movements each day should not have a replacement craft available in the event of the pilot boat not being available. They pointed out that there are several privately owned craft in the harbour that are suitable for this duty in an emergency.

SRI LANKA

London, Nov 22 — Heavy rains have caused floods in parts of Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka. Thousands of people working in the city were left stranded, as floodwaters reached waist-height on some roads leading out to the suburbs. On the roads that could carry cars, motorists sat for hours in traffic jams. Colombo and its surrounding area has received around 177 millimetres of rain in the last 20 hours but it is expected that this will ease up. Meanwhile, flash floods have also occurred as a result of the rains in some areas, according to officials at the country's meteorological office.

Colombo, Nov 23 — Floods triggered by heavy rains in Sri Lanka have affected some 40,000 people, the government said today, including many living in makeshift shelters since last year's tsunami. Water levels had begun to fall in most parts of the country after the rains eased, but officials were still assessing the damage in the north and east. "At this

moment we are still collecting data," assistant director of the National Disaster Management Centre G.M. Gunawardena said. "It looks as though the worst affected areas are the north and east. Officials said there was no figure yet on deaths caused by the floods but newspapers said that at least two people were killed in central Colombo when a wall, weakened by the rain, collapsed. Gunawardena said some 40,000 people were affected, a broad term covering those who had suffered damage to their homes, businesses or any other property. — Reuters.

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Floods triggered by heavy rains in Sri Lanka have killed six people and damaged thousands of homes, affecting many still in shelters after last year's tsunami, the government said today. Some 2,000 homes were destroyed and at least 63,000 people affected, a broad term covering those who had suffered damage to their homes, businesses or any other property. Water levels fell in most of the country after rains eased, but officials were still assessing flood damage. Around 1,200 families were in temporary shelters. Three of the dead were killed in Colombo, two when a rain-weakened wall collapsed, while most of the other dead appeared to have drowned trying to swim to safety, he said.

THAILAND

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Recent flash floods caused 60 million baht in damage to a hospital in Bang Saphan district of Prachuap Khiri Khan. Anuthep Malotra, director of Bang Saphan Hospital, said medical supplies, equipment and computers were destroyed in floods brought by rain over the weekend. Yesterday, about 25 border patrol police were sent to the hospital to help clean up. Outpatient services will resume on Friday (Nov 25), Mr Anuthep said. About 5,000 homes in 71 district villages and 30,000 rai of agricultural land were flooded, according to a survey. Many roads and bridges were made impassable. Initial estimates put total damage at about 100 million baht.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The Government has started assessing homes in the Tunapuna/Piarco Regional Corporation that were damaged by heavy rains and subsequent flooding last week. Social Development Minister Anthony Roberts, Ministry officials and members of the Corporation visited residents of St Helena, La Paille Village, Kelly Village, Dookie Singh Street and Manuel Congo yesterday. Roberts described the flooding as a "natural disaster" and noted that the watermark where floodwaters rose was visible in some homes. He said that some residents lost food due to the flooding and the Ministry was

attempting to get food supplies to the affected people "within the shortest possible time." Last week 900 food hampers, 1,000 loaves of bread, 700 boxes of crackers and 1,920 bottles of water were delivered to flood victims in the regional corporation, the Ministry said. Supplies were also sent to the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation and emergency food hampers were delivered to the Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo and Nariva/Mayaro Regional Corporations. A statement from the Ministry said that, through the Urgent Temporary Assistance Grant, assistance will be given to valid claimants with housing repairs and household items such as beds, bedding and appliances, and personal effects, including school textbooks and school uniforms, will be replaced.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "ALVIN"

See Tropical Cyclone "Bertie".

TROPICAL CYCLONE "BERTIE"

London, Nov 20 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Bertie" was located near lat 08.3S, long 93.5E, approximately 305 nautical miles north-west of the Cocos Islands. It has tracked southward, or 190 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: 50 knots, gusts 65 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 35 nautical miles in all four quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 23 feet. At 0600, UTC, Nov 21, the centre is predicted to be near lat 10.4S, long 92.6E, with maximum sustained winds of 60 knots and gusts to 75 knots.

London, Nov 21 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical cyclone "Bertie" near lat 9.3S, long 92.4E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 245 degrees at seven knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots, gusts 90 knots. Forecast position lat 10.4S, long 91.6E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 80 knots, gusts 100 knots. Forecast position lat 11.7S, long 91.0E at 0600, UTC, Nov 22. Maximum sustained winds 90 knots, gusts 110 knots.

London, Nov 22 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Bertie" was located near lat 11.5S, long 90.7E, approximately 365 nautical miles west of the Cocos Islands. It has tracked southward, or 215 degs, at seven knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 20 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 80 knots, gusts 100 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 15 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 95 nautical miles in all

four quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 34 feet. At 0600, UTC, Nov 23, the centre is predicted to be near lat 13.9S, long 89.2E, with maximum sustained winds of 80 knots and gusts to 100 knots.

London, Nov 23 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone "Bertie" near lat 12.8S, long 90.3E, at 0600, UTC, Nov 23. Movement past six hours 180 deg at four knots. Position accurate to within 20 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 115 knots with gusts to 140 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 20 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 40 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 120 nautical miles. Forecast for 1800, UTC: Position lat 13.6S, long 90.3E. Maximum sustained winds 105 knots with gusts to 130 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 20 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 35 nautical miles.

London, Nov 24 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical cyclone "Bertie" renamed "Alvin" as it has crossed 90E in lat 14.6S, long 89.8E at 0600, UTC, today. Forecast position lat 15.0S, long 89.4E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 90 knots. Forecast position lat 15.2S, long 88.2E at 0600, UTC, today. Maximum winds 80 knots.

TROPICAL STORM "DELTA"

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated Nov 23, states: Tropical Storm "Delta", the 25th storm of the busiest hurricane season in history, formed in the central Atlantic today, but the only threat it posed was to ships at sea, forecasters said. "Delta" had sustained winds of about 60 mph and could briefly strengthen into the 14th hurricane of the season, the National Hurricane Centre in Miami reported. "It's way out there in the middle of nowhere," hurricane specialist Stacy Stewart said. "It shouldn't threaten the United States or probably any other land area for that matter." At 2200, EST, "Delta" was centered about 1,175 miles south-west of the Azores. It was moving south-southeast near eight mph, and was expected to eventually turn north.

London, Nov 24 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Delta" centre located near lat 24.7N, long 39.8W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 40 nautical miles. Present movement toward south-southeast or 155 degrees at seven knots. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots with gusts to 65 knots. Forecast position lat 24.2N, long 39.6W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 55 knots, gusts 65 knots. Forecast position lat 23.9N, long 39.4W at 0600, UTC, today. Maximum winds 60 knots, gusts 75 knots.

TROPICAL STORM "GAMMA"

London, Nov 18 — A press release from Reuters, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Gamma" is forecast to strike Honduras at about 2100, GMT,

Nov 18. Data supplied by the US National Hurricane Center suggest that the point of landfall will be near lat 16.4N, long 85.6W. "Gamma" is expected to bring 1-minute maximum sustained winds to the region of around 64 km/hr. Wind gusts in the area may be considerably higher. — Reuters.

London, Nov 19 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Gamma", was located near lat 16.9N, long 86.2W. The movement over the past six hours: 325 degs, at five knots. The position is accurate to within 30 nautical miles. The estimated minimum central pressure 1005 MB. The present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds 40 knots, gusts to 50 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 90 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and zero nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Nov 20, the centre is predicted to be near lat 18.4N, long 86.8W, with maximum sustained winds of 45 knots and gusts to 55 knots.

El Progreso, Honduras, Nov 19 — Tropical Storm "Gamma" doused Central America with heavy rain today, killing three people and cutting off part of the Honduran coast, as the storm inched towards Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. "Gamma" was expected to curve to the north-east as it neared the Yucatan and move over western Cuba before taking aim on southern Florida. Rainfall linked to "Gamma" killed at least three people in Honduras and 13 were missing today, officials said. Honduran officials said more than 5,000 people were evacuated along the Atlantic coast and authorities estimated more than 50,000 were cut off as bridges were damaged or destroyed, leaving several cities and towns isolated. Engineers were working to erect temporary bridges in heavy rainfall. Several people disappeared when a rescue boat overturned in raging river waters. By 1500, GMT, "Gamma" was located about 160 miles east-south-east of Belize City and 255 miles south-south-east of Tulum, Mexico, near Cancun, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. Maximum sustained winds were 45 mph and the system was moving toward the north-north-west at 5 mph. Honduran officials urged communities cut off by the storm to ration food and water until help arrived. About 60% of El Progreso, a city of 200,000 people on a river near the coast, was under water, authorities said. Rescue workers were taking boats to isolated communities on the Ulua River to search for stranded residents. The storm was expected to produce up to 15 inches of rain in parts of Belize, the Yucatan Peninsula and Cuba. — Reuters.

London, Nov 20 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Gamma": A tropical storm warning remains in effect for the Bay Islands of Honduras. This warning may be discontinued

later today. At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Gamma" was located near lat 16.7N, long 85.0W. The position is accurate to within 20 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the north or 360 degs at two knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 1006 mb. The maximum sustained winds: 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. The radius of 34 knot winds: 90 nautical miles in the north-east quadrant, zero nautical miles in the other three quadrants. At 0600, Nov 21, the centre is predicted to be near lat 17.5N, long 85.0W, with maximum winds of 30 knots and gusts to 40 knots.

London, Nov 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm "Gamma" weakened today into a tropical depression after it deluged the Central American coast, killing 12 people - nine in Honduras and three in Belize when a small aircraft belonging to a lodge owned by filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola crashed. Forecasters said the slow-moving storm was likely to miss Florida. The storm's top sustained winds decreased to 35 mph - below the 39 mph needed to be considered a tropical storm, the National Hurricane Center in Miami said. Forecasters said "Gamma" would move east over the next three days and its center could move south of Jamaica by Wednesday (Nov 23). At 1000, EST, the depression was about 80 miles north-north-east of Limon, Honduras, and 195 miles east-south-east of Belize city. The storm hit Honduras the hardest; emergency officials said nine people died and 15 were missing from floods and mudslides. It said the storm damaged or destroyed 300 homes and other buildings while forcing 11,307 people from their dwellings. Five people died in the northern town of El Progreso, said Mayor Nelly Soliman. Heavy winds and rains also pounded the Bay Islands, off the Honduran coast, said Hugo Arevalo, co-ordinator of a national disaster-response committee. In Belize, search teams blamed bad weather associated with "Gamma" for the crash of a private aircraft belonging to an exclusive lodge owned by Coppola. The crash killed Belizean pilot Rene Ram and two guests, said Kathleen Talbert, a representative for Coppola. The aircraft disappeared Friday (Nov 18), last making radio contact with air controllers 10 minutes into its 35-minute flight to the Blancaneux Lodge near the western border with Guatemala. Rescuers were still searching for five Belizean fishermen from the northern fishing village of Sarteneja near the Mexican border who disappeared on Friday. Their 20-ft vessel was capsized by a large wave, police said.

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll in Honduras from Tropical Storm "Gamma" increased to at least 32, with 13 people missing, officials said late yesterday. In neighbouring Belize, five fishermen were missing at sea because of the storm, Belize media said. Honduran authorities launched a

major operation to rescue people stranded by floods in the north of the country as the storm, downgraded to a tropical depression, headed back out into the Caribbean. The civil emergency committee (Copec) said that more than 23,000 people had fled their homes and helicopters were rescuing some people from rooftops and airlifting food to stricken areas. A Copec spokesperson said the death toll had increased to 32, from 15 earlier in the day, and that 13 people were missing. The storm and floods washed away dozens of bridges and much of the Islas de la Bahia department was under water, officials said. About 2 000 homes were destroyed. The Copec spokesperson said an entire family of six were buried by a mudslide in Locomapa, in Yoro Department, 240km north. Copec helicopters were flying over the zone to find stranded victims on roofs and in trees. United Nations agencies were helping to distribute food. (See also V3-HCT under "Aviation.")

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated Nov 21, states: Two Americans killed when a private aircraft crashed in Belize during Tropical Storm "Gamma" were honeymooners who had been married only a week, family members and U.S. authorities said today. The couple were identified as Douglas Scratchley and Cristy Dy Scratchley of St. Petersburg, Fla. Douglas Scratchley graduated high school in Sacramento, where his mother and stepfather live. The U.S. State Department confirmed the couple died on their honeymoon but had no further details, department spokesman Justin Higgins said. Belizean military officials said the couple's bodies had been transferred to Belize City. Authorities blamed heavy wind and rain associated with the storm on the crash of the aircraft carrying the couple and a Belizean pilot, who also died. The aircraft belonged to Blancaneux Lodge, an exclusive resort owned by U.S. filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola. The aircraft crashed into a ravine near another exclusive ranch in Cayo province. The family had been in touch with authorities in Belize, who described the aircraft as a twin-engine, 10-seat aircraft named "Sofia," after Coppola's daughter. The aircraft crashed as it was en route from Belize's international airport to the Blancaneux airstrip. It crashed a few miles short of the resort in heavy fog.

TYPHOON "BOLAVEN"

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated Nov 17, states: A major storm is forecast to cross the Philippines into the East Sea Sunday (Nov 20), Vietnam's Southern Hydrometeorology Station warned. Storm "Bolaven", the 23rd this year, lay centred in the southwestern Pacific Ocean, the office said today. With cold fronts intensifying in northern Vietnam, the storm's direction and intensity were however difficult to predict, it said.

London, Nov 18 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated

today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Bolaven", was located near lat 14.1N, long 128.5E. The movement over the past six hours: 290 degs, at five knots. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. The present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds 65 knots, gusts to 80 knots. Radius of 50 knot winds: 30 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 25 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 105 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 95 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Nov 19, the centre is predicted to be near lat 14.9N, long 125.6E, with maximum sustained winds of 75 knots and gusts to 90 knots.

Manila, Nov 18 — About 1,100 ferry passengers were stranded at Matnog port in Sorsogon province, 400 km south-east of Manila, after the Philippine Office of Civil Defense restricted all vessels to port because of stormy sea conditions brought about by Typhoon "Bolaven." State weather bureau, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration or PAGASA, raised public storm signal No. 2 over the area. During a category 2 storm, all vessels are prohibited from leaving port as a precautionary measure against possible accidents at sea. PAGASA said that as of 0400 today, satellite and land surface data tracked the center of the typhoon at 400 km east north-east of Legaspi City in Albay province. It was packing maximum sustained winds of 120 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 150 kph and moving west at 13 kph. The weather bureau forecast the typhoon to be 140 km north-east of Legaspi or 80 km east of Virac, Catanduanes, tomorrow morning and 50 km north of Calapan City in Oriental Mindoro or 90 km south of Metro Manila on Sunday (Nov 20). — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Nov 19 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Bolaven", was located near lat 15.9N, long 124.3E. The movement over the past six hours: 305 degs, at nine knots. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. The present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts to 70 knots. Radius of 50 knot winds: 15 nautical miles in the north-east and south-east quadrants and 20 nautical miles in the south-west and north-west quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 75 nautical miles in the north-east quadrant, 65 nautical miles in the south-east quadrant, 95 nautical miles in the south-west quadrant and 115 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. At 0600, UTC, Nov 20, the centre is predicted to be near lat 17.5N, long 122.3E, with maximum sustained winds of 50 knots and gusts to 65 knots.

London, Nov 20 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, the centre of tropical depression "Bolaven", downgraded from a tropical storm, was located near lat 17.8N, long 121.7E, approximately 200 nautical miles north-northeast of Manila, Philippines. It has tracked northwestward, or 315 degs, at 10 knots over the past six hours and is now located over land. The position is accurate to within 55 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 30 knots, gusts 40 knots and dissipating as a significant tropical cyclone over land. At 0600, UTC, Nov 21, the centre is predicted to be near lat 19.8N, long 120.9E, with maximum sustained winds of 25 knots, gusts to 35 knots, and dissipating as a significant tropical cyclone over water.

Manila, Nov 20 — The Office of Civil Defense said here today that it had lifted the hold departure order for vessels at the major domestic port of Matnog and other southern Luzon ports. Authorities said that sea conditions had improved considerably with the departure of Typhoon "Bolaven". Southern Luzon island ports have been allowed to resume normal operations as a result. Last Friday (Nov 19), the Office of Civil Defense had suspended operations at the Southern Luzon ports of Matnog, Pilar, Bulan, Tabaco, Pio Duran, Sabang and Bapor. The suspension order resulted in 22 vessels confined to port and at least 2,000 ferry passengers stranded. The majority or around 1,100 passengers were stranded at Matnog port, the main domestic port in Southern Luzon. As precautionary measure, vessels are confined to port at the approach of a category two typhoon to prevent maritime accidents. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Nov 21 — A press release from Reuters, dated today, states: Typhoon "Bolaven" struck the Philippines as a tropical storm at about 0000, GMT, Nov 20. Data supplied by the US Navy and Air Force Joint Typhoon Warning Center suggest that the point of landfall was near lat 16.9N, 122.9E. Bolaven brought 1-minute maximum sustained winds to the region of around 83 km/hr.

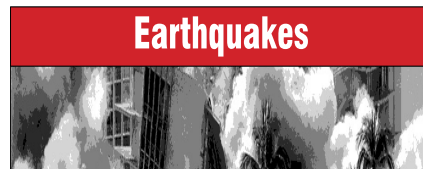
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

London, Nov 23 — Zirku port in Abu Dhabi has been closed for vessels' operation, due to adverse weather, since 1430, local time, today.

VIETNAM

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Floods caused by torrential rain have killed three people from Vietnam's central region since last weekend, local newspaper Young People reported today. The floods, which lasted between Nov 18-20, also inundated tens of thousands of houses and many road sections in the two provinces.

Earthquakes



BOLIVIA/CHILE

Santiago, Nov 17 — A strong earthquake with a magnitude of 6.9 and shook Bolivia and northern Chile today, but there were no initial reports of damage, officials in Chile and the United States said. "Its depth of focus is such that we probably won't have any damage. It's not in a heavily populated area. It's on the Chile, Bolivia border," said Waverly Person, a geophysicist at the United States Geological Survey in Colorado. The USGS measured the magnitude of the earthquake at 6.9. The University of Chile's Seismology Institute said the epicentre was 18 miles south-east of the northern Chile resort town of San Pedro de Atacama, near the Bolivian border, and put the magnitude at 6.8. The quake, at 1929, GMT, was felt strongly in Tocopilla, about 900 miles north of Chile's capital, Santiago. "There were situations of alarm, but no damage has been reported," Carmen Fernandez, chief of civil protection for the National Emergency Office, told local radio. — Reuters.

INDONESIA

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A magnitude 6.5 quake rattled two islands off the coast of Sumatra today, triggering a tsunami alert and panicking some residents, officials said. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties. The quake's epicenter was located off Simeulue Island, about 160 miles south-west of Medan on Sumatra's west coast, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It struck just after 2100, local time. Indonesia's Meteorology and Geophysics Agency put the magnitude at 6.2, saying it was centered 19 miles under the Indian Ocean seabed, about 40 miles south-west of Sinabang, the main town on Simeulue island. The quake strongly jolted nearby Nias island and was felt in Medan, said an official at the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency's Jakarta office.

JAPAN

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale shook the seabed off the east coast of Japan, the second "strong" quake in the region in two days, the US Geological Survey (USGS) reported yesterday. The tremor occurred at 0520, local time, today, according to the report. Its epicentre was off Honshu island, about 295 kilometres south-east of Tokyo. A quake measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale shook northern Japan early yesterday.

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale

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shook southern Japan today in the latest major tremor to hit the archipelago, but there were no reports of damage, officials said. The earthquake rocked wide areas of the main southern island of Kyushu at 1236 hrs, the meteorological agency said. It was focused off Tanegashima island, 1 000km south-west of Tokyo.

MARIANA ISLANDS REGION

London, Nov 16 — A magnitude 5.8 earthquake occurred at 2301, UTC, Nov 15. The event has been located in the Mariana Islands Region. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 86 km.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, Nov 17 — A local press report, dated today, states: Direct and indirect losses to crops, livestock and irrigation infrastructure from last month's earthquake in northern Pakistan and Azad Kashmir total more than \$440 million, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said yesterday. But the Rome-based agency regretted that it has not received one cent of the \$25 million it has sought for immediate emergency aid. "To help these farming communities resume their economic activities as soon as possible, quick impact activities have to be started at once to clear cultivated areas, restock animals, restore land productivity and rebuild livestock shelters and grain storage," FAO Emergency Operations Service Chief Fernanda Guerrieri said. "Lost or destroyed machinery and equipment also needs to be replaced," she added, releasing the findings of an FAO assessment. With the death toll currently estimated at 70,000, few families in the quake-affected areas escaped the loss of human life, the assessment found. Those affected have also seen a dramatic depletion of their assets. With up to three million people estimated to have been left homeless, shelter has been reduced to rubble, water and emergency supplies have been cut off and the transport system seriously threatened by unstable link roads and there is the strong likelihood of further landslides as winter sets in." — Lloyd's Agents.

Karachi, Nov 19 — As per the press news UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said yesterday that opening of the Line of Control (LoC) following last month's earthquake provided Pakistan and India a historic opportunity to resolve the Kashmir dispute. This opening of the LoC is a first step and will be seen as an important confidence building measure (CBM) between leaders of the two countries to further discuss and resolve the Kashmir dispute, he told a press conference after his meetings with President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz. President Gen Pervez Musharraf yesterday held out the assurance that there would be transparency and accountability of earthquake relief assistance flowing into Pakistan from other countries and donor agencies. He held out this assurance in the

presence of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan at Thuri Park Tent Village while talking to the accompanying media team. Pakistan holds an International Donors Conference here today amid expectations that international community will extend maximum grants and soft loans to meet at least \$3.5 billion reconstruction cost in the wake of the October 8 earthquake devastation. Major donors, including multilateral agencies, are expected to pledge contributions primarily in grants and soft loans that will set the tone for individual countries and aid agencies to come up with donations once the conference is over. A bipartisan resolution has been moved in the US Congress, seeking \$1 billion for the earthquake victims in Pakistan. The resolution, jointly signed by two key members of the Congressional Pakistan Caucus, Dan Burton and Sheila Jackson Lee, was proposed at a breakfast meeting on Capitol Hill on Thursday (Nov 17). The Asian Development Bank (ADB) yesterday said \$1.7 billion was urgently needed to bring immediate relief to millions of quake survivors before the harsh Himalayan winter set in. Bank President Haruhiko Kuroda said he was hopeful an international donors conference here today would also come up with enough money to fund longer-term reconstruction needs. Pakistan and the international donors community have agreed to adopt a broad six-point strategy to ensure that benefits of reconstruction and recovery effort reach every affected person of the October 8 earthquake. The strategy has been jointly prepared by the government and leading donor agencies. Britain on Thursday pledged £70 million for reconstruction of the quake-affected areas of the NWFP and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, sources in the Department of International Development (DFID) said here. DFID Junior Minister Gareth Thomas left for Islamabad on Thursday to represent Britain at the international donors conference, the sources said. US Assistant Secretary of State Christina Rocca yesterday said that the US military personnel involved in relief and rehabilitation work would continue to stay in Pakistan as long as it was required. But, she stressed, it was wrong to exploit the presence of those military personnel for political purpose. The Sialkot business community has established a 200-bed well-equipped hospital in Balakot for providing free of cost medical facilities to quake victims. Talking to press here yesterday, SCCI president Dr Nouman Idrees Butt and senior vice-president Faisal Mehmood Khan said that city's all the trade bodies had donated relief goods amounting to Rs200 million for earthquake victims. The army with the assistance of the Polish government and an NGO has made arrangements for providing special winter tents at Maira tent village in the Alai valley. Over 600 tents have been provided to families who have migrated from hilltops and taken

shelter in the tent village. Schools for boys and girls have also been set up there. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 21 — A moderate 5.5 earthquake, depth 10km, occurred in lat 34.74N, long 73 60E at 0826, UTC, today.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

London, Nov 23 — A 6.0 earthquake occurred in eastern New Guinea region, Papua New Guinea at 1511, UTC, Nov 22. The depth was estimated to be 68 km.

SEA OF OKHOTSK

London, Nov 24 — A 5.7 earthquake occurred in the Sea of Okhotsk at 1933, UTC, yesterday.

TAIWAN

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated Nov 16, states: An earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale rocked eastern Taiwan today, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, officials said. The epicentre of the quake, which struck at 1714, was about 26 kilometres east of Taitung county on the eastern coast at a depth of 125 km, the Central Weather Bureau said in a statement.

UNITED STATES

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An earthquake measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale rattled a remote region of Alaska early today, the US Geological Survey said. The quake shortly before 0400 hrs struck in the region of Unimak island some 95 kilometres south-west of the small Alaska village of False Pass.



AFGHANISTAN

Kandahar, Nov 23 — Afghan police today found the body of an Indian man who Taliban insurgents said they kidnapped and executed, a provincial official said. The body of the engineer, who had been working on a road project, was found on a dirt road in the southern province of Nimroz, said Mohammad Hashim, a district chief in the province. The engineer, P.M. Kutty from India's state-run Border Roads Organisation, was abducted from his car along with an Afghan driver and two guards in Nimroz on Saturday (Nov 19). A Taliban spokesman, Qari Mohammad Yousuf, claimed responsibility for the kidnapping yesterday and said Kutty had been killed after a deadline for his company to announce its withdrawal from Afghanistan had passed. The spokesman said today that Kutty's body had been dumped beside a road. Kutty's driver was released but the Taliban spokesman said the fate of the two guards had yet to be decided. In

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another incident, yesterday a U.S. soldier and an Afghan interpreter were killed when a roadside bomb struck their armoured vehicle in the central province of Uruzgan during an anti-militant operation by U.S.-led troops. — Reuters.

BANGLADESH

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: An opposition-sponsored general strike today aimed at forcing new elections shut down stores and schools and disrupted traffic across Bangladeshi cities and towns. The opposition Awami League party and its 13 smaller allies called the nationwide dawn-to-dusk strike. The opposition has accused Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's four-party coalition government of corruption, incompetence and authoritarianism - allegations the government denies. Zia has vowed to remain in power until her five-year term expires in October next year, paving the way for new elections within three months. In Dhaka, the capital city of 10 million people, streets were almost empty and most public transportation not running. Commuters either walked in sunny weather or rode tricycle rickshaws that were allowed by the strike organizers to operate. In Dhaka, some protesters threw stones at a few buses that defied the strike, witnesses said. Police detained several demonstrators, they said. General strikes are a common opposition protest tactic in Bangladesh. They sometimes turn violent, with clashes between strike supporters and opponents or police.

BURUNDI

Bujumbura, Nov 18 — Burundi said today U.N. troops would begin withdrawing in January, after fulfilling much of their peacekeeping mission in a country emerging from a 12-year civil war that killed some 300,000 people. Burundi's Foreign Minister Antoinette Batumubwira said up to 40 percent of the U.N.'s 5,500 blue helmets could be gone by April, according to recommendations made by a joint commission representing the government and United Nations. Batumubwira said a decision on how the remaining U.N. troops would be withdrawn would be made in March. She said U.N. soldiers would remain in three provinces bordering Democratic Republic of Congo where Burundi's last rebel group, the Forces for National Liberation (FNL), is still active. "Apart from controlling security at the Burundi frontier with Congo, peacekeepers who will stay in Burundi will be dealing with the protection of ONUB (U.N.) personnel, demining operations, disarmament and resettlement of former combatants," Batumubwira told a news conference. The FNL said yesterday it was ready to talk peace with rebel-turned-president Pierre Nkurunziza's government for the first time, provided its imprisoned members were set free. The 3,000-strong group had

previously rejected calls for talks by Nkurunziza, and analysts say lasting peace cannot be achieved in the country unless the FNL disarms. A U.N. Security Council delegation visited Burundi last week to assess progress since August elections produced an ethnically-mixed government. The vote was held under a U.N.-backed plan to end the war between Hutu rebels and a Tutsi elite which controlled the state for most of the years since independence in 1962. The government has said U.N. operations in Burundi should shift their focus away from peacekeeping to more urgent needs like education and health. The mandate for the U.N.'s operation in Burundi is up for renewal in December. — Reuters.

Bujumbura, Nov 24 — Burundi's government forces have killed 41 fighters from the last remaining rebel group and captured 50 over the past few weeks, an army spokesman said. In clashes that undermine the country's transition to peace, 23 rebels belonging to the Forces for the National Liberation (FNL) were killed in their stronghold in Bujumbura, and a further 18 were killed in the north-west Cibitoke province, army spokesman Adolphe Manirakiza said late yesterday. He said that while 50 rebels had been captured, around 60 rebels and some 800 of their young recruits had voluntarily surrendered during the clashes. "The army has also seized nine machine guns, six hand grenades and an important quantity of ammunition," Manirakiza told journalists. He also accused the FNL of beheading eight civilians. There was no immediate comment from the FNL. — Reuters.

COLOMBIA

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated Nov 17, states: Colombia's right-wing paramilitaries have agreed to resume disarmament after a breakthrough in talks with Bogota, the interior minister has said. The AUC group halted disarmament last month fearing the government planned to extradite one of its leaders to the US. The new deal resumes demobilisations and keeps the peace process "on track", Interior Minister Sabas Pretelt said. He said the interruption in the process meant the original December 31, deadline for disarmament would be extended. No new date for the deadline was given. The AUC has demobilised half of its 20,000 fighters since entering peace talks with the government two years ago. It halted the process in October after one of its leaders, Diego Fernando Murillo, was moved from house arrest to a high-security prison. This prompted speculation that the government was planning to extradite him to the US, where he is wanted on drug trafficking charges. AUC leaders said they wanted guarantees their leaders would not be extradited. The government threatened to send the army to attack the AUC unless it resumed disarmament. Speaking after meeting AUC leaders to ease the

deadlock, Mr Pretelt made no mention of Mr Murillo's case, but he did promise the AUC the government would review conditions in the jails where many of the group's leaders were likely to end up, Reuters news agency reported. AUC leaders who cooperate with the demobilisation drive, confess their crimes and surrender stolen property are expected to get reduced jail terms under the peace deal.

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated Nov 21, states: Colombia's second largest rebel group says it is prepared to hold exploratory talks with the government to discuss the terms of a possible peace process. However, the National Liberation Army (ELN) said in a statement that it was not suspending its armed campaign. One of ELN's main leaders, Francisco Galan, was recently released in an attempt to pave the way for dialogue. The ELN and the larger Farc have been involved in a 40-year conflict with state forces and right-wing fighters. Alejo Vargas, who serves as a mediator, said that the ELN statement was optimistic. "The big step is that for the first time the group at the highest level is willing to sit down with the government." Francisco Galan is serving a 30-year sentence for rebellion, terrorism and kidnapping. The government allowed him to leave jail for three months in September in the hope that he would convince the ELN to begin talks. President Alvaro Uribe has already started a peace process with the country's main right-wing paramilitary group, the AUC, but the terms of them have been strongly criticised by human rights groups. The Farc, or Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, has refused to negotiate with the government.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Kinshasa, Nov 23 — Congolese troops have launched an offensive to end militia raids which have displaced 50,000 people in the remote eastern province of Katanga, the military and UN sources said today. However, some UN sources warned that undisciplined troops were killing civilians as well as militiamen in at least one operation. Diplomats said the army had killed several hundred Mai Mai militia in operations launched this month to end pillaging by around 2,000 former government-backed fighters in an area known as the "Triangle of Death." "The operations are continuing well. We have killed some Mai Mai. We have recovered ten areas from the Mai Mai and we have freed the population that was being terrorised," General Widi Mbuilu Divioka, Congo's army commander in Katanga, said. The army said it had killed 57 militiamen in a separate UN-backed operation over the weekend (Nov 19-20) in the district of Ituri in the far north-east. The clash happened south of Bunia, the main regional town, army spokesman Felly Shindano said. UN peacekeepers, who provided back-up

but were not involved in the fighting, said they had similar figures for the dead but said the army appeared to have fired indiscriminately, killing civilians as well as gunmen during the operation. — Reuters.

FRANCE

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Urban violence has dropped to normal levels in France after three weeks of unrest in its run-down suburbs, police said yesterday. Ninety-eight vehicles were set ablaze on Wednesday night (Nov 16), a sharp drop from the peak of the violence when about 1400 vehicles were torched on the night of Nov 6. Police detained 33 people during the night. "The situation has returned to normal because about 100 vehicles are set on fire each night in France," a police spokesman said. Urban unrest has receded since the government adopted emergency measures including curfews last week, although few areas have used the anti-riot powers. The Senate approved a government law on Wednesday extending the measures for three months, completing the bill's passage through parliament.

INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 23 — Three policemen were killed and three wounded today when suspected Islamic guerrillas stormed a barracks in Kashmir's main city of Srinagar, police said. Two rebels were also killed in the hour-long battle. "Two Fidayeen (suicide attackers) hurled grenades and fired automatic weapons before they stormed the building. Both were eliminated," federal police officer Ranjit Sinha told reporters. No group has claimed responsibility for attacking the police barracks in a former cinema taken over by security forces. — Reuters.

INDONESIA

Jakarta, Nov 22 — Former rebels in Indonesia's Aceh province successfully ended the third round of a weapons handover today after struggling to surrender enough arms that met the criteria of international peace monitors. Juri Laas, a spokesman for the European-led Aceh Monitoring Mission overseeing a landmark peace pact, said former rebels handed in 57 weapons today and monitors accepted all but one piece. "It means the third phase has been completed," he said. Under the August 15 peace deal, the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) has to give up 840 functional weapons to monitors by the year-end during four phases. In turn, Indonesia, which had 30,000 soldiers and 15,000 policemen in Aceh before the truce, is required to trim its forces to no more than 14,700 soldiers and 9,100 police. GAM was 44 weapons short of the 210 target under the third round deadline late last week, forcing an extension. Indonesia's military began pulling more soldiers out of Aceh on Saturday (Nov 19) under the third stage of the pact. The military has said 5,700 soldiers and

1,350 policemen would leave the province on the northern tip of Sumatra island by Friday (Nov 25) under the third withdrawal stage. During the first two phases of decommissioning, GAM surrendered a total of 570 weapons. Of these, 424 were accepted by both monitors and the government. A further 52 weapons were accepted by monitors but are still disputed by Jakarta, the monitors have said. — Reuters.

IRAQ

London, Nov 18 — The following security incidents were reported in Iraq, as of 0800, UTC, today. In Baghdad, at least four people were killed today, including two children, and 40 wounded, when two suicide car bombs exploded near a hotel used by foreigners in the Jadiriya district of central Baghdad, police said. Also, in Baghdad, gunmen kidnapped a Shi'ite politician from his home in western Baghdad yesterday. Police said Tawfiq al-Yassiri was a candidate for the December 15 elections, heading a list called Sun of Iraq, a mixed bloc of Shi'ite and Sunni Arab politicians. In Talafar, one U.S soldier was killed and two others were wounded yesterday in a vehicle accident in Tal Afar north of Baghdad, the U.S military said in a statement. In Buhruz, two Iraqi policemen were killed and seven wounded yesterday when a roadside bomb exploded near a U.S.-Iraqi patrol in Buhruz, 60 km northeast of Baghdad, an ambulance driver said. No information was immediately available from the Iraqi police or U.S military. — Reuters.

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A series of suicide bombings in Iraq has left dozens of people dead and about 100 injured. At least 55 people were killed and 62 injured when two bombs were detonated inside two Shia mosques in Khanaqin in north-eastern Iraq, officials say. The bombers blew themselves up while hundreds of worshippers were attending Friday prayers. Earlier, two car bombs killed at least six people outside an interior ministry building in Baghdad. The attacks near in the central Jadiriya district injured at least 40 people and brought down a block of flats. A hotel used by foreigners may also have been targeted in the attack. A nearby interior ministry detention centre has been at the centre of a detainee abuse scandal. The suicide bombs in Khanaqin are the latest in a string of attacks against Shia mosques in Iraq. Diyala provincial council leader Ibrahim Hasan al-Bajalan told the AFP news agency that local hospitals had received 55 dead and 62 injured. "Two suicide bombers wearing explosive belts walked into the Greater and the Smaller Khanaqin mosques and blew themselves up," he said. Mr Bajalan said the blasts completely destroyed the two mosques and he expressed fears that many more casualties may be trapped beneath the rubble. Security forces moved into the area shortly

afterwards and imposed a curfew, AFP reported. Khanaqin is a mixed Kurdish and Shia town near the Iranian border. The town lies within a Kurdish-controlled area that has so far escaped much of the violence that has afflicted other parts of Iraq. In Baghdad, the detainee abuse scandal was sparked five days ago, when US troops found 173 prisoners - some of whom had reportedly been tortured - in a bunker in an interior ministry building. Today, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbouh called for an international investigation into the conditions for detainees in Iraq. Most of the detainees are believed to be Sunni Arabs - the main group involved in the insurgency. Sunni politician Saleh Mutlaq has accused the government of holding more than 1,100 prisoners at the ministry and suggested a number of them had been tortured to death. He also called for the alleged abuses at the detention centre to be referred to international courts.

Baghdad, Nov 19 — Car bombs killed at least 48 people in Iraq today, a day after more than 80 died in suicide blasts across the country and as U.S. President George W. Bush pledged never to relent in his war on terror. In the deadliest of today's attacks, a suicide car bomber blew up his vehicle near crowded condolence tents during the funeral of a Shi'ite tribal sheikh in a town north of Baghdad. Police Colonel Muthaffar Aboud said 35 people were killed and around 50 wounded in the attack in Abu Sayda, near Baquba, about 65 km northeast of Baghdad. Earlier, another suicide car bomber targeted a crowded market in the Diyala Bridge area of southern Baghdad, killing 13 people and wounding around 20, the Interior Ministry said. In Cairo, several dozen leaders from across Iraq's political and sectarian spectrum met to discuss the country's relentless insurgency and a way forward in talks sponsored by the Arab League. It was the highest level gathering so far organised between Iraqi government leaders and opposition figures. Addressing U.S. troops in Osan, South Korea during a tour of Asia, Bush was unremitting in defence of the war in Iraq, saying troops would stay until victory and rejecting critics' calls for a timetable for the withdrawal of 135,000 U.S. troops. He quoted a top U.S. commander in Iraq as saying that a deadline for pullout would be "a recipe for disaster", and said that as long as he was president, "our strategy in Iraq will be driven by the sober judgment of our military commanders. We will fight the terrorists in Iraq, we will stay in the fight until we have achieved the victory that our brave troops have fought for," said a leather jacket-clad Bush. Ahead of December's election, Bush said there was cause for optimism. In the 2.5 years since Saddam Hussein was toppled, he said, Iraqis had elected a transitional government, ratified a constitution and were ready to vote on a

permanent government. That view contrasts sharply with the feelings of many Iraqis who are frustrated by the lack of progress since Saddam's overthrow, including high unemployment, scant rebuilding, soaring corruption and a widespread lack of security. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Nov 20 — The death toll from a suicide car bomb attack on the funeral of a Shi'ite sheikh rose to at least 50 from 35, doctors said today, as the number killed in a spate of attacks over the past two days rose to 150. Another 75 people were wounded when the bomber blew up his vehicle near a crowded condolence tent at the tribal sheikh's funeral on Saturday in Abu Sayda, a small town near Baquba, 65 km northeast of Baghdad. Medical officials in Baquba, who asked not to be identified, said many victims were badly mutilated, making identification difficult. The attack at the funeral capped a bloody two days in Iraq during which six U.S. troops were also killed. Sectarian divisions appear to be widening as an insurgency by Sunni Arabs and foreign fighters against the Shi'ite- and Kurdish-led government and its U.S. backers shows no signs of abating before December 15 elections. Yesterday, another suicide car bomber killed 13 people and wounded 20 more in an attack on a busy market in the Diyala Bridge area just south of Baghdad. Five soldiers were killed in two makeshift bomb attacks on a patrol in the northern town of Baiji yesterday. The U.S. military said today a Marine was killed yesterday in a bomb attack near Haditha, about 200 km northwest of Baghdad in the mainly Sunni desert province of Anbar, one of the hotbeds of the insurgency. That took the toll of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq since the invasion to topple Saddam Hussein in March 2003 to 2,090, according to information compiled from the military. Increasingly sophisticated makeshift roadside bombs — known by the U.S. military as improvised explosive devices, or IEDs — are now the biggest killer of U.S. forces in Iraq, accounting for almost 40 percent of deaths. — Reuters.

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Five members of an Iraqi family were killed when US forces opened fire on their vehicle outside a military base near the city of Baquba. A US military spokesman said the minibus they were travelling in failed to stop as it approached a checkpoint at about 0800 hrs (0500, UTC). Two men and three children were killed and two women and a child were wounded, Iraqi police said. The family was travelling to a funeral at the time, witnesses said. The roadblock had been set up to allow military vehicles to turn off a highway into the base. "The Iraqi car wouldn't slow down and warning shots were fired," Maj Steven Warren told news agency AFP. He said the vehicle did not stop and came under machine-gun fire. Correspondents say Iraqis generally pull over to the side of the road when coalition forces approach.

The convoys usually travel with signs warning people in Arabic to stay back and that deadly force will be used if they get too close.

Baghdad, Nov 22 — A suicide car bomb blast killed 18 people, including 10 police, in the northern city of Kirkuk today and mortars landed near the US ambassador to Iraq during a ceremony in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit. The bomber detonated his explosives-laden car next to a group of police vehicles on the main road leading south from Kirkuk to Baghdad shortly after sunset. Police Colonel Borhan Tayyib Taha said 28 people were wounded in the blast. Ambulances ferried the worst cases to hospitals in Kirkuk. Police said they expected the toll to rise as many of those injured were badly wounded. Kirkuk is a mixed Arab, Kurdish and Turkmen city that has seen frequent episodes of violence, some the result of tensions between the separate communities, all of whom claim ownership of the city, which lies close to vast oil reserves. The blast follows a string of suicide bombs across the country in the past five days in the build up to elections set for Dec 15. At least 180 people have been killed since Friday (Nov 18), including 77 Shi'ite Muslims blown up in twin suicide bombings on mosques in the mixed Kurdish and Shi'ite city of Khanaqin. Today's attack came hours after insurgents fired two mortars at a complex of palaces built by Saddam in Tikrit, where US Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad was attending a ceremony handing the palaces back to the Iraqi government. No one was injured by the blasts, which the US military said failed to detonate properly, but television pictures showed US soldiers and Marines, as well as Khalilzad and other dignitaries, diving for cover during a panicked few seconds. General George Casey, the top US commander in Iraq, was also attending the ceremony. — Reuters.

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Gunmen wearing Iraqi army uniforms broke into the home of a senior Sunni leader today and killed him, his three sons and his son-in-law on the outskirts of Baghdad, his brother and an interior ministry official said. Khadim Sarhid al-Hemaiyem was the leader of the Sunni Batta tribe and the brother of a parliamentary candidate in the Dec 15 election, the official Maj Falah al-Mohammedawi said. Another of the slain man's brothers said the family had been attacked before. "A group of gunmen with Iraqi army uniforms and vehicles broke into my brother's house in the Hurriyah area and sprayed them with machine gun fire, killing him along with three sons and his son-in-law," said his brother, Nima Sarhid Al-Hemaiyem. "His eldest son was assassinated one month ago in the Taji area, northern Baghdad, when unidentified men shot and killed him." Al-Mohammedawi said government forces were not involved and the investigation was focused on insurgents. The slaying follows a big

push by US officials to encourage Sunni Muslim participation in the upcoming election, which will install the first non-transitional government in Iraq since the 2003 invasion. Some Sunni-led insurgent groups have declared a boycott of the election and have threatened politicians who choose to participate in it. Also today, the US military announced a new operation with Iraqi troops in predominantly Sunni western Iraq. The operation launched yesterday in Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad, is aimed at preventing insurgents from interfering with voting there, a US military statement said. It is the third operation in Ramadi since Nov 16. US Marines yesterday announced the end of a major operation to secure towns along the Syrian border used by al-Qaida to smuggle foreign fighters into Iraq. Ten US Marines and 139 insurgents were killed in "Operation Steel Curtain," which began Nov 5 with about 2,500 US troops and 1,000 Iraqi soldiers, a military statement said. US commanders plan to establish a long-term presence in the area to prevent al-Qaida and its Iraqi allies from re-establishing themselves in the towns of Husaybah, Karabilah and Obeidi along the Euphrates River. In a positive development, a senior government official said a representative of an unidentified insurgent group responded to an offer by President Jalal Talabani to talk with those willing to lay down their arms. Presidential adviser Lt Gen Wafiq al-Samarai told Qatar's Al-Jazeera television last night that he had received a call from someone "who claimed to be a senior official of the resistance." "I informed him that I would welcome him in a meeting to hear from him, but this doesn't indicate our acceptance of their demands," he said. Al-Samarai, a former head of military intelligence under Saddam, did not identify the caller, and it was unclear whether the overture represented a breakthrough. A suicide bomber struck a busy commercial street in Kirkuk yesterday, leaving 22 dead and another 23 people wounded, after insurgents lured police to the scene by shooting an officer, officials said. Half the dead were police who rushed to the scene after gunmen killed a fellow officer, according to police Brig Gen Sarhad Qader. More than 160 Iraqis, most of them Shiites, have died in a wave of spectacular suicide operations across Iraq since Friday (Nov 18).

Baghdad, Nov 24 — A car bomb exploded near Iraqi police outside a hospital in a town south of Baghdad today, killing 19 people and wounding dozens, doctors at the local hospital and witnesses said. The explosives-packed car was parked in front of Mahmoudiya's General Hospital and blew up as two patrols of Iraqi police pulled up outside, witnesses said. Doctors at the hospital said 34 people were also wounded in the blast. It was not clear if it was a suicide car bomb attack. Mahmoudiya is in a violent region south of Baghdad dubbed the

Triangle of Death for the high number of attacks. It is part of a belt of mixed Sunni and Shi'ite towns in the area where sectarian tensions have spilled over into violence, leading to fears Iraq could be sliding toward a full-blown civil war. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Nov 24 — A car bomb blew up outside a hospital where Iraqi police were gathered in a town south of Baghdad today, killing 31 people and wounding more than 20 others, doctors, police and witnesses said. The explosives-packed car was parked in front of the General Hospital in Mahmoudiya, just south of Baghdad, and blew up after two patrols of Iraqi police pulled up outside, witnesses said. The head of the emergency room at the hospital said 31 people were killed and 28 wounded in the blast. Police sources put the death toll at 30 with around two dozen wounded. It was not clear if it was a suicide car bomb attack. The bombing is the latest in an apparently stepped-up campaign of militant violence over the past week and in the run-up to parliamentary elections set for Dec 15. Since last Friday (Nov 18), nearly 200 people have been killed in a series of suicide bombings and car bomb blasts, including 77 killed when bombers strapped with explosives blew themselves up inside two Shi'ite mosques in the northern town of Khanaqin. Many of the attacks have borne a sectarian element, with Sunni Arab insurgents targeting Shi'ite Muslim communities. Mahmoudiya is in a violent region south of Baghdad dubbed the Triangle of Death for the high number of attacks. It is part of a belt of mixed Sunni and Shi'ite towns where sectarian tensions have spilt over into violence, leading to fears Iraq could be sliding towards a full-blown civil war. Earlier, Iraq's Defence Ministry said soldiers had found a car west of Baghdad that was filled with booby-trapped children's toys packed with hand-grenades and explosives. A government spokesman said two people had been detained. — Reuters.

IRAQ-KUWAIT

Rijeka, Nov 18 — *Ro/ro Star ex Boka Star* is still laid-up at Rijeka. It is expected that the Court's sale will be announced during the beginning of December. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: State-owned Kuwait Airways Corp has won a lawsuit ordering Iraqi Airways to pay more than \$319 million in invasion-related compensation, an official said yesterday. "The amount will be in excess of \$400 million when interest is calculated," KAC spokesman Adel Buresli told said. The ruling was issued by a British court last week. The damages were awarded by the court for four Kuwaiti passenger aircraft stolen by the Iraqi carrier during the 1990-91 occupation of the emirate and which were destroyed during the Gulf War, he said. So far, KAC has won damages totalling \$750 million for stolen aircraft and spare parts since filing lawsuits against the

Iraqi carrier in 1991, Buresli said. The amount along with interest is currently estimated at \$980 million, he said. The emirate has so far not received any part of the compensation and is awaiting the formation of a permanent legitimate government in Baghdad. In 2000, KAC won \$795 million in damages from a case filed in London against insurance companies. In October, 2003, Kuwait turned down an out-of-court settlement by Iraqi Airways which offered to pay \$150 million for a lawsuit demanding \$890 million. KAC operates a fleet of 15 Airbus and two Boeing 777 aircraft.

ISRAEL

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Israeli forces have shot dead two Palestinian militants near the West Bank city of Jenin. The Army says Israeli paramilitary border police set up a roadblock to catch the men and opened fire after they ignored calls to stop. That caused them to drive off the road and crash. The Army confirms the border police had hit the pair, but did not know whether it is the shots or the crash that killed them. A farmer who witnessed the incident says the Israeli forces had ordered the men to get out of their car before being shot. Palestinian security sources identified the men as militants from al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a group within President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah movement. Sources say the men were on Israel's wanted list, but had been absorbed into the security forces as part of Mr Abbas's moves to end attacks on Israel following a truce in February. Israel stepped up raids in the West Bank following a suicide bombing by Islamic Jihad that killed six Israelis last month. Continued violence has dimmed hopes that Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip in September could lead to renewed peacemaking. (See issue of Nov 16.)

Jerusalem, Nov 21 — Israeli troops killed four Hizbollah gunmen today during an exchange of fire near the Lebanese border, the Israeli rescue service ZAKA said. It said the gunmen died after storming the border village of Ghajar, exchanging fire with the Israeli garrison there. An Israeli was also killed during the clash, ZAKA said. There was no immediate confirmation from the Israeli army. — Reuters. (See issue of Nov 21.)

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated Nov 22, states: Israeli said its warplanes struck in Lebanon today in what Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz described as the largest-scale Israeli response to cross-border attacks by Lebanese guerrillas since 2000. Mofaz spoke just hours after Israeli fighter jets attacked a command post of Hezbollah guerrillas in south Lebanon and after army bulldozers entered Lebanon to demolish a Hezbollah post just north of the community of Ghajar. Hezbollah and the Lebanese army denied Israeli warplanes struck in southern Lebanon today. Israeli warplanes struck a

number of Hezbollah targets yesterday, Israeli security officials said. The Israeli strike came a day after the Lebanese guerrilla group Hezbollah fired mortars and rockets toward the Israeli-Lebanese border, wounding 11 Israeli soldiers and damaging a house in an Israeli border community. The shelling sent thousands of Israeli civilians into bomb shelters. Israeli return fire killed four Hezbollah guerrillas. Ibrahim Gambari, the UN undersecretary-general for political affairs, blamed Hezbollah, saying the exchange started on the Lebanese side of the border. "The violations show once again the importance of the government of Lebanon extending its control over all of its territory and exerting its monopoly on the use of force," Gambari said in a statement released by his office. The United States also accused Hezbollah of provoking the fighting and urged the Lebanese government to take charge of the area. Hezbollah's Al-Manar television today aired videotape showing scenes from Monday's clashes. The tape showed a fire at the Israeli military position of al-Abbassiyeh after a hit by Hezbollah rockets, the announcer said. It also showed a volley of Hezbollah rockets hitting the Israeli military outpost in the border village of Ghajar. Yesterday's Hezbollah attack "was the largest-scale, most hostile since the departure of Israeli forces from Lebanon in 2000," Mofaz said in remarks broadcast on Israel Radio. The Israeli response "was the widest against attempts by Hezbollah to escalate the situation." Mofaz said Israel hit targets that "had not been attacked since the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon," including Hezbollah command, intelligence and communication posts. The defence minister also said Hezbollah apparently suffered the greatest number of casualties since Israel's pullout from Lebanon. The fighting marked a sudden surge in violence, the first cross-border fighting in five months. The United States accused Hezbollah of provoking the fighting, and urged the Lebanese government to take charge of the area. Lebanon has requested that UNIFIL, the UN peacekeeping force stationed in the country, appeal to Israel to persuade it not to further retaliate for the Hezbollah strikes, Israel Army Radio said. Israeli army chief Lt Gen Dan Halutz confirmed that Lebanon had turned to UNIFIL, but would not elaborate. Hezbollah frequently targets Israeli troops in the Chebaa Farms area, which the Iranian-backed group says should have been returned by Israel when it withdrew from south Lebanon. Israel says it captured the area from Syria in 1967 and will discuss its control of the land only in any future peace talks with the Arab country.

Beirut, Nov 23 — Hizbollah guerrillas clashed with Israeli troops on the Lebanese border today, in the second round of fighting in south

Lebanon in three days, Hizbollah sources said. The fighting was taking place near the border village of Mais El-Jabala, they said. There was no immediate word on casualties. — Reuters.

Jenin, West Bank, Nov 24 — An Islamic Jihad leader in the West Bank surrendered today to Israeli troops who mounted a day-long siege of his hideout, the Israeli army said. Iyad Abu el-Rob, the Palestinian militant group's chief in the Jenin area, gave himself up along with an aide after the soldiers fired rockets at a five-storey building where the two men were hiding and began demolishing part of the structure. An Israeli military source said Rob had plotted three suicide bombings in Israel including an attack in October that killed six Israelis in the town of Hadera and four other assaults which were thwarted. Describing Rob as "a senior Islamic Jihad terrorist", the army said in a statement he came out waving a white flag and troops who entered the hideout found assault rifles, grenades and ammunition clips. During the course of the Jenin raid yesterday, Israeli troops killed one Palestinian and wounded 12 while quelling stone-throwing protests, Palestinian security sources said. The army said troops had opened fire after coming under attack from gunmen who fired automatic weapons and threw fire bombs and other explosives at them. Two Israeli paramilitary border policemen were wounded. — Reuters.

IVORY COAST

Bouake, Nov 17 — Ivory Coast's rebels today rejected a shortlist of prime ministerial candidates proposed by African mediators trying to revive a deadlocked peace process, because their leader had been left off it. Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, chairman of the African Union, canvassed opinions from government and rebel leaders in Ivory Coast two weeks ago on who should be the new prime minister and promised to present a shortlist of names. Nigeria's Foreign Minister Oluyemi Adeniji met with Guillaume Soro, the rebel movement's political chief, in its northern stronghold of Bouake today and proposed four names, a rebel spokesman said. The list, which had been whittled down from 16 candidates, excluded Soro, whose name had been put forward by his New Forces movement. "The list of four persons ... which seems to exclude the Secretary General of the New Forces, does not interest us," rebel spokesman Sidiki Konate told reporters after the meeting. He said appointing the rebel leader prime minister would counter-balance Gbagbo's powers and give the New Forces more recognition as key players in the search for a peaceful resolution to the conflict. Gbagbo's constitutional mandate ended on October 30, but he has been given U.N. backing to remain for up to a year to work towards presidential polls that could not be

held last month. A U.N. resolution, adopted in October, called for a new prime minister to be named with full powers over the cabinet to carry out disarmament and electoral reforms so that a free and fair vote could be organised. — Reuters.

MEXICO

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated Nov 18, states: Two bombs were planted today at branches of a Spanish-owned bank on the outskirts of Mexico City, the latest in a series of attacks against foreign financial institutions in recent years. One bomb failed to detonate and the other caused no injuries. The first device exploded before dawn just below the window of a branch of Bancomer, owned by Spain's Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria, said Mexico State Attorney General Alfonso Navarrete. The bomb shattered glass, wrecked computers and overturned furniture. A second device, found at a nearby branch of the same bank, failed to detonate, police said. In the wreckage of the first bomb, police found a letter claiming responsibility for the attacks from the previously unknown Barbarous Mexico Revolutionary Workers' Commando, Navarrete said. The same group sent an e-mail to The Associated Press railing against "neoliberal reorganization and capitalist expansion" and singling out U.S. businesses in Mexico, including Wal-Mart and McDonald's and the U.S.-backed proposal for a Free Trade Area of the Americas.

NEPAL

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: At least four anti-government guerrillas were killed and 28 others injured in eastern Nepal today, a local police office said. The incident occurred when a group of guerrillas and security forces clashed at Sapsukhola area in Khotang district, some 200 km east of Kathmandu, the police office said in a statement. The guerrillas opened fire at a team of security forces and government employees that was returning to the district headquarters after conducting a mobile services camp. After the incident the guerrillas abducted a paramedic from Dandagaun health post, the statement added.

Kathmandu, Nov 22 — Nepal's Maoist rebels said today they were ready to end years of violence and rejoin the political mainstream. The move confirms a breakthrough announced by Nepali political leaders visiting New Delhi last week. But the rebels did detail their conditions for ending the fighting. Nepal's seven main parties recently met the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-M) to discuss ending years of war and creating a united political front against King Gyanendra, who sacked the government and took power in February. "The CPN-M expresses its commitment to march ahead peacefully into a new political mainstream," Maoist chief Prachanda

said in a statement. He said the rebels would continue talking with the parties about how they could rejoin the political process. His announcement came days after the parties said the Maoists were ready to accept multiparty democracy and end violence. "We are committed to end the autocratic monarchy and establish full democracy through a forward-looking political solution," Prachanda's statement said. Prachanda said the rebels had not yet agreed to join the parties in street protests against the king. — Reuters.

PHILIPPINES

Manila, Nov 17 — The Philippine military chief said today fighting on the southwestern island of Jolo would not spill over into rebel attacks on Manila, as 3,000 troops pursued suspected Muslim militants with ties to al Qaeda. Some 29 people, including four soldiers, have been killed and dozens wounded in fighting with members of the Abu Sayyaf group in mountains near the town of Indanan, on Jolo, that began on Saturday (Nov 12). "So far, we have received no reports of possible retaliatory attacks in the capital," General Generoso Senga told reporters. "We are taking measures to thwart plots to bomb soft targets in Manila by the Abu Sayyaf." Senga said army and police intelligence teams were not aware of any suspicious movements or activities by militants in Manila that may be related to the fighting on Jolo. Senga said fighting in Indanan has been contained and pursuit operations were about to be terminated as troops took control of three rebel hideouts. A team of marines killed a suspected militant leader and two of his three men in a separate gunbattle on the southwestern island of Tawi-tawi, the military said. Major Melquiades Ordales, a marine spokesman, said troops on patrol in Panglima Sugala town ran into an Abu Sayyaf group led by Jatib Jainal Usman, alias Milikan Usman, who is wanted for a string of kidnappings in Malaysia and the Philippines. "Our troops killed three rebels, including the leader," said Ordales, adding one militant was captured. Senga said the rebels on Jolo had been on the run after attacking a military base in Panamao town on another part of the island yesterday. Fighting around Indanan began late on Saturday when soldiers on a mission to capture Radullan Sahiron, a one-armed Abu Sayyaf commander, ran into a large group of militants. An estimated 25 guerrillas were killed in the clashes, but only three bodies were found. It was not possible to confirm the rebel or military casualties. Sahiron, who has a bounty of 5 million pesos (\$92,000) on his head, is wanted for a series of kidnappings, including the abduction of 21 tourists and resort workers from Sipadan island in Malaysia in 2000. — Reuters.

Manila, Nov 20 — Maoist-led guerrillas killed nine Philippine soldiers and wounded 20 in an ambush

near a sugar cane plantation in the central province of Iloilo, an army spokesman said today. Major Bartolome Bacarro said the soldiers on Panay island were returning to camp by truck late yesterday when communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels detonated a crude land mine. After the blast, the rebels sprayed the soldiers with automatic gunfire, Bacarro told reporters. He said the rebels had tried but failed to seize the dead men's weapons because the wounded held their ground and fought back. He said pursuing troops had found bloodstained clothes and backpacks along the rebels' escape route to nearby mountains in the island's interior. The military said the guerrillas were also indiscriminately attacking civilians and non-combat troops in remote areas. A policeman was killed and three were wounded when about 50 Maoist-led rebels ambushed a patrol car on a national highway in Quezon province, south of the capital, early today. — Reuters.

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Government troops killed seven people and wounded 10 others in a shooting incident before dawn today in an interior village of Palo town in Leyte. Inspector Rito Pacanan, Palo police chief, said that aside from the 10 wounded, the military also captured eight suspected rebels whom they turned over to the Palo police station for custody.

Manila, Nov 22 — Communist guerrillas killed three Philippine soldiers and wounded nine in an attack on a mobile telephone relay tower near a coconut plantation south of Manila, the army said today. A total of nine soldiers, one policeman and 10 rebels from the New People's Army (NPA) have been killed in ambushes and clashes in several parts of the country since Saturday (Nov 19). Colonel Tristan Kison, an army spokesman, said the three soldiers were killed late yesterday as they defended a relay tower in Tiaong town against about 50 NPA rebels who tried to storm and burn down the facility. It was the third attack on a cellular phone site in Quezon province in two days, Kison said, adding the rebels were hitting businesses that refused to pay "revolutionary taxes". "We see these successive attacks as part of pressure tactics by the rebels to force our government to convince Washington and European states to remove the Communist Party of the Philippines from their terrorist blacklist," Kison said. "These demands are unacceptable. We cannot allow them to hold our government as a hostage by attacking soft targets such as telecommunications, mining, logging firms and other businesses." Kison said the military had adequate forces to deal with the NPA rebels, who are active in 69 of the country's 79 provinces. In a statement yesterday, rebel spokesman Gregorio Rosal claimed the NPA seized at least 25 small arms from soldiers and police officers in a two-week period, killing nearly 20 troops and wounding about

50. "A thinly stretched armed forces open up further opportunities for the NPA to strike at its weakest and most vulnerable points," Rosal said. He said the attacks also "clearly show the growing armed strength and wide mass support of the NPA". Operations against the NPA "will be pursued without let-up", said Ignacio Bunye, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's spokesman. Bunye said the president wanted a tough counter-insurgency campaign under proper rules of military engagement. Talks between the government and the National Democratic Front (NDF), the communist rebels' political arm, stalled last year when Manila declined demands to help persuade Washington to remove the rebels from a terrorism blacklist. Norway has been brokering the talks since 2001. — Reuters.

Manila, Nov 23 — Philippine troops and about 100 suspected Muslim militants exchanged heavy gunfire deep in the mountains of the south-western island of Jolo, killing one soldier and an unknown number of rebels, the army said today. Brigadier-General Alexander Aleo, commander of the military's counter-terrorism task force, said fighting broke out late yesterday when soldiers ran into a large group of Abu Sayyaf rebels in the mountains near Indanan town. The clash was the first contact with the rebels since a week ago, when troops in Panamao town came under mortar barrages. "We lost only one but our troops may have inflicted a heavy toll on the enemy side," Aleo said. "Sporadic fighting continued through the night." Abu Sayyaf, the smallest of four Muslim rebel groups in the southern Philippines, is suspected of links with al Qaeda and the regional militant network Jemaah Islamiyah. Abu Sayyaf has been blamed for a wave of bombings in the south and Manila since 2002. Aleo said five soldiers had been killed and 25 wounded since Nov 11, when troops hunting a one-armed, horse-riding Abu Sayyaf commander clashed with a group of rebels near Indanan town. An estimated 25 rebels had been killed, but only three bodies were found at the scene. Nearly 5,000 residents of three villages around Indanan fled their homes and farms. The military has been searching for Radullan Sahiron, the Abu Sayyaf chief on Jolo, after police apologised for arresting a man who turned out to be a lookalike missing the wrong arm. Sahiron is wanted for a series of high-profile kidnappings, including the abduction of 21 tourists and resort workers from Sipadan island in Malaysia in 2000. — Reuters.

Manila, Nov 24 — One Philippine soldier was killed as renewed fighting with suspected Islamic militants with ties to al Qaeda entered a second day on the remote southwestern island of Jolo, an army general said today. Brigadier-General Alexander Aleo, commander of the military's counter-terrorism task force, also said two soldiers were wounded in the clashes with Abu Sayyaf rebels in mountains near Indanan town. "Fighting was very

intense," Aleo told reporters. "We're not giving our enemies any breathing spell. We'll pursue and hit them hard with everything we've got." Army howitzers pounded rebel positions in the mountains near Indanan and Patikul towns as the air force prepared OV-10 ground assault planes for bombing sorties, if the weather permitted. Aleo said troops inflicted heavy casualties on the rebels, citing intercepted radio traffic and soldiers' accounts. He said soldiers were battling about 150 Abu Sayyaf rebels and disgruntled members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), a larger Muslim separatist group that signed a peace deal with the government of the country in 1996. — Reuters.

SPAIN

Madrid, Nov 20 — Two home-made devices exploded in a car show room near the Spanish city of Vitoria early this morning, causing some damage but no injuries, Basque police said. "There were two explosions at about (0420, UTC) ... the devices were fabricated from camping gas bottles," a police spokeswoman said. She added that a home-made bomb which exploded yesterday evening at a bicycle factory in the same city had been attributed to Basque separatist guerrillas ETA. — Reuters.

SRI LANKA

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Suspected separatist rebels threw grenades into a Mosque during morning prayers today, killing at least four Muslim worshippers, police said. "Two grenades were thrown at the mosque that killed four people and wounded 10 others," said Nimal Lewke, deputy inspector general of police. There were no other immediate details of the attack in the city of Akkaraipattu, 140 miles east of the capital, Colombo.

Colombo, Nov 18 — Hawkish President-elect Mahinda Rajapakse vowed today to bring peace to Sri Lanka after beating main rival Ranil Wickremesinghe to the top job. "I will bring about an honorable peace to the country respecting all communities," Rajapakse told a news conference after the island's election commissioner confirmed his victory in yesterday's election. The poll was seen as a referendum on how to rescue the island's faltering peace process and tsunami-hit economy. Rajapakse has vowed to take a tough line with rebels from the ethnic Tamil minority and has rejected their demand for a separate homeland in the north and east. Rajapakse, who has allied himself with hardline nationalists from the Buddhist Sinhalese majority, is due to be sworn in tomorrow, government officials said. — Reuters.

SUDAN

Juba, Sudan, Nov 22 — Rebel attacks on civilians in southern Sudan are preventing aid workers from helping the vast region recover from two decades of war, aid workers and officials said today. Rebels from

Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) killed three people yesterday in a Sudanese village south of Maridi, near the border of Democratic Republic of Congo, UN sources said. Earlier this month they also killed two mine clearance workers in the south, preventing key roads from reopening in one of the poorest areas in the world. "They are trying to cut off the supply routes," said a UN source. The LRA, operating from bases in southern Sudan, has terrorised civilians in northern Uganda in a long war to overthrow Uganda's president, Yoweri Museveni. However, a recent agreement between Uganda and Khartoum to allow Ugandan troops to chase LRA fighters anywhere in south Sudan has forced them to go on the run in smaller cells. The rebels are now heading west from those bases into more densely populated areas of Sudan where they might do even more damage, aid workers said. David Gressly, a UN aid worker, said recent attacks had closed off a vast area for UN workers, now restricted to emergency operations only. — Reuters.

TURKEY

Istanbul, Nov 18 — One man was killed and 11 people were injured today when a bomb exploded near a closed theme park in Istanbul, Turkish officials said. The city governor's office told Reuters a bomb had caused the explosion, which was in a suburb far from the centre, but no more details were immediately available. The injured were ferried to hospital, police said. A Reuters photographer said the bomb went off in a rubbish bin. — Reuters.

UGANDA

Kampala, Nov 20 — Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels killed five people and wounded four others in an ambush on a civilian lorry in the remote north of the country, the military said today. The attack took place on Friday (Nov 18) as the members of a local dance troupe drove to a function in eastern Pader district, said Lieutenant Chris Magezi, Uganda's northern army spokesman. "Five civilians were killed while four others were injured, some critically. After ambushing the lorry between Patongo and Adilang (villages) ...the thugs looted the vehicle and set it on fire before disappearing in the bush," he said. The military could not confirm reports from local residents who said as many as nine people may have died in the attack, 350 km north of the capital Kampala. Magezi said about 10 rebel fighters carried out the latest ambush, adding that troops later attacked them south of Patongo. "Two rebels were killed and two sub-machine guns were recovered, (along with looted items)," he said in a statement. — Reuters.

Kampala, Nov 21 — Rebels from Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) killed up to 12 people today in the second ambush in three days to target civilian vehicles in the north of the country, a military spokesman

said. A packed commuter minibus was raked with gunfire today in Pader, the same district where at least five members of a cultural dance troupe were killed in an ambush on Friday (Nov 18). "Between 10 to 12 people were killed ... These are just propaganda attacks to let the world know that the LRA still exists," said Ugandan army spokesman Major Felix Kulayigye. He said troops were pursuing the rebels and were also investigating whether the attacks in Pader were the result of any Ugandan officer failing to do his duty. — Reuters.



Labour Disputes

AZERBAIJAN

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: More than a thousand oil workers have returned to work in Azerbaijan after staging a 24-hour strike in protest at their pay and working conditions. The workers, employed by US oil services firm McDermott, barricaded themselves in a factory near Baku used to construct oil rigs for BP. The workers claimed they have been stopped from forming a trade union and have no access to healthcare. McDermott said it would investigate the workers' grievances. About 1,500 staff took control of the plant, 40 miles from Baku, yesterday and refused to allow management into the site. The fabrication plant is used to build offshore oil rigs and other equipment for BP drilling operations in the oil-rich Caspian Sea. The staff claim they are paid far less than foreign workers in the country's booming oil industry, earning about \$2 an hour. They also allege that they have no access to health insurance or compensation if they are injured at work. A BP spokesman said it had been told staff returned to work today while McDermott had agreed to investigate the workers' concerns and report back within a week. McDermott had previously said that the strikers' claims over a lack of insurance were not true. The dispute is politically sensitive since the oil industry is a major source of employment and income for the country. Critics claim that Western companies have too much power over the industry while ordinary Azeris are not benefiting from the country's extensive oil resources.

BANGLADESH

London, Nov 22 — Bangladesh Road Transport Federation (RTWF) has observed a country wide wildcat strike against arrest of their leader Mujibur Rahman yesterday. Local media reported that the first day of the strike was passed off amid sporadic clashes at different places in the country leaving a number of transport workers injured and vehicles

damaged. The local police Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) arrested Mujibur Rahman, vice president of association on Nov 18. General secretary of the Bangladesh Road Transport Federation (RTWF), Habibur Rahman, on Sunday called the nation-wide transport strike in protest against arresting Mujibur Rahman. He also appeared in the BTV news yesterday and said they will continue the strike unless Mujibur Rahman, arrested by RAB without any reason, was released. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Bus-Truck Owners Association has extended its support to the transport strike. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

FRANCE

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Leftist parties and some unions have called for a nationwide strike in France for tomorrow, with thousands of people expected for a demonstration in Paris. The strike has been called to protest government plans for privatization and is part of a campaign against the ruling government's economic policies and plans. The current call is aimed at the partial privatisation of France's EDF electricity company. There is also concern about a possible privatization of train services. In October, tens of thousands of French people, including teachers, postal employees and public transportation workers, took to the streets to express anger at government plans to overhaul the country's social security system and labour market.

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Workers of Societe Nationale des Chemins de Fer, or SNCF, France's national railroad, will go on strike tonight against what they call the "rampant privatization" of the state-owned company". Four unions, the Confederation Generale du Travail, Sud- Rail, Force Ouvriere and Fgaac, issued a strike notice and will demonstrate against a share sale, SNCF spokesman Jean-Paul Boulet said in a Nov 16 interview. The strike, starting tonight at 2000 hrs, will last until the morning of Nov. 23. The strike marks yet another test for the government of Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin, which is just emerging from the country's worst civil unrest in almost four decades. It comes just after the sale last week of shares in Electricite de France, whose shares will start trading today. About 40 percent of the TGV high-speed trains will run, SNCF said. Four out of five Eurostar trains, which link Paris to London, and Thalys trains, which connect Paris and Brussels, will be in service, SNCF said. As much as 50 percent of the traffic will be ensured in Ile de France, the Paris region, and a third of the trains serving lines C and D of the Reseau Express Regional, or RER, the regional train network that connect Paris with its suburbs, will be running, SNCF said.

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated Nov 21, states: Rail workers in France have begun a national strike,

crippling the rail network for at least 24 hours. As many as two-thirds of trains stopped running as commuters tried return home tonight. Unions are striking to protest against any privatisation of the rail network, despite government assurances. Disruption to commuter and high-speed services will continue until tomorrow evening, but the strike could last for an indefinite period.

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A strike by French rail workers caused chaos for commuters today. Many commuters drove to work, causing long traffic jams around Paris, and others crowded into the few trains that were running despite the strike organised by unions who fear the state SNCF rail company will be privatised. Some commuters, used to transport strikes, simply took the day off to avoid problems. Four trade unions started the strike at 2000 yesterday, despite a letter from the transport minister assuring them there were no plans to sell SNCF or to close some railway lines. The strike is indefinite, and can be extended by the unions, but is due to last at least 24 hours. SNCF chief Louis Gallois says the company will lose about 20 million euros a day during the strike. The unions were due to meet later today to decide whether to extend the protest. Conservative politicians said the strike was partly a show of strength by union leaders who soon face leadership elections. Tomorrow, strikes are also expected on Paris's subway and on trains to the suburbs outside the capital.

Paris, Nov 22 — French President Jacques Chirac called for negotiations to end a nation-wide rail strike that caused commuter chaos today and poses a new threat to his government, just days after urban riots abated. The strike, which began yesterday evening, disrupted trains across France as four trade unions at the SNCF railway operator pressed demands over pay and protested what they say will be a gradual privatisation of the company. Chirac reiterated promises that SNCF would not be privatised after the unions threatened to prolong the strike indefinitely if the government did not quickly address their concerns. "SNCF, which is a brilliant French company and essential to France, is a public service that is absolutely indispensable to our country," Chirac said. "It is a public company and will remain so," he said. "I call for negotiations, responsibility and reason." SNCF said only one in three high-speed TGV trains was running and fewer than one in three other regional trains was in service. Four of every five trains operated on the international Eurostar and Thalys services. French people often say they support the motives behind transport strikes, but there was little sympathy today for the sixth SNCF stoppage this year. Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin may be banking on public anger over the strike forcing the unions to back down, but he has little room for manoeuvre on wages as he

tries to meet public deficit targets set by the European Union. He can also do little to address the unions' opposition to EU plans to open markets for rail freight to outside competition next year. SNCF chief Louis Gallois says the company will lose about euros 20 million a day during the strike, which was due to last at least 24 hours and was likely to be extended. Strikes are also expected on Paris's subway and on suburban trains tomorrow, and the unions have taken a tough stance as they prepare for leadership elections. "We want real negotiations today and hope Gallois will have the desire and means to respond to our demands," said Didier Le Reste, head of the railway branch of the CGT. "Otherwise I think rail workers will decide to extend the protest." The government has already faced warning strikes by hundreds of thousands of people this autumn over low pay, an unemployment rate of almost 10% and falling living standards. — Reuters.

Paris, Nov 23 — A nationwide rail strike caused new delays for commuters in France today but trade unions were set to end the stoppage after several hours of talks with the SNCF railway operator over pay and pensions. Union members were expected to vote early today to end the sixth strike to hit the SNCF this year. A separate strike began late yesterday on the Paris Metro but has not caused serious disruption. After long negotiations on union demands over pay, bonuses and pensions, as well as union concerns that the company will be privatized, SNCF chairman Louis Gallois has also voiced optimism for an end of the strike. Gallois has said the company would lose about 20 million euros a day during the strike. French rail traffic remained disrupted, although there were fewer cancellations than yesterday. — Reuters.

Paris, Nov 24 — French rail traffic returned to normal today after trade unions called off a nationwide strike which cost state railway company SNCF up to 30 million euros (\$35 million). "It's over," SNCF Chairman Louis Gallois told France 2 television after a large majority of workers voted to end the strike over pay, pensions and concerns that the government will privatize the company. The strike began on Monday (Nov 21) evening and caused chaos for commuters, leaving only one in three regional high-speed trains running at its peak on Tuesday (Nov 22). By this morning there were only isolated problems, Gallois said. The unions welcomed an offer of an interim pay rise of 0.3 percent pending wage talks in January, and a promise that each employee will receive a bonus of at least 120 euros. The conservative government and President Jacques Chirac, who pledged not to privatize SNCF, averted a prolonged strike which would have increased pressure on them following three weeks of rioting by youths in poor suburbs. "We have not done the sums yet but it's

strike that must have cost between 20 and 30 million euros," Gallois said. — Reuters.

INDIA

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Normal life in most parts of Kerala was hit today with private bus operators withdrawing services from midnight last night, demanding a hike in fares. Responding to the call for an indefinite strike by the Kerala State Bus Owners Association, around 22,000 private buses across the state went off the road affecting the travelling public, mostly in the northern districts, where people depend heavily on private services. However, Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) buses operated their services. Private jeeps, taxis and other vehicles operated services in these districts. Thiruvananthapuram district was not much affected by the strike as KSRTC services were plying regularly. Many of the 110 private buses plying in the capital city also did not join the strike. A report from Kollam said a section of bus owners did not join the strike and many private buses were operating services. Bus owners' federation in the district had decided not to withdraw services. A report from Kochi said that school students and office-goers had a tough time reaching their destinations. At least 1,500 buses ply in the city, while nearly 3,000 buses operate service in Ernakulam district. Several private mini buses and jeeps operated services charging double the normal fare.

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The two-day-old strike by private bus operators in Kerala has been called off after the Government agreed to the operators demand for fare hike. After holding talks with the private bus owners federation, Transport Minister N. Sakthan said the minimum bus fare has been increased by 50 paise from Rs 2.50 to Rs three in ordinary services and six paise increased per km from 42 paise in ordinary services. In fast passenger services, the minimum fare has been increased from Rs three to four. The discussions were held on the recommendations of the Transport Commissioner who looked into the problems of private bus owners. However, there was no change in the concession rates for students given by the private bus operators.

NETHERLANDS

London, Nov 22 — Following press release, dated today, received from Smit Internationale NV: Despite intensive efforts, negotiations between Unions and SMIT Harbour Towage Rotterdam have not resulted in mutual acceptance of terms and conditions for a new collective labour agreement (CAO) at this point in time. This has as a consequence that the Unions have called for industrial action as from today at 0630 hrs, for twelve hours initially. We are not sure what other actions are contemplated and how long same will last. SMIT

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

will make every effort to resolve outstanding differences and to mitigate the inconvenience which these actions may cause to our customers.

NEW CALEDONIA

Noumea, Nov 18 — Following the strike of SLN Nickel factory at Noumea since last Monday (Nov 14) the bulk carriers *Mount Fisher*, *Santa Christina*, *Jules Garnier* and *Super Alexander* could not load or unload at Doniambo Nickel factory private harbour and were on mooring at sea. Since this morning, the doors of Noumea terminal were then locked by union pickets of SLN Nickel factory and all stevedores works were then stopped. — Lloyd's Agents.

Awards & Settlements



ACCIDENT AND NUISANCE, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 22 — A press report, datelined Chicago, Illinois, Nov 21, states: A verdict totaling \$120.1 million was reached today for plaintiffs in consolidated class-action lawsuits against a now-defunct oil refinery in Blue Island. A jury awarded funds to two of three classes that sued Clark Refining and Marketing, since renamed Premcor. One successful class sued based on a chemical accident in 1994 that made numerous high school students ill, and another class was contained in a nuisance complaint against the refinery by neighbours, according to a clerk for Circuit Court Judge Cheryl A. Starks, who presided over the civil trial that ended today, and plaintiff attorney Mary Ann Pohl. The class for the high school students received \$100,000, while the class of neighbours alleging the nuisance received \$80 million in compensatory damages and \$40 million in punitive damages, the clerk said. A third class, which was suing for family expenses to pay medical bills, did not receive any money in the verdict, Pohl said. In October 1994, a chemical release from the refinery required 48 students from Eisenhower High School in Blue Island to be hospitalized, according to a news report. Premcor shut down the refinery in 2001, according to a news report.

ANTI-MONOPOLY FINE, MEXICO

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated Nov 15, states: Mexico has imposed anti-monopoly fines of about \$68 million against a Coca-Cola Co. subsidiary and dozens of distributors and bottlers, largely due to a three-year battle waged by one woman who got tired of being told what to sell at her one-room store in an impoverished Mexico City neighborhood. Raquel Chavez's victory resulted in fines of at least \$15 million, according to legal documents provided to The Associated

Press by the plaintiffs. That was quickly followed by a \$53 million fine in a similar case brought by rival PepsiCo Inc., according to a spokesman for the Federal Competition Commission who was not authorized to give his name, but confirmed both amounts today. The amounts are being appealed and by policy will not be publicly announced until the appeals are over. Coca-Cola Export Corp., the Mexican subsidiary of Coca-Cola Co., based in Atlanta, would only be liable for a small part of any fines that survive the appeal process. Coca-Cola bottlers and distributors would be responsible for the rest, although it wasn't clear exactly how much. Chavez expected to lose when a Coke distributor told her to get rid of Big Cola, an upstart brand that arrived in Mexico recently from Peru, or risk having Coke stop selling to her. Coca-Cola Co. denied that it has engaged in monopolistic practices. "As we stated before, we respect the ... decisions," spokesman Charlie Sutlive said. "However, we have used the appeal processes open to us to present arguments that our business practices comply with Mexican competition laws, and to demonstrate that our commercial practices are fair." Coke, whose share of the Mexican soft drink market hovers around 70%, is a must-have item for small stores. Chavez still sells it. But she also resented being told what she could sell. In 2003, her customers began asking for rival "Big Cola," which had begun cutting into Coke's market with lower prices. Coke told her to get rid of the brand, but she refused. Chavez took her complaint to the Federal Competition Commission, but after two months of inaction, she blew up at the anti-monopoly agency. They finally accepted her complaint, investigated it, and found evidence of similar incidents, some documented by Big Cola, which later joined the case. Two years later, on Jul 4, the commission ruled in a closed-door session that 15 Coke bottlers had violated anti-monopoly laws in the case, and fined them about \$15 million. On Aug 12, a similar case that had been held up in hearings for years was suddenly resolved, again, with a ruling against 54 Coke distributors who were ordered to pay about \$1 million each, the maximum fine allowed. A copy of one of the rulings obtained by The Associated Press showed that some Coke distributors had threatened to remove company-supplied refrigerators and displays from shops that sold other brands. The distributors also allegedly shifted competitors' merchandise away from prime locations in some stores, bought it all up and dumped it, or offered Coke merchandise in return for not selling the other brands.

AVIATION ACCIDENT, NEWQUAY AIRPORT, CORNWALL, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: The family of a

man who died in an aircraft crash at RAF St Mawgan has won a £5m payout from the Ministry of Defence. Banker Hugh Paton, 43, was piloting a Cessna when it nose-dived into the runway on 23 June 2001. Mr Paton's widow Julia, 49, and two daughters from Highgate, London, blamed an RAF Sea King helicopter for manoeuvring too close by. The MoD denies liability, but reached a settlement ahead of a High Court claim for damages due to start next week. The family had taken off on the morning of the accident from Elstree airfield in Hertfordshire and flew to Cornwall where Mr Paton was intending to treat the family to lunch at a Padstow restaurant. The weather was fine and the visibility good when Mr Paton was given clearance to land at St Mawgan. However, just as the Cessna was about to touch down, the Sea King, which had just taken off, suddenly loomed into view. In his written argument to the court, the family's counsel, Mr Charles Haddon-Cave QC, said the helicopter "made as if to cross the runway" directly in the Cessna's path and Mr Paton "had to deal with an immediate and life-threatening situation". Mr Paton took emergency-avoiding action but lost stability after the Cessna passed through a wake vortex from the helicopter's powerful rotas and the light aircraft crashed just beside the runway. He freed his wife Julia and daughters Elizabeth and Charlotte, but died of burns injuries nine days later.

EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated Nov 22, states: West Virginia University has reached a settlement in a class-action lawsuit affecting up to 5,600 former and current employees who may have been exposed to asbestos, the school announced today. As part of the proposed settlement, WVU will institute and pay for a medical surveillance program to be conducted for 20 years. WVU also agreed to pay \$1 million to cover potential claims and attorney fees. A judge must approve the agreement before it becomes final. A hearing is scheduled for Dec 22. University employees sued in 2000 and sought medical monitoring for potential asbestos-related health problems as a result of working in university buildings containing asbestos insulation. The workers, including professors, custodians, secretaries and other staff, alleged that asbestos in campus buildings put them at an increased risk of cancer. The university said in a statement that the agreement had been reached in the "spirit of compromise." "WVU maintains that all standard, recognised practices for asbestos removal have been followed over the years, and that the general population of employees, through routine monitoring of buildings and air samplings, remain safe from any harmful effects of asbestos-containing materials," the university said.

ILLEGAL FISHING, DENMARK

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated today, states: The skipper and mate of trawler *Altaire* were fined a total of £90,000 yesterday for the biggest black fish case ever brought in a Scottish court. John Peter Duncan and Jerry Ramsay pleaded guilty at the High Court in Edinburgh to landing 7,600 tonnes of illegally caught herring and mackerel in Denmark between 2000 and 2002. The value of the fish was £3.4 million, but after expenses the court accepted that the two men, both from Ollaberry, had only netted £990,000 from the haul. Last month they were given two weeks to pay this money as compensation. The two men appeared for the fourth time in court yesterday when Duncan was fined £50,000 and Ramsay was fined £40,000.

MISCONDUCT AND NEGLIGENCE IN REPORTING SEXUAL ABUSE, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated Nov 22, states: The Mormon church has been ordered to pay \$4.2 million to two college-age sisters who say a bishop mishandled complaints of sexual abuse by their stepfather, a Mormon priest at the time. A jury Friday (Nov 18) found the church liable for misconduct and negligence in the case of Jessica Cavaleri, 24, and her younger sister, Ashley, 19. The girls had been abused by their stepfather, Peter N. Taylor, at their home during the 1990s. Taylor pleaded guilty to child molestation in 2001 was sentenced to more than four years in prison. Jessica Cavaleri said in court documents that she told her congregational leader, Bishop Bruce Hatch, in 1994 that Taylor had been abusing her since she was seven. But Hatch told Jessica's mother that there was simply tension between Jessica and her stepfather, suggested they work it out through worship and never alerted civil authorities, according to the Cavaleris' lawyer, Timothy D. Kosnoff. Under Washington state law, members of the clergy are not required to report sexual abuse, but Kosnoff argued that Hatch was acting as a social services counselor when the older sister confided in him. The older sister said she was ashamed and too scared to tell anyone else, even when Taylor began abusing her younger sister. Gordon Conger, a spokesman for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, said the church will "aggressively pursue an appeal." A lawyer for the church, Von G. Keetch, noted that the bishop testified that he never had any confirmation of abuse. "Our position was Bishop Hatch did not know," Keetch said. Jessica Cavaleri said she hopes the case helps the church deal better with such situations. "They don't know how to handle abuse victims and pedophiles," she said. "They're just completely naive."

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated Nov 23, states: A Wyoming

County jury has awarded a Meshoppen couple \$3.25 million verdict, the largest award in county history. The jury awarded \$2.5 million in non-economic damages to Cindy White for injuries she suffered as a result of a car accident in 2001 and \$750,000 to Mrs. White's husband, David White, for "loss of society and companionship." The accident occurred April 24, 2001, near the intersection of Jenkins-Stark Road and Route 6 in Tunkhannock. Mr. White was heading west on Route 6 in the left lane of the four-lane highway. His wife was in the passenger seat. Jay R. Robinson II of Tunkhannock was travelling east on Route 6, and failed to yield the right of way, and was struck by the Whitesø vehicle. Mrs. White was taken by ambulance to Tyler Memorial Hospital in Tunkhannock for treatment and discharged. She later required a cervical fusion at Community Medical Centre for a severe cervical disc herniation in her neck. She subsequently has had substantial problems swallowing due to the rubbing on her esophagus from the plate inserted to stabilize the spine as a result of the accident.

SEXUAL ABUSE, CANADA

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated Nov 23, states: Canada has offered to pay more than C\$2bn (US\$1.7bn) compensation to indigenous people who were abused at government-funded residential schools. Some 80,000 people who attended the schools over decades are eligible. About 15,000 of them have begun legal claims against the government and Church, which ran the schools - to be dropped if they accept the deal. The draft package must still be agreed by the courts but has been welcomed by indigenous leaders. Thousands of former pupils at the 130 boarding schools have made allegations of physical and sexual abuse spanning seven decades. The schools were set up in sparsely populated areas in an attempt to assimilate Canada's indigenous peoples - known as the First Nations - into mainstream society. Attendance was mandatory and children were forcibly removed from their families and forbidden from speaking their language. Most of the schools were shut down by the mid-1970s, with surviving students now 60 years old on average. Many victims have already died. Under the terms of the draft deal, each claimant will be eligible to receive C\$10,000 and then an additional \$3,000 for each year they attended beyond their first year. Those aged over 65 can apply for a fast-track advance payment of \$8,000. National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations Phil Fontaine said the settlement was the biggest in Canadian history. "Today marks the first step towards closure on a terrible, tragic legacy for the thousands of First Nations individuals who suffered physical, sexual or psychological abuse," he said. "While no money will ever heal

the scars, we hope this settlement package will bring comfort and a sense of victory and vindication for the children and grandchildren of survivors... It's been a wonderful day." The deal also includes C\$60m for a truth and reconciliation process designed to promote awareness of what happened in the schools. Justice Minister Irwin Cotler described the abuse which took place as "the single most disgraceful, racist and harmful act in our history". He said he hoped the settlement would mark a turning point for Canada. The government has already settled about 2,800 of the 15,000 lawsuits already filed, paying out C\$110m in compensation.

SEXUAL ABUSE, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Two sisters who sued a Coronado man convicted in 1999 of molesting them when they were children have been awarded more than \$1.7 million for emotional distress suffered as a result of the abuse. Howard Eugene Everett III, 64, was ordered to pay the women \$ now 22 and 18 \$ for past and future medical expenses, pain and suffering. A San Diego Superior Court jury awarded the older sister more than \$953,000 and the younger sister more than \$826,000. Included in each award was \$150,000 in punitive damages. The verdict was given on Wednesday (Nov 16). In their lawsuit, filed Jan. 28, the sisters claimed that Everett used his position as a trusted family friend to manipulate and sexually molest them from 1990 to 1999. They contended that Everett's actions caused them to suffer severe emotional and physical problems, including depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. The older sister lives in Imperial Beach and the younger one now lives with her mother in Vermont. Everett pleaded guilty in 1999 to four counts of felony child molestation of the same victims and was placed on 12 years' probation. Heine explained that when Everett was sentenced, the victims' parents didn't sue and the girls were too young to do so on their own. That's why they waited until now. Attorney Richard P. Verlasky said Everett did not contest the women's claims of childhood sexual abuse in the civil case and he admitted he acted with malice. In documents filed in response to the lawsuit, Everett's lawyer wrote that his client "acknowledges his crimes with great remorse."

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The Mormon church has been ordered to pay \$4.2 million to two college-age sisters who say a bishop mishandled complaints of sexual abuse by their stepfather, a Mormon priest at the time. A jury Friday (Nov 18) found the church liable for misconduct and negligence in the case of Jessica Cavaleri, 24, and her younger sister, Ashley, 19. The girls had been abused by their stepfather, Peter N. Taylor, at their home during the 1990s. Taylor pleaded guilty to child molestation in 2001 was

sentenced to more than four years in prison. Jessica Cavalieri said in court documents that she told her congregational leader, Bishop Bruce Hatch, in 1994 that Taylor had been abusing her since she was 7. But Hatch told Jessica's mother that there was simply tension between Jessica and her stepfather, suggested they work it out through worship and never alerted civil authorities, according to the Cavalieris' lawyer, Timothy D. Kosnoff. Under Washington state law, members of the clergy are not required to report sexual abuse, but Kosnoff argued that Hatch was acting as a social services counselor when the older sister confided in him.

STARVATION, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A federal judge has approved a \$12.5 million settlement between the state and four Collingswood boys whose adoptive mother admitted starving them while her home was under the supervision of the state Division of Youth and Family Services. Bruce Jackson, 21, will receive \$5 million, while each of his adoptive brothers, Keith, 16, Tyrone, 12, and Michael, 11, will receive at least \$1.875 million, according to the agreement approved Wednesday (Nov 16) by U.S. Magistrate Judge Joel B. Rosen. The three younger boys will receive half of their settlement money in cash to fund a trust overseen by their court-appointed guardian, Marcia R. Lowry. Lowry is executive director of Children's Rights Inc., an advocacy organization based in New York. The other half of the settlement will be used to purchase annuities that eventually will pay the boys about \$4,400 a month for life. Lowry's attorney, Eric Hecker of New York, said the annuities will serve as insurance to "make sure that, no matter what happens to these kids in the future, the one thing they will know is that they will have a substantial amount of money coming in every month for the rest of their life to provide them the kind of security that, unfortunately, the foster-care system was not able to provide during their childhood." The remaining \$1.875 million is earmarked to pay the lawyers for the three younger boys. The state has objected to that amount and Rosen asked the attorneys for both sides to resolve the dispute through negotiations. If the lawyers' fees are reduced, the difference will go to their clients. Bruce Jackson's attorney, Michael Critchley of West Orange, worked for free. The past week has seen the resolution of the civil case and the only criminal charges to emerge after a neighbour found Bruce, then 19, searching for food in a trash can outside the White Horse Pike house where he and 10 other children lived with the boys' foster and adoptive parents, Raymond and Vanessa Jackson. When they were discovered in Collingswood in October 2003, the four boys each weighed 45 pounds or less. Lawyers for the younger boys sued the state, claiming

DYFS should have known about their malnourishment because child-welfare workers visited the home regularly to check on a girl the family was trying to adopt. State Department of Human Services Commissioner James M. Davy signaled the government's intention to settle the case last year. Vanessa Jackson, now of Glassboro, pleaded guilty to endangering the welfare of her four adoptive children by depriving them of adequate food and denying them medical attention. She faces a maximum of seven years in prison when she is sentenced in February. Bruce Jackson is a ward of the state and his settlement money will go into a trust overseen by a court-appointed guardian for his finances, attorney William M. Tambussi of Westmont. The state also agreed to provide health insurance under Medicaid for the younger boys until they reach 21 and pay as much as \$185,000 a year for educational services not covered by their school districts.

STOCK-TRADING ABUSE, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated Nov 23, states: A California judge yesterday approved an unusual legal settlement that will require Oracle Corp CEO Larry Ellison to donate \$100 million to charity and pay another \$22 million to the attorneys who sued him for alleged stock trading abuses — forcing Ellison to dig deeper into his pockets than he originally wanted. Barring an appeal, the \$122 million settlement made final by San Mateo Superior Court Judge John Schwartz closes the books on a shareholder lawsuit filed nearly four years ago on behalf of Oracle, one of the world's largest software makers. The civil complaint revolves around a \$900 million gain that Ellison generated by selling some of his Oracle stock shortly before the company's shares plummeted in 2001. Like many other high-tech companies, Oracle's sales sagged badly that year amid the aftershocks of the dot-com implosion that wiped out hundreds of companies. Oracle's shares plunged by 52% in 2001, wiping out about \$85 billion in shareholder wealth.

UNFAIR DISMISSAL, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated Nov 22, states: A jury awarded \$3 million today to a blind woman who was fired from her job as director of Pennsylvania's agency for the blind and visually impaired. Christine L. Boone, who was forced out as director of the Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services in 2003, claimed she was discriminated against because of her disability. A lawyer representing the defendants argued Boone was fired because of her shortcomings as a manager. The jury awarded her \$180,000 in punitive damages, but her lawyer said he would instead ask U.S. District Judge Sylvia Rambo to reinstate her to her old job.

UNLAWFUL KILLING, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated Nov 17, states: A federal jury has awarded \$4 million to the family of a man who was shot to death during an altercation with Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies who were responding to a burglary call. The family had initially sought \$30 million for the November 2002 shooting of Robert Mitchell, 40, who had previously served prison time on charges of assaulting a peace officer. Dale Galipo, an attorney for the family, said the verdict Tuesday (Nov 15) resulted from Mitchell being "unnecessarily and unjustifiably shot to death by a deputy sheriff working for the county of Los Angeles." A police report said deputies answered a burglary call at the home of Mitchell's sister's neighbour in Littlerock in the Antelope Valley and spotted Mitchell walking away from the neighbor's home. The sheriff's department will appeal the verdict and county officials said they were confident they would prevail on appeal.

London, Nov 22 — Actor Robert Blake, who was acquitted of his wife's murder in a criminal trial eight months ago, has been found liable for her death in a civil case. Bonnie Lee Bakley, 44, was shot outside a Los Angeles restaurant in May 2001. Mr Blake, 72, the star of *In Cold Blood* and the *Baretta* TV series, has always claimed that he was inside the venue at the time of the shooting. The actor was acquitted of the murder in March last year, but in August, Ms Bakley's children initiated a wrongful death suit against him - in a civil trial, the burden of proof is not as stringent as in a criminal case. On Friday, Mr Blake appeared pale and stunned as the verdict was read out at the Los Angeles superior court. After the verdict, he quickly left the courthouse through a rear exit and made no comment to the media. He must now pay \$30m to the Bakley children, including his own daughter, five-year-old Rosie. The jurors, nine men and three women, voted 10-2 in favour of finding that he intentionally caused his wife's death. They were split 9-3 in favour of awarding the \$30m sum.

WAR ATROCITIES DURING EL SALVADOR CIVIL WAR

London, Nov 18 — A jury held a former Salvadoran Army colonel responsible for murder and torture during El Salvador's civil war in the 1980s and ordered him to pay \$2 million in damages. The federal court jury's verdict today came in a lawsuit filed by five current or former Salvadorans who say they were tortured or had family members killed by soldiers under the command of Nicolas Carranza. The jury agreed with four of Carranza's accusers and awarded \$500,000 for each plaintiff, or \$2 million total, in compensatory damages. The jurors could not reach a verdict in the fifth case, and Judge Jon McCalla told them to continue deliberations. The lawsuit accused

Carranza, who has lived in Memphis since 1985, of failing to stop crimes against humanity when he was a top commander of El Salvador's security forces.

Railway Accidents



AMIRGANJ STATION, NARSINGDI DISTRICT, BANGLADESH

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A slow-moving express train rammed into another train standing at a station in central Bangladesh, injuring at least 25 people, the state-run railway said today. The collision occurred last night at Amirganj railway station in Narsingdi district, just east of Dhaka, said Golam Mostafa, an official at Bangladesh Railway. The Upakul Express, running from Dhaka to the eastern district of Noakhali, ran into the Noakhali Express which was standing at the station, Mostafa said, adding that the Upakul Express was slowing to stop at the station. About 25 passengers were injured in the crash and have been taken to a hospital, said Mansur Ali, a doctor in the area. Mostafa declined to comment on the cause of the accident but said railway authorities had ordered an investigation.

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Two passenger trains collided head-on last night near Narsingdi, about 60 km north of Dhaka, injuring at least 100 passengers. Local private television channel NTV in its late night bulletin said one train was going to southeastern Noakhali, 190 km from the capital and the other train was coming to Dhaka from Noakhali. Railway sources feared many might have died in the accident.

Karachi, Nov 24 — Bangladesh Railway said rail communications between Dhaka and the eastern region of the country resumed after it suspended for eight hours following a collision between two passenger trains near Amirganj rail station under Narshingdi district yesterday. It is said at least 100 people were injured in the accident that took place at about 2225, Tuesday (Nov 22). Rail communications on the Dhaka-Chittagong, Dhaka-Sylhet and Dhaka-Noakhali routes resumed at 0643, yesterday after a relief train from Dhaka removed the two damaged trains from the rail track. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

BEIJING, CHINA

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A big part of Beijing's Metro train system was blocked for six hours yesterday after a train on a test run left the track on a bridge, Shanghai Evening News reported today. The train of Metro Line No.13 ran off the rails when it was changing tracks. There were no

passengers on the train and no one was injured. But it took almost six hours to clear the track, causing some stations to be closed and causing long delays in other parts of the network. Some passengers chose to return their tickets and took other transport.

CENTRAL SQUARE, NEW YORK STATE, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 24 hours after a train derailed in Central Square, one major road is still closed as crews work to clean up the mess. Route 49 opened back up, but Route 11 is shut down. Investigators are trying to figure out what caused the CSX freight train to jump the tracks. The southbound train went off near Drybridge Road and the Route 11 bridge Saturday (Nov 19) afternoon. Twenty-eight cars derailed — six of which contained toxic materials. One carrying sodium hydroxide did have a small leak, but crews were able to contain it quickly. Crews said they expect to be there cleaning up for some time. No one was injured in the derailment.

CHARBAGH STATION, LUCKNOW, UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Four bogies of an express train derailed at the Charbagh railway station this afternoon but no one was injured, Government Railway Police sources said. Four bogies of the Barauni-Gwalior Express derailed just when it was rolling in at one of the platforms but no one was injured as the train was very slow, they said. Efforts are on to put the bogies back on the rails and clear the platform, sources added.

DAMASCUS AREA, SYRIA

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated Nov 23, states: Dozens of people were injured when two trains collided outside Damascus, state-run TV reported today. It said the collision occurred because both trains were on the same track. The TV said that railroad workers failed to co-ordinate the change of tracks thus causing the collision. It quoted eyewitnesses as saying the collision occurred in Nassiriya area.

DHARI VILLAGE AREA, AMRELI DISTRICT, GUJARAT, INDIA

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Seven bogies of a goods train derailed near Dhari village of Amreli district of Gujarat, affecting passenger train services on the route, railway sources said. No one was injured in the incident that occurred yesterday evening, the sources added. Cranes and other equipment from the Bhavnagar division have been rushed to the accident site to clear the tracks, they added. Passenger train services on the metre-gauge route between Amreli, Veraval and Junagadh has been temporarily suspended following the derailment. The exact reason for the derailment was not yet known, the sources added.

FOREST PARK, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated Nov 23, states: Forest Park police say no one was injured when a freight train derailed in the western Chicago suburb of Forest Park last night. Sergeant Steve Zaroni says four southbound Canadian National Railway cars left the tracks about 1940 hrs and that none of the derailed cars, including three petroleum tankers, were damaged. Some area business were temporarily evacuated as a precaution, but Zaroni says no hazardous or toxic materials were spilled or released. No one was injured in the derailment, and no chemicals spilled, said agency spokesman Warren Flatau. The agency, which is working with Forest Park and other local authorities, may not know the cause until next week, he said. The National Transportation Safety Board is conducting an investigation.

HOMESTEAD, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated Nov 17, states: Police said a Norfolk and Southern train was headed westbound at about 0230 today. Six cars of the 124-car train jumped the tracks near 8th Avenue and Amity Street. One of the six cars has been uprighted. Fortunately, the cars were not carrying any hazardous materials. Road crews at the scene said the cleanup could last until this afternoon. Heavy equipment will be brought in to clear the area. There were no injuries.

MERSIN, TURKEY

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Nine people were killed and 18 others injured today as a passenger train crashed into a vehicle carrying workers in the southern Turkish province of Mersin, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported. The report said the train was en route from another southern province of Adana to Mersin when it collided with a lorry in Tarsus town in Mersin. Nine people died at the spot and the injured were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment, the report added. Hasan Tahsin Koprulu, regional director of the Directorate General of State Railways, was quoted as saying that the passenger train did not derail in the crash and that the railway was not shut down.

PHATTALUNG PROVINCE, THAILAND

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: In the southern province of Phatthalung, a close watch is being kept on water sources in Laem Tanod Khuan Khanun district one week after a freight train carrying highly toxic nitric acid derailed there. Seven of the 18 cargo compartments have been salvaged, but three of the remaining compartments contain barrels with a large quantity of nitric acid. When the train came off the tracks, the barrels were tossed around, splashing the highly corrosive

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liquid onto the interior of the freight compartments and creating holes through which it could flow into the environment. Local residents are concerned the nitric acid could contaminate creeks and waterways that empty into the Thalay Noi inlet. Phatthalung Governor Prachak Suwannaphaksi said the province lacked the necessary expertise to handle the problem. The State Railway of Thailand had not informed anyone that a train carrying such a toxic substance was passing through the province, he said. The train was reportedly heading for Sadao district in neighbouring Songkhla.

RAWLINS AREA, WYOMING, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated Nov 18, states: A Union Pacific freight train derailed west of Rawlins this week, blocking one track for nearly 24 hours. The derailment occurred about 0645 hrs, Tuesday (Nov 15) on a straight section of track about four miles west of Rawlins, according to Mark Davis, UP spokesman based in Omaha, Neb. Eleven cars of a 77-car freight train derailed. No one was injured, but 500 feet of track had to be repaired, Davis said. The damaged line was reopened about 0620 hrs, Wednesday (Nov 16), he said. Another, undamaged line was reopened to traffic about 2200 hrs, Tuesday. The train that derailed was hauling flatbed cars stacked with shipping containers filled with a variety of freight, Davis said. It originated in Lathrop, Calif., and was bound for Marion, Ark. The cause of the derailment is under investigation.

SANDIACRE, DERBYSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated Nov 17, states: Emergency officials evacuated some homes in a Derbyshire town after two gas mains were ruptured in an accident. The eight-inch and 10-in gas mains were damaged when a train crashed through buffers, a Derbyshire fire spokeswoman said. The incident happened at Station Road in Sandiacre this afternoon. No-one was hurt and a 250-metre exclusion zone was imposed. National Grid employees were called to the area to deal with the rupture. A National Grid spokesman said gas supplies in the area were not affected, but advised nearby residents to reduce their gas usage until the leak was fixed. Evacuated residents were allowed to return to their homes at about 2030, UTC, this evening.



SOBER VIRUS

London, Nov 23 — A scam involving emails appearing to come from the

FBI or CIA has unleashed a computer virus that spread rapidly worldwide, US officials and security experts say. The FBI released a statement on its website noting that the agency was not the source of the emails. But experts said that the virus was propagating because the authors made the message appear authentic. The FBI statement said recipients of this or similar messages “should know that the FBI does not engage in the practice of sending unsolicited emails to the public in this manner.” The messages appear to be sent from an email address such as mailfbi.gov, postfbi.gov, adminfbi.gov or a similar address, and direct the recipient to open an attachment to answer a question. The opening of the file activates the virus and causes it to spread to others. The Internet security firm Sophos said similar emails may appear to come from the Central Intelligence Agency, but that both contain a strain of the Sober virus that has been spreading worldwide. In a four-hour period, the worm “has accounted for over 61 per cent of all viruses reported to Sophos, making it currently the most prevalent virus spreading across the world.” “This variant of the Sober worm may catch out the unwary as they open their email inbox this morning,” said Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant at Sophos. “Every law-abiding citizen wants to help the police with their inquiries, and some will panic that they might be being falsely accused of visiting illegal websites and want to click on the unsolicited email attachment. All users should be reminded to follow safe computing guidelines, and PCs should be kept automatically updated with the latest anti-virus protection.” The email says: “We have logged your IP address on more than 30 illegal websites,” and directs the recipient to open an attachment to respond to questions.

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A Windows virus that warns users about illegal net use is spreading online. The bug-bearing message claims to come from either the FBI, CIA or German BKA police agency, and warns users they have been detected visiting illegal sites. Those opening a questionnaire attached to the message will be infected by a variant of the well-known Sober virus. Anti-virus firms have caught millions of copies of the malicious program, suggesting a lot of people have fallen for the fake warning. The Windows virus started circulating on Nov 22 and mail filtering firm MessageLabs said it caught almost three million copies of the Sober variant in the first 24 hours of the outbreak. By the end of yesterday Postini said it had netted more than seven million copies of the bug. The virus travels in an e-mail message with the subject line of “You visit illegal websites” or “Your IP was logged”. The body text of the message makes it appear as if the recipient has been caught by the FBI, CIA or BKA

browsing 30 illegal sites and asks them to fill in an attached form about this activity. Anyone clicking on the attached form gets a fake error message while, in the background, the virus starts plundering an infected PC for e-mail addresses to send itself to. Responding to the outbreak the FBI said: “These e-mails did not come from the FBI.” It added: “Recipients of this or similar solicitations should know that the FBI does not engage in the practice of sending unsolicited e-mails to the public in this manner.” The virus also comes in varieties that purport to hold a video of Paris Hilton, fake password change notices and e-mail error messages. It can only infect those using Windows PCs. F-Secure said the outbreak was the “biggest of the year” and Symantec said the virus was spreading very fast in the wild. Statistics gathered by Trend Micro suggest that most victims were in North America. The spread of the virus slowed yesterday but anti-virus firms urged users to update their protection and not to click on attachments to unsolicited e-mail messages.



CLOSURE OF COAL MINES, CHINA

Beijing, Nov 22 — China has closed nearly 2,000 coal mines since August in a bid to cut the death toll in the world’s most deadly mining industry, the official Xinhua news agency reported today. Work has been suspended at around 13,000 mines, the report said, quoting safety watchdog the National Bureau of Production Safety Supervision and Administration. Explosions, mine collapses and other accidents killed over 6,000 miners last year, and Beijing launched the latest in a series of safety crackdowns after flooding at a mine in southern Guangdong province claimed 123 lives in August. The government has also ordered officials to withdraw all investment from mines to prevent collusion with owners, and demanded that a manager accompany miners underground on every shift to look for potential dangers. But coal provides around three-quarters of China’s electricity, and high prices and booming demand mean many mine owners with an eye on profits ignore regulations, push production beyond safe capacity or re-open illegally after suspension. State media said in August the country had around 24,000 mines, meaning over half are now out of operation. The shutdowns are unlikely to have much impact on output however, because thousands of mines in the massive, fragmented industry produce less than 45,000 tonnes a year and many of the most dangerous mines are among the

smallest. Xinhua also reported that over 9,000 mines had been closed since January. — Reuters.

CROATIAN VESSEL BLOCKADED OFF GDYNIA, POLAND

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Greenpeace activists today chained themselves to the anchor of bulk *Hope* (17152 gt, built 1982) off the northern coast of Poland as part of a bid to prevent it from offloading its cargo of genetically modified (GM) soya, the environmental group said. “Three people, a Pole, Hungarian and German, have chained themselves to the anchor of the boat,” the Croatian-flagged vessel, which was waiting at the entrance to the Polish port of Gdynia, where it is supposed to deliver a 25,000-tonne cargo of Argentinian-grown GM soya, Greenpeace’s Poland spokesman Jacek Winiarski said. “Several more Greenpeace activists have unfurled a banner that says ‘Poland doesn’t want GMOs’ on one side of the ship,” he said. One sailboat and six inflatable speedboats which belong to Greenpeace had put to sea and were near the *Hope*. “We are in contact with the port authorities. We want the cargo to go back to where it came from, Argentina. We will stay here for as long as it takes to get our way,” the Greenpeace spokesman said.

OUTBREAK OF “BIRD FLU”

Hanoi, Nov 15 — Vietnam slaughtered thousands of birds in its two largest cities today, while other Asian nations boosted efforts to halt the spread of deadly avian flu. China vowed to vaccinate its entire stock of 14 billion poultry against bird flu, with the government promising to help pay for the process. Officials in Vietnam were racing against time to meet the government’s deadline of today for ending poultry raising in the capital Hanoi and in Ho Chi Minh City. Police, veterinarians and health workers, wearing masks and protective clothes, gathered at duck farms in Hoang Mai district on the edge of Hanoi where outbreaks were detected earlier. “We are carrying out the city’s decision to kill all the poultry inside the city,” veterinary official Phi Thanh Hai said as 3,500 ducks quacked in bags after being rounded up at a pond next to the Red River. Hanoi poultry farmers said they got compensation of 15,000 dong for each destroyed duck, which cost 40,000 dong to raise. Indonesia and Vietnam should be given more resources to help stamp out the spread of the virus, the head of a global animal health body said today. Bernard Vallat, director general of the World Organization for Animal Health, urged vaccination of poultry. “Early detection is the first line of defense in defeating the virus but Indonesia and Vietnam, which do not have enough resources and adequate organization, were late in responding to bird flu,” Vallat told Reuters during a visit to South Korea. “They cannot manage this virus by just killing animals at this stage. It is

too late. The solution is using vaccination.” Indonesia, its resources stretched by the tsunami disaster last December, has largely resisted calls for a mass cull of chickens, saying it does not have funds to compensate owners. China, battling several outbreaks of H5N1 among poultry, set itself the tough target of vaccinating billions of birds. Jia Youling, director-general of the Agriculture Ministry’s veterinary bureau, said the central government would cover 50 to 80 percent of provinces’ costs, the Xinhua news agency reported. It gave no timetable for the inoculation campaign. The nine outbreaks reported across China this autumn “have been basically brought under control”, Jia was quoted as saying. Migratory birds have carried the virus to eastern Europe and Kuwait and experts fear it will soon spread to Africa. Britain said it believed an outbreak last month in a quarantine center was caused by birds from Taiwan, rather than a parrot from South America, originally thought to be the carrier. More than 50 birds from Taiwan died at the quarantine center, the government said. Officials said tissue samples from the finch-like mesias were pooled so it was impossible to say how many of the 53 dead birds had H5N1, although some did. — Reuters.

Beijing, Nov 16 — China’s Ministry of Health today confirmed the country’s first-ever human cases of bird flu, reporting two in the central province of Hunan and one in eastern Anhui, the official Xinhua news agency said. The agency’s brief dispatch gave no further details. Earlier today, the Health Ministry said it had not reached a final conclusion regarding the possible detection of bird flu antibodies in a nine-year-old boy from Hunan province. The boy and his 12-year-old sister fell ill last month and were treated for pneumonia symptoms. The boy was discharged from hospital last weekend but his sister died. Xinhua did not say whether the boy and girl were the confirmed bird flu victims. It also did not identify the person infected in Anhui, where an outbreak of avian influenza among poultry was reported on Monday (Nov 14), and did not elaborate on the condition of any of the three cases. — Reuters.

Hanoi, Nov 16 — Vietnamese scientists have found more variations of bird flu viruses in poultry, adding to the health risk to people if these strains keep circulating, a health official said today. Dong Manh Ha, director of Ho Chi Minh City Regional Animal Health Centre, told Reuters a study conducted by the centre found new avian influenza strains of the H3 and H4 subtypes in poultry. Scientists say strains of the H3 and H4 subtypes are capable of causing death in birds but are generally less virulent and spread more slowly than the H5 subtype they fear could trigger a human pandemic. Ha said that samples had been sent to a World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)

laboratory in Australia for further investigation. State media reports said the new virus strains are H3N4 and H4N5. Vietnam is tackling more than a dozen H5N1 outbreaks in poultry and has stepped up culling in its two main cities. In the latest outbreak, an Agriculture Ministry report said 286 chickens and geese had died or been slaughtered in the northern province of Son La. That took the number of the affected areas to 14 of Vietnam’s 64 provinces since the virus returned in October. Infectious disease expert Lo Wing-lok, a member of a scientific committee on zoonotic and emerging diseases in Hong Kong, said if the strains were allowed to spread in poultry, people in close contact with the birds would be at risk. There was also the risk of these subtypes mixing and exchanging genetic material with the H5N1 virus. There would then be the possibility of the H3N4 and H4N5 strains becoming more pathogenic. Influenza type A viruses, which include human and avian flu viruses, are categorized by H and N components, which denote specific types of proteins on their surface. The H component governs the ability of the virus to bind to and enter cells, which become virus-making factories. The N component governs the release of the newly made viruses from the animal host cell. There are 16 H subtypes and nine N subtypes. Human influenza viruses are usually strains of H1N1, H2N2 and H3N2 but avian flu subtypes H5 and H7 can also infect people. Media reports said two more people in Hanoi, a 15-year-old girl and a 71-year-old woman, were in hospital with symptoms of bird flu and were being tested. The latest cases bring to five the number of suspected infections in Vietnam. — Reuters.

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Two more people have died from the H5N1 strain of bird flu in Indonesia, raising the number of deaths there to seven, the health ministry said. Tests were carried out on a woman and a teenage girl, both from Jakarta, who died earlier this month after coming into contact with dead chickens. “We received the test results this morning and both victims were positive for bird flu,” health ministry official Hariadi Wibisono told news agency — Reuters.

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Fourteen provinces and cities in Vietnam have been hit by bird flu outbreaks since the reoccurrence of the disease in early October, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development said Thursday. So far, the total number of poultry killed by the disease or culled is more than 600,000 in those provinces and cities, according to the Animal Health Department under the ministry.

Hanoi, Nov 18 — Bird flu, which has killed 42 people in Vietnam, has spread to three more northern provinces as the government called for a meeting of Pacific Rim health officials to seek ways to prevent a human pandemic. The Agriculture

Ministry said today outbreaks hit Phu Tho, Thai Binh and Hoa Binh provinces, with more than 3,400 chickens, ducks and geese found dead or slaughtered by health workers as tests showed the dead birds had the bird flu virus. President Tran Duc Luong said he expected Asia-Pacific leaders meeting in Pusan to accept Vietnam's call for the group's health ministers to meet in Hanoi in 2006 to discuss measures such as vaccines and anti-viral drug production. Dr Nguyen Thu Van, a researcher with the National Hygiene and Epidemiology Institute, said a human vaccine would be tested on up to 30 volunteers after the government and the World Health Organization approved the trial. "Many people have telephoned here saying they were willing and ready to join the test," Van told Reuters Television. The next step involves injecting up to 300 people. "It would take at least three months for the clinical tests, including injecting and evaluating the results, so the tests would finish by the end of the first quarter in 2006," she said. If all went well, mass production would start in the second quarter of 2006. Van works for the National Hygiene and Epidemiology Institute. The center's deputy head, Pham Ngoc Dinh, told Reuters on Wednesday the vaccine had been tested successfully in chickens and monkeys. The vaccine is being made using cell culture technology, which involves taking a deactivated or weakened form of the virus from a patient who had died of bird flu. The sample is then cultivated in monkey kidney cells, a process researchers at the institute say can produce the best results within the shortest time. The H5N1 virus has now spread to 17 of Vietnam's 64 provinces since returning in early October. Most of Vietnam's affected provinces are in the cooler north and the virus seems to thrive during the winter. The Health Ministry said no human cases, suspected or confirmed, were recorded between October 24 and November 17. The latest bird flu death was of a 35-year-old man in Hanoi in late October. The ministry statement did not mention five suspected cases, including two deaths, which state media reported in the past week. But the virus has resulted in the death or slaughter of more than 657,000 birds in Vietnam since last month, even though about 60 percent of the country's 220 million domesticated fowl has been vaccinated. This week, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Danang stepped up mass culling to purge all poultry and pet birds. The Agriculture Ministry said the total number of dead and slaughtered poultry in the infected areas and other cities reached nearly 900,000 since early October. Prime Minister Phan Van Khai has pledged 1.3 trillion dong more to help contain the virus. — Reuters.

London, Nov 18 — China has reported today two new outbreaks of deadly bird flu, bringing the total number of confirmed outbreaks over

the past month to 15, state media said today. In one of the outbreaks, near Xiaoyi city in northern Shanxi province, the disease killed 8,103 birds, Xinhua news agency reported. In the other near Urumqi, the capital of north-western Xinjiang region, eight birds had died, the agency reported.

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated Nov 18, states: A strain of H5 bird flu virus has been found in a commercial farm duck in the Fraser Valley of Canada's western province of British Columbia, officials said today. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is visiting farms in a five km radius around the infected premises to test birds and is warning bird owners to practise strict biosecurity, the CTV television reported. The provincial officials said they are not sure which strain of the H5 virus was found in the duck. They stressed there is no risk to human health, but the farm where the duck was found has been quarantined. "Due to the precautionary principle, it's really important to lock down as quickly as possible and make sure we quarantine before it spreads further," said Dr. Eric Young, Deputy Medical Health Officer of the British Columbia. Swab samples from the duck are on their way for further testing and results could take up to 48 hours.

Beijing, Nov 20 — China today reported two new outbreaks of bird flu in which almost 3,700 poultry died and more than 7,000 were culled as provinces hit by the deadly virus tightened preventive measures. About 3,500 geese died at a family farm in a development zone in Shishou city in the central province of Hubei, the official Xinhua news agency said, adding that 3,800 poultry were slaughtered within a radius of three km. In the northern region of Inner Mongolia, 176 domestic poultry died and 3,202 poultry were culled, Xinhua said. It gave no further details. The agency quoted Health Minister Gao Qiang as saying China has basically brought bird flu under control. Beijing and four provinces have tightened preventive measures, the Web site of the Ministry of Agriculture said. — Reuters.

Jakarta, Nov 21 — Local tests have shown a 35-year-old man has died in Indonesia of the H5N1 strain of bird flu but the results have to be confirmed by a laboratory in Hong Kong, the Health Ministry said today. The ministry's director general of disease control, I. Nyoman Kandun, said it was unclear if the man had contact with dead chickens. He died a few days ago, he said. "We have sent the sample to Hong Kong for confirmation," Kandun told Reuters by telephone. "We have not yet determined how he got the disease." Indonesia has had seven deaths from bird flu confirmed by the World Health Organization-affiliated laboratory. There have been four positive cases where patients survived. — Reuters.

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Tests on poultry found dead in Romania have showed they had the deadly H5N1 bird flu strain, officials have said. Last week, Romanian authorities announced four new cases of infected domestic birds from the village of Caraorman, in the Danube delta region. They said the village, which has no road access, would be quarantined and 2,000 birds would be slaughtered. Romania was the first European country to detect the deadly strain of the disease in poultry last month. The tests on four hens were carried out by a British laboratory. "Regarding the samples in Caraorman, the laboratory in London confirmed it was the highly pathogenic H5N1 virus," Romania's agriculture ministry said on its website. Romanian Agriculture Minister Gheorghe Flutur told news channel Realitatea TV: "We are keeping things under control."

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A duck at a British Columbia poultry farm has tested positive for avian flu virus, but not the form circulating in South-east Asia that has been blamed for more than 60 deaths, Canadian officials said. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency said yesterday the infection at the duck and goose farm in Chilliwack, just outside of Vancouver, was different, but that 60,000 birds on the farm would still be slaughtered as a precaution. Veterinarian Cornelius Kiley said the H5 virus found in a commercial duck was a low pathogenic North American strain, which means it does not kill poultry. "This confirmation means we're looking at a virus capable of causing only a mild disease in birds, if any at all," said Kiley, who works for the food inspection agency. Federal officials separately reassured Canadians that the strain of the flu found in British Columbia and positive test results for the H5N1 avian flu virus found in two wild ducks in Manitoba pose no threat to humans. On Saturday (Nov 19), officials said the avian flu viruses found in the wild ducks was not the dangerous form of the virus circulating in South-east Asia. "I want to emphasize that the H5N1 subtype detected in Manitoba is completely distinct from the strain currently present in Asia," Dr. Brian Evans, Canada's chief veterinary officer, said in disclosing the findings. "The identification of this virus, which has been previously identified in North American birds, poses no new risks to human health," added Dr Arlene King, head of respiratory diseases for the Public Health Agency of Canada. Avian flu viruses bearing the same subtype name can vary widely in their ability to cause disease in poultry or pose a human health threat. Officials said on Friday they had found a duck with the H5 avian flu virus on the farm in British Columbia. The 60,000 birds on the farm, mostly ducks, will be

slaughtered in line with a plan set up after an outbreak of avian flu in the Fraser Valley in 2004 in which about 17 million birds had to be destroyed.

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated Nov 22, states: The US and Asian ban on British Columbia poultry will have a minimal effect on the Canadian economy because British Columbia exports less than 10% of its flock, Canadian officials said today. The US, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Japan banned poultry from mainland British Columbia yesterday after a duck tested positive for bird flu, and Canadian officials said today that the same strain — nonfatal to humans — had been found at a second farm in the area. They said the virus was not the strain in South-east Asia that has been blamed for more than 60 human deaths. British Columbia only exports about 6-7% of its poultry to other countries, said provincial Agriculture Minister Pat Bell. Dr. Brian Evans, Canada's chief veterinary officer, noted that the virus in British Columbia was different from the one in Asia, but acknowledged, "We're dealing in an extremely hypersensitive environment in the world." The Canadian Food Inspection Agency slaughtered about 56,000 birds on the farm in Chilliwack, just outside of Vancouver, where the illness was first discovered, as a precaution. The H5 virus there is a low-pathogenic North American strain, unlike the deadly H5N1 strain in Asia. Federal officials have assured Canadians that the strain of the flu found in British Columbia poses no threat to human health. Dr. Cornelius Kiley of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency said an H5 strain of the flu was found on one of four other quarantined farms. Preparations were under way to cull the birds at the second farm. "We have multiple positives on the second farm," Kiley said, declining to specify how many cases had been found. He said the second discovery revealed a low pathogenic case of the flu that causes only mild disease in birds. He said the situation was not worsening and there was no new risk to the public. Canada is expected to produce a report in coming days with detail on additional testing in the area of British Columbia where the diseased birds were found, and depending on the report's results, the could narrow its ban to a smaller region, said Jim Rogers, a spokesman for the Department of Agriculture. The US bans imports of poultry from any country where the high-pathogenic virus from Asia has been found. Those countries include Cambodia, Romania, China, Russia, Indonesia, South Korea, Japan, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Laos, Vietnam and Malaysia.

London, Nov 23 — Russia's veterinarian authorities confirmed yesterday that some 250 swans had died of bird flu in the southern region of Astrakhan in the past week. "Tests showed that nearly 250 swans had died of bird flu" in the Volga River

delta in southern Russia, Yevgeny Nepoklonov, deputy head of the Federal Veterinarian and Phytosanitary Control Service, said. "Villages in the Volga delta are under quarantine, and domestic birds are staying indoors," Nepoklonov said. The Astrakhan veterinarian service said swan deaths started near the Astrakhan Nature Park a week ago. The region's chief veterinarian, Alexander Vasilyev, said many birds had gathered in the Volga River delta but only swans born in spring died. "They might have been weakened by the long voyage," he said. The Agriculture Ministry said four other regions are still affected by the bird flu — Altai, Kurgan, Chelyabinsk and Tambov regions — but quarantine is expected to be lifted in previously infected localities in the Altai, Tambov and Chelyabinsk regions later this week.

Beijing, Nov 24 — China reported a bird flu outbreak in the remote western region of Xinjiang, bringing to 21 the number of outbreaks since mid-October. China, which said late yesterday that a second person had died of the deadly H5N1 virus, has already culled more than 20 million birds this year to contain the spread of the disease. The new outbreak occurred at a family farm when 2,000 birds died on November 15, but H5N1 was not confirmed until yesterday, the Ministry of Agriculture said in a statement on its Web site. Authorities have culled 84,000 birds within a two mile radius of the outbreak, the ministry said, in line with standard practice. China has bought in police and army units to hold back to spread of bird flu, and has threatened fines and other punishments for local officials and people who cover up disease outbreaks or obstruct prevention efforts. The government has also announced plans to vaccinate billions of birds and state media has said that a human vaccine is ready for clinical trials. China has confirmed three human cases of bird flu. The third person, a nine-year-old boy, recovered. His dead sister is a suspected case. — Reuters.

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF REFINERY, KWINANA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, AUSTRALIA

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated today, states: BP has announced its Kwinana refinery, south of Perth, is back up and running ahead of schedule and the company will begin delivering premium unleaded to petrol stations across the state tomorrow. Most of the 600 stations supplied by BP have run out of the fuel after a mechanical fault at the refinery halted production three weeks ago. BP spokesman Chandran Vigneswaran says most retailers should have premium unleaded by the end of next week. "It will take some time obviously for us to get out there and restore sites to their normal operating supply, so they might be a little bit sporadic for the next week," he said.

Fires & Explosions

AUTO PARTS PLANT, HURON, OHIO, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire that may have started in a faulty light caused an estimated \$1 million in property and structural damages at an auto parts plant in Huron, the fire chief said. A few Lear Corp. employees who were in the plant when the fire started had evacuated from the building by the time firefighters arrived about 0645 hrs, yesterday. No one was hurt. Sparks fell from the ceiling and landed on some plastic auto parts packaged in cardboard, igniting the blaze, witnesses said. One of the plant's overhead mercury lights likely short-circuited or faulted, fire Chief Paul Berlin said. It took an hour for about 50 firefighters from seven departments to extinguish the blaze. The building's sprinkler system helped save the business, Berlin said.

CAR PLANT, FUJIMATSU, JAPAN

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Toyota plant in central Japan has been forced to halt production of the Prius hybrid car and other popular vehicles for at least a week after a fire damaged the car-assembly line, the company said today. Toyota Auto Body, part of the world's second-largest car maker, normally assembles about 1000 finished vehicles a day at the Fujimatsu Factory, about one-quarter of which are hot-selling Prius gas-electric hybrids. After the blaze which broke out late yesterday, the company is assessing whether the halt will cause a delay in vehicle supply, a spokeswoman said. "We have suspended production, except for some parts to be supplied to other factories," she said, adding that it would take "at least a week" to resume production.

COAL MINE, PANLONG, GUIZHOU PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: In China, five workers are dead and another 11 are missing after a powerful gas explosion ripped through a coal mine in southern Guizhou province. Officials says 25 miners were working in the shaft at the time of the blast. So far, nine workers have been rescued. The cause of the blast is yet to be determined but the mine had been operating without a safety certificate.

London, Nov 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescuers have recovered ten bodies as of today from the site of the latest coal mine gas blast in south-west China's Guizhou Province, but six people are still missing, according to the provincial work safety supervision bureau.

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

Twenty-five miners were working down the pit when the blast occurred and caused a cave-in early Friday (Nov 18) at Shagou colliery in Panlong town, in the city of Liupanshui. Nine of them escaped. The chance for the survival of the six missing miners is slim as there is high density of carbon monoxide underground, said experts at the site. Police have arrested the owner of the mine.

COAL MINE, QINGLONG COUNTY, GUIZHOU PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated Nov 21, states: An explosion at a coal mine in southern China killed 15 miners and injured three, the Xinhua news agency reported today. The explosion occurred yesterday at the Zhongxing Colliery in Guizhou Province's Qinglong County, the Xinhua News Agency said. Eight of the 41 miners working underground at the time of the explosion were killed instantly, Xinhua said. Seven others were trapped in the shaft and were presumed dead 20 hours after the blast, it said. The cause of the accident was under investigation.

FACTORY, BIRMINGHAM, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: At least 70 firefighters tackled a serious blaze at a clothing factory in Birmingham today afternoon. The fire broke out at KBT Fashions on Nechells Parkway around lunchtime, according to a West Midlands Fire Service spokesman. Fifteen fire engines and a hydraulic platform were sent to the scene of the incident, the fire service said. Crews tackling the blaze at the single-storey factory were hampered by low water pressure.

FACTORY, HOWARD, WISCONSIN, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated Nov 18, states: Firefighters estimate a Howard pizza dough factory has about one million dollars in damage from a fire Wednesday (Nov 17) night. The fire started just after 2000 hrs, at Alive-N-Kickin' on Cornell Road. More than a dozen people were in the plant when the fire started but all got out safely. Firefighters say it appears the fire started in the ceiling above the front offices. "When it gets up in the ceiling and it's a suspended ceiling, it can pretty much go any place, so it was going throughout the front portion of this building," Fire Chief John O'Connor said. The front part of the building is ruined. The factory in the back sustained smoke and water damage.

FACTORY, VORONEZH, RUSSIA

London, Nov 23 — One person was killed and two more received serious injuries during a fire at the synthetic rubber plant in the Russian city of Voronezh overnight to today, sources from the regional department of the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations said. The fire began at the

polymer shop at 0041, Moscow time. There were 15 people in the shop when the fire broke out. Most of them managed to escape, but one woman died in the blaze and two metalworkers received serious burns and were rushed to hospital. The fire, which began on the ground floor, spread to the first and the second floor. It was put out at 0455 hrs. Twenty-nine fire engines took part in combating the blaze.

FIREWORKS FACTORY, MAGDALENA APASCO, MEXICO

Mexico City, Nov 22 — An explosion at a fireworks factory in southern Mexico killed at least five people today, an emergency services official said. The civil protection agency said the factory in the town of Magdalena Apasco in Oaxaca state did not have a license to manufacture fireworks. "Five people died there, all of them burned in the explosion," the official said by telephone. — Reuters.

MARINA, LOCH LOMOND, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, ov 23 — A press report, dated Nov 22, states: A classic 1928 wooden vessel and another vessel were destroyed in a fire that swept through a marina near San Rafael in California, officials said. The boats were under a covered portion of the Loch Lomond Marina when the fire was reported Monday morning. Damage to the boats and dock was estimated at \$335,000, officials said. "Because of the distance from the roadway and the length of hose lines we had to stretch out, they called a three-alarm," San Rafael Fire Battalion Chief Jeff Buscher said. "We needed a lot of people to get the hose down there and to be prepared if the fire got larger." No gas or oil leaked into the water and the blaze was quickly extinguished. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

PETROCHEMICAL PLANT, JILIN PROVINCE, CHINA

Beijing, Nov 23 — China confirmed today that an explosion at a petrochemical plant had caused "major pollution" of a river which has led authorities to shut off water supplies in one of its biggest cities for at least four days. Residents of Harbin, capital of far northeastern Heilongjiang province, were jamming the airport and rail stations to get out, a witness said. China's State Environmental Protection Administration said that the Songhua River had suffered "major water pollution" after the November 13 explosion at the plant upstream, the Xinhua news agency said. Taps were turned off in Harbin at midnight, yesterday, after two days of panic buying of bottled water and food. The explosion happened in neighbouring Jilin province only a few hundred yards from the Songhua River, which supplies water to Harbin, a metropolitan area of nine million people. Five people were killed in the blast. "Pollution is definite," said a

regional water official, who declined to give his name. "It has entered the Songhua River and has affected the banks and lower reaches." The Beijing Times newspaper said the pollutants in the partly frozen river included benzene, an industrial solvent and component of petrol. An environmental official quoted by Xinhua said the polluted water was expected to reach the stretch of river where Harbin siphons off its drinking water this evening and clear the city by Friday (Nov 25) afternoon. "Several major tributaries join the Songhua River on the downstream of Harbin," the official said. "It will help to lessen the degree of pollution." The Songhua runs into Russia several hundred kilometres beyond Harbin. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday that China always took care of other countries' border water interests. Prices of bottled water soared in recent days and state media said shops had been ordered to restore prices to normal to prevent panic buying. U.S. beer-making giant Anheuser-Busch, which runs a brewery in Harbin, said it had not been affected because it uses well water. A notice on the city government Web site saying supplies would resume in four days has been superseded by another saying a resumption date would be announced later. "The new notice does not necessarily mean an extension," a Harbin government spokesman told Reuters. "But we will make a decision after four days according to the water quality at that time. There is sufficient water. Residents have all stored a lot and we have been rushing in water from other places. We also have safe underground water." — Reuters.

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Panic was today spreading in Harbin, with officials preparing to cut off water supplies as heavily polluted river water flowed towards the Chinese city. Stockpiling began afresh at midnight when the local government switched taps on again for 12 hours after having cut off supplies to almost four million people yesterday. The temporary switch-on came after revised calculations showed the pollution would not reach Harbin until early tomorrow morning. "As the exact time of the pollutants flowing to the city's drinking water intake spot has been confirmed, we hoped that citizens could take time to hoard as much water as possible ahead of the water cut-off," an executive from the Harbin water company said. Residents were storing water supplies in bathtubs and buckets ahead of the expected three-day drought. Supermarkets reported panic buying of water, milk and soft drinks, while Harbin's airport and railway station were jammed with people fleeing the area. The provincial government was also trucking in water from neighbouring areas, testing little-used local wells and demanding 1,400 tonnes of activated charcoal to purify the water intake after the pollution had passed through the city. Harbin's

authorities warned residents not to even approach the Songhua River because of the risk of pollutants escaping into the atmosphere when the polluted water hits the city around 0500 tomorrow. The 50-mile-long stretch of pollution is not expected to flow out of the city until Saturday (Nov 26). The city, in China's icy north-eastern Heilongjiang Province, has a population of 3.8 million and draws most of its water from the Songhua. The river has been contaminated with more than 30 times the usual levels of benzene after an explosion at a chemical plant on its banks. The blast, in the neighbouring Jilin Province, happened on Nov 13, killing five people and causing 10,000 to be evacuated from the area, officials said. The state Xinhua news agency said nobody had yet been taken ill but 15 hospitals were on stand-by to deal with pollution victims. "There is sufficient water. Residents have all stored a lot and we have been rushing in water from other places. We also have safe underground water," a government spokesman said. Water supplies were also reported to have been cut in at least one district of Songyuan city, around 90 miles south-west of Harbin, although local officials denied the reports. A doctor from the Ningjiang District Central Hospital and a teacher from Ningjiang No 1 Middle School said water had already been cut off for between five and seven days already.

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A huge swathe of toxic water has reached Harbin in north-eastern China after drifting down the Songhua River which is the city's main water source. Massive amounts of the chemical benzene were released by an explosion 11 days ago at a chemical plant in Jilin. Mains water supplies remain shut off, and the authorities have warned people to stay away from the pollution. A witness in the city says Harbin seems to be well stocked with bottled water. Of particular concern is the plight of farmers and people living in between the cities who would normally use the river water for irrigation, for washing, for drinking, eating and making food. Reports today said the contaminated body of water had levels of benzene more than 30 times higher than is considered safe. China's environmental watchdog had found levels in the river 108 times the safe limit yesterday. Authorities shut off water to Harbin, a city of more than three million people, after confirmation that the accident 11 days ago had sent pollution downstream towards the city. The authorities are also digging new wells to augment supplies. Neighbouring Russia was urgently seeking information from China on the spill as officials predicted it would take two days to pass through Harbin. A state of emergency will take effect in Russia's eastern Khabarovsk region tomorrow, amid fears of possible contamination of the Amur river, officials from the

emergency ministry said. The contamination follows an explosion on Nov 13 at a chemical plant at Jilin city, about 380 km upstream from Harbin, on the Songhua River. Some schools and businesses have closed and flights out of Harbin are sold out. "Everyone wants to leave Harbin and it is very difficult to buy tickets," a factory manager said. Water was restored to the city briefly yesterday to allow people to stock up before the contaminated water reached Harbin. More than 16,000 tonnes of drinking water is being brought into Harbin by road, the Chinese state news agency Xinhua said, though this is less than Harbin's residents normally use in a day. Fifteen hospitals have been placed on stand-by to cope with possible poisoning victims. The initial announcement of water stoppages led to panic-buying of water and food in Harbin, exhausting supermarket supplies and sending prices soaring. "The city was full of ridiculously large queues. People were buying water in massive quantities," English teacher Craig Hutchinson said.

PREMISES, COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated Nov 22, states: Officials from the Columbia Fire Department and the 3M plant today were still investigating the cause of a fire Sunday (Nov 20) in a hazardous materials storage room that caused more than \$2 million in damage to equipment and lost time. Battalion Chief Steve Sapp said today the fire was in a plating machine in the plant at 5400 N., Paris Road. No one was injured in the blaze.

PREMISES, LEAVENWORTH, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated Nov 17, states: Fire destroyed a restaurant and severely damaged another building in the north-central Washington city of Leavenworth early today. The fire broke out shortly after 0400 hrs inside Echos Bistro on Commercial Street, Mayor Mel Wyles said. The fire then spread to a neighbouring building on the corner, a three-storey commercial building with retail space on the first floor and six apartments on the top two floors. The restaurant collapsed and was destroyed, as was the top floor of the neighbouring building. The rest of the commercial building suffered smoke and water damage, said Doug Williams, fire information officer. All the apartment tenants were able to get out and no injuries were reported. The cause of the fire was not immediately known. There was no estimate on the damages. Because the fire burned toward the corner, it did not spread to any other structures, Wyles said.

PREMISES, LUTTERWORTH, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Nov 17 — A burst pipe in a sprinkler system at a chain store's

warehouse could explain why flames destroyed it so quickly. Arson has not been ruled out by investigators examining the remains of Primark's main depot, measuring 440,000 sq ft at Lutterworth, Leicestershire. The premises, run by TNT, collapsed within minutes of the flames starting on 1 November. A team made up of police, firefighters and hauler staff has been at the site since trying to establish a cause. In a statement, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service said: "The cause of the fire has not yet been established and this may take some more time yet as no obvious ignition source has been found to be the cause. "Investigators are keeping an open mind and they have not yet ruled out that it may have been started deliberately. "The burst in the water main supplying the sprinkler system, earlier on in the day, is thought to have had a bearing on why the fire travelled so quickly and involved the whole of the building. "It is still not clear why the fire broke out of the roof with such force." The investigators are examining CCTV footage and data collected by the fire alarm system. Their inquiries are hampered by concern over the safety of the structure. All 140 workers at the Magna Park site escaped unhurt. The company switched its operations to a nearby, similar-sized warehouse complex and Primark organised replacement stock from Europe.

PREMISES, WINNIPEG, CANADA

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated Nov 23, states: Several buildings in downtown Winnipeg were evacuated this afternoon due to smoke billowing from a major fire on William Avenue. Students at Victoria Albert School on Bannatyne other buildings on William Avenue were asked to leave due to heavy smoke from the two-alarm fire at Young's Asian Food Market in the 300-block of William Avenue. The building was considered a total loss by early afternoon, and firefighters turned their concern to saving the Diamond Wax building next door. The building was emptied of most of its stock of industrial floor waxing and stripping supplies, and firefighters worked on preventing the building from catching fire. Fire officials say no one was hurt, but three people who were in the food store when the fire started and two firefighters who were trapped in the building's basement were taken to the hospital for observation. The fire started in the basement around 1100 hrs, but the cause has not yet been determined.

REFINERY, TEXAS CITY, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated Nov 23, states: Texas City BP workers felt the refinery's top priority was making money and managers neglected safety in the months before a March explosion that killed 15 and injured more than 170, according to an anonymous worker survey released

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today. BP released the survey and an audit after attempting to keep the documents and thousands of others from public disclosure. More than 140,000 BP documents - a majority of them marked confidential - have been filed in an ongoing Galveston lawsuit filed by families of workers who were killed or injured in the March blast. BP said in a statement today that it wasn't "productive or helpful" to continue fighting to keep the documents confidential. It said the anonymous survey of more than 1,000 employees "does not report the 'objective' truth about safety performance or conditions" at the Texas City refinery. "We cannot change the past or repair the damage this incident has done," the company said in a statement referring to the March explosion. "But we are working to provide fair and reasonable compensation to people harmed by our mistakes without the need for lengthy court proceedings." The company said it voluntarily released the survey and audit, "even though we believe that our confidentiality designations were warranted by the law." Brent Coon, one of the plaintiffs' lawyers suing BP said at least 95% of the documents BP has filed in the case have been stamped confidential and are being kept from the public. "BP has legitimate and very important need - even legal obligation in cases - to keep certain internal information confidential," the company wrote in its statement. "We have met our responsibilities in discovery through the rapid and continuing production of information and documents to plaintiffs' counsel in this case." The audit released today was completed following the March blast by a 17-member team of internal and external experts. The experts found managers at the refinery failed to hold workers accountable for complying with processes and procedures; failed to complete recommended actions from audits, peer reviews and incident investigations; and reacted with complacency to safety risks, "driven by a lack of awareness of potential consequences." Among other issues, the audit also cited areas of the refinery which did not appear well-maintained, a failure by leaders to connect with the workers and inconsistent compliance with rules and procedures. BP said it has taken the necessary action to comply with "the vast majority" of the audit's recommendations.

SCHOOL, CREST, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated Nov 17, states: A fire in a classroom caused an estimated \$1 million damage at Rim of the World High School. The fire and subsequent efforts by Crest Forest Fire and San Bernardino County Fire Department units to extinguish the blaze eventually resulted in smoke and water damage to additional classrooms and the Counselling Centre. Last

Friday's (Nov 11) fire, apparently caused by a toaster oven left on overnight in room 207, was reported from a cell phone shortly after 0130 hrs and occurred in the older section of the sprawling high school and the room was not equipped with sprinklers. However, the sprinklers in adjacent classrooms and offices did activate and helped stopped the spread of the blaze. The fire, Crest Forest Fire Chief Bill Bagnell stated, basically didn't burn outside the classroom but flames did cause some damage around some windows and doors of adjoining classes and offices. The chief indicated about 35 fire personnel and San Bernardino County Sheriff's deputies were involved in suppression operations during the early morning blaze. Firefighters spent several hours mopping up the operation. Rim of the World School District Maintenance Supervisor Bill Gibson and his maintenance crews immediately began putting together a recovery team to start assessing the damage and making plans for reopening the 200 wing. Once a structural engineer determines the safety of the structure, repairs can begin. We anticipate reopening some of the rooms about Thanksgiving, principal Guy Bonanno stated Tuesday morning. We'll only do that once the engineer determines it's safe to reoccupy that wing. Classes have been moved to other locations, sporting events have gone on as scheduled and clean-up crews have been working to get some of the classes ready for the inspection." A hastily summoned meeting of the Rim of the World School District's Board of Trustees was called shortly after noon to authorize immediate clean up and solicit bids for the replacement and repairs of the classrooms. Because the fire was reported in the middle of the night, arson investigators were summoned to the campus, but after checking through the burned classroom they determined the probable cause was a toaster oven accidentally left on.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Pushed by fierce Santa Ana winds, a wildfire tripled to nearly 1,500 acres today and crept toward large, ridgetop homes where residents were told to stand by for possible evacuation. The blaze was reported around 0330 hrs in the School Canyon area between Ventura and Ojai, about 60 miles north-west of Los Angeles, fire officials said. At midmorning, a wall of flames as high as 30 feet snaked along hillsides and thick, black smoke hovered over homes. In just a few hours, the fire grew from 500 acres to 1,487 acres, said fire department spokeswoman Michele Faina. Two nearby schools were closed, and two evacuation centers were being set up. The cause of the fire was unknown. At least one structure had burned, apparently on an oil field, according to television

footage. Water-dropping helicopters were called in to assist hundreds of firefighters who were protecting neighbourhoods.

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated Nov 20, states: A nearly 4,000-acre wildfire burning in rough terrain above Ventura, California, was 90 percent contained tonight, despite the return of hot, gusty Santa Ana winds. The blaze began Friday (Nov 18) in the foothills above expensive homes, but none had burned and none was in immediate danger, fire officials said. Firefighters expected to have the fire fully contained by Tuesday (Nov 22) evening, Ventura County Fire Department spokesman Joe Luna said. "The winds were our main concern," Luna said. "But now that we improved our containment lines, the winds won't be much of a threat." A red flag warning for dangerous fire conditions in the area expired this evening, and the National Weather Service had no immediate plans to issue a new one. The cause of the fire remained under investigation.

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Around 1,300 firefighters in Ventura got unexpected help from cool ocean winds in curbing the fire that has so far smoked 3,700 acres of land in the area. The fire, which began in School Canyon on Friday (Nov 18), led to some evacuations and burnt power poles on California 33 as also 150 oil wells belonging to Aera Energy. But 60% of the fire, which had flames as high as 30 ft on Friday, is now under control. Luckily, no home was damaged by the fire and no casualties were reported. Ventura County Fire Department spokesman Joe Luna was hopeful that the fire will be completely extinguished by Tuesday. Earlier, a red flag warning was issued to warn against the strengthening of the fire due to dry winds. The National Weather Service has also warned that the speed of nightly winds might go beyond 50 miles per hour.

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Low winds and cooler temperatures allowed firefighters to nearly encircle a brush fire near Ventura late yesterday, with officials saying they hoped for full containment sometime today. The School Canyon blaze erupted early Friday (Nov 18) and charred 4,000 acres of canyons and hillsides, nearing homes at the edge of Ventura's historic downtown. No homes were lost, but two oil company sheds were destroyed north of the city. Yesterday, the fire smoldered in the rugged backcountry between Ventura and Ojai. By late evening the blaze was 90% contained, said Joe Luna, spokesman for the Ventura County Fire Department. The cause of the blaze was still unknown, and the cost of fighting the fire was pegged at nearly \$2 million so far. More than 1,300 firefighters from agencies around the state remained on the scene, although many were expected to be released today.

Aviation

**B-3072**

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: China Eastern Airlines is facing a potential lawsuit after the park, the site where one of its aircraft (Bombardier CRJ200 B-3072) crashed last year killing 55 people, has asked for a 105 million yuan, US\$13 million, compensation. The airline is being blamed for the environmental pollution that resulted from the disaster. Nanhai Park, site of the crash in Baotou, released a report on the aftermath of the crash on the first anniversary of the disaster yesterday. Based on a detailed study of the environmental pollution, it asked China Eastern for a compensation of 105 million yuan. The report, based on a three-month study by China Research Academy of Environmental Sciences, alleged that the crash left a large amount of petroleum residue and organic pollution in the lake water. The crash also destroyed the lake's ecological system, largely reducing the variety of the life forms in the lake, according to the report. Yu Wei, director of the administrative office of the park, said if the negotiation fails, it would sue China Eastern, which would make it the first environmental compensation lawsuit caused by an air crash in the world, said business insiders. According to Yu, the amount only covers the direct economic losses the air crash caused in the lake. The total losses are much higher, he said. Half of the harbour in the park was destroyed from the crash, Yu said. Most tourist boats and related facilities also burned down. In April, China Eastern paid 2 million yuan to Nanhai Park to help it resume its business, yet the amount, according to the park, is far too small. A sticking point in compensation negotiations is that the park wants the airlines to compensate the employees for the park's dismal business after the disaster. The park also insisted that the airlines should pay for the reconstruction of restaurants. China Eastern does not only face the park's looming lawsuit. Twenty-one members of the victims' family from the Baotou air crash have already filed a lawsuit in California, demanding compensation from the Canadian aircraft maker Bombardier and the plane's engine maker, GE for product defects that they say caused the accident.

C-FTRM

London, Nov 23 — Ryan Aeronautical Navion B (CF-TRM) had engine fail during initial climb after take-off while departing Runway 23, Brantford, Ontario, at 1200, EST, Nov 20. The aircraft was observed to enter an abrupt right turn and the nose

dropped before colliding with the ground. The aircraft was destroyed and the two occupants received fatal injuries. Transportation Safety Board of Canada investigators were deployed to the occurrence site.

CRASH INTO LAKE CHESDIN, VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft crashed into Lake Chesdin with one man on board. The single engine aircraft crashed into the Dinwiddie County side of Lake Chesdin yesterday. One pilot was on board the private aircraft and he survived the crash. The aircraft landed in 22 ft deep water. State Police say the investigation into the cause of the crash has been turned over to the FAA and the aircraft will be removed from the water today.

CRASH, CUNDINAMARCA STATE, COLOMBIA

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated Nov 20, states: A helicopter carrying a Colombian congressman and five others crashed today in a storm in the mountains north of Bogota, killing all aboard, a police official said. The helicopter apparently had turned back to the capital because of bad weather before plunging to the ground, killing all on board, said Cundinamarca state police spokesman William Rodriguez. "There was a storm and it was raining heavily," Rodriguez said. "There is nothing to indicate a terrorist attack." Conservative Party congressman Roberto Camacho, Cundinamarca state deputy Efen Bejermano and former Cundinamarca deputy governor Adolfo Leon were among those killed.

CRASH, MOSCOW AREA, RUSSIA

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated Nov 20, states: Eight people were killed late yesterday when a Cessna aircraft carrying them crashed near Moscow, news agencies reported today. The aircraft, which departed from Voronezh last night and was due to land at Moscow's Domodedovo airport, disappeared from radar screens ten minutes before the planned landing and crashed outside Moscow, according to the Itar-Tass news agency. All eight on board the aircraft died.

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated Nov 21, states: Investigators in Russia are trying to determine what caused a small Cessna aircraft to crash near Moscow, killing eight people. Itar-Tass reported that everyone on board died on board the aircraft, which was carrying two pilots and six passengers. Viktor Beltsov, a spokesman for the Ministry for Emergencies, said yesterday that the bodies had been recovered and that investigators were at the scene.

CRASH, MOUNT KARIOI, NEW ZEALAND

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Ground-based searchers have spent the morning

trying to get to areas in the Waikato as their search for businessman Michael Erceg whose helicopter went missing a fortnight ago. The official search was called off a week ago, but a private search has continued. The head of that search, Roger Smith, says a dozen searchers are making their way on foot to several areas where trees have been spotted with broken branches. It is in the area southwest of Hamilton, where a series of locator beacon signals have been detected. London, Nov 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Air accident investigators will today head to the site of the crashed helicopter of Auckland businessman Michael Erceg. The aircraft carrying the 50-year old and his Dutch associate Guus Klatte disappeared more than two weeks ago on a flight from Auckland to Queenstown. Extensive official and private searches had failed to find any trace of the helicopter or the two men, but the Eurocopter was found last night near Mt Karioi, just south of Raglan, and officials say it appears both men died on impact. Mr Erceg's family and friends believed the pair would be found alive and funded their own search after the official one was called off a week ago. Yesterday, they were optimistic that faint voices heard over a radio were coming from the downed helicopter and a large scale search was planned for today.

CRASH, OTSEGO COUNTY AREA, UNITED STATES

See N1153C.

CRASH, SNAKE RIVER CANYON, WYOMING, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated today, states: An experienced Jackson pilot died yesterday after his small plane apparently clipped a river gauging wire in the Snake River Canyon, flipping the plane and causing it to crash into the river. Fletcher F. Anderson, 57, died on impact when his Cessna 182R hit the thick cable, which is strung between trees low on the river to gauge river height. Anderson was flying the plane close to the water through the canyon on his way from Jackson to Afton. The plane went down near Wolf Creek, about 10 miles north of Alpine. Anderson was the sole occupant of the four-seat aircraft. The crash happened at 0855 hrs. An officer from the Wyoming Highway Patrol was on a routine traffic stop in the area when he heard a "strange sound" coming from the river canyon, according to Lt. Tom Kelly, division supervisor of the patrol. The sound of the plane flying through the canyon "caught his attention," Kelly said, and he "went over (to the canyon side of the highway) because it sounded unusual, and he found what he didn't want to find." Anderson's plane was about 200 yards downstream from the wire, upside-down in the river. The wing was 100 yards upstream from the main cabin. Rescuers said Anderson died on impact. Officials did not know why he was flying low in the canyon.

Anderson was a member of the Civil Air Patrol and was flying to Afton to pick up Doug Henry, also of the CAP and a member of Star Valley Search and Rescue, for a training flight. The Forest Service closed boat ramps in the area as the National Transportation Safety Board ordered the wreckage to remain in the river pending investigation. The plane was tethered to a tree in the canyon, and was blocking much of the river channel.

EMERGENCY LANDING, BUSH INTERCONTINENTAL AIRPORT, HOUSTON, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A Continental Airlines aircraft made an emergency landing this morning after one of its engines went out, officials said. Flight 1514 bound for Houston from Dallas had 57 people on board when the No. 2 engine failed in flight. The 737 made an emergency landing at Bush Intercontinental Airport shortly before 1030 hrs without incident. The aircraft is being checked out for the cause of the malfunction.

EMERGENCY LANDING, CASTLE ROCK AREA, COLORADO, UNITED STATES

See N7460P.

EMERGENCY LANDING, HILLSBORO, OREGON, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 21 — A corporate jet carrying executives from the Nike company experienced landing gear problems but made a safe emergency landing at a US airport. One wheel on the Gulfstream V jet failed to retract shortly after it took off from Hillsboro airport in Oregon. Four executives and three crew were on board the flight, which was bound for Toronto but spent hours circling above Hillsboro to burn off excess fuel. Emergency crews were on alert at Hillsboro and also at Portland International Airport.

EMERGENCY LANDING, SYDNEY AIRPORT, AUSTRALIA

London, Nov 18 — A fuel leak has forced a Qantas flight that was travelling from Brisbane to Los Angeles to turn back. The aircraft landed at Sydney Airport, after turning around near Tahiti. Passengers say they were about four-and-a-half hours into the flight when the captain announced that the 747-400 had to turn around. At least 380 passengers are now spending the night in Sydney hotels and will resume their trip just after midday today.

FLIGHTS DELAYED/DIVERTED DUE TO FOG, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Nov 22 — Thousands of people were left stranded after thick fog brought chaos to Liverpool John Lennon Airport (LJLA). After 1000, GMT, yesterday, all flights were cancelled from the base as the conditions made taking-off and landing almost impossible for aircraft.

Hotels near the airport were all full and many stranded passengers had to look for accommodation in the city centre. Air travellers coming from other airports were also left waiting as flights to the base were either diverted or cancelled, reports the Weekly News. Meanwhile, the backlog of passengers has resulted in hundreds more being affected today as airlines try to get people to their destinations. Manchester Airport also suffered as a result of fog, with around 130 flights here cancelled or diverted.

G-BDLS

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A man was killed when a two-seater light aircraft crash-landed on a road in Northants. The aircraft, carrying two men, came down on a road known as Corn Hill between Bugbrooke and Pattishall, near Northampton, this afternoon. The second man suffered serious injuries and was taken to the Walsgrave Hospital in Coventry. The aircraft is believed to have taken off from an aerodrome in Cranfield, Bedfordshire, earlier. A spokesperson for Northamptonshire Police said: "Two men were travelling in the plane at the time of the incident. "Sadly, as a result, one of the males has died and the other has been taken to hospital with serious injuries." Air Accident Investigation Branch officials were informed and were on their way to the crash site, the spokesperson added.

London, Nov 18 — The aircraft which crashed near Bugbrooke on Nov 17 was Grumman-American AA-1B, registration G-BDLS.

London, Nov 18 — A second man has died after a two-seater light aircraft crashed on a Northamptonshire road. The man, who has not yet been named, was a passenger in the aircraft which crashed at Corn Hill, between Bugbrooke and Pattishall on Thursday afternoon. He died in hospital on last night. The pilot, 35-year-old Paul Hanley from Northampton, died at the scene. The aircraft had taken off from an aerodrome in Cranfield, Beds. An investigation has begun into the cause.

GROUNDING OF ZIMBAWEAN NATIONAL AIRLINE

Harare, Nov 22 — Zimbabwe's state-owned national airline has grounded its entire fleet after running out of fuel as the southern African country's economy continues to crumble, company officials said today. Critics blame President Robert Mugabe's controversial policies and government mismanagement for a long-running crisis that has left a once vibrant economy struggling with shortages of food, fuel, foreign currency and a decaying infrastructure. A senior Air Zimbabwe official said today the national passenger carrier was forced to ground all seven of its planes yesterday, and to cancel all domestic and international flights "until further notice" due to fuel shortages. Air Zimbabwe officials say people were

caught unaware at Harare airport today, leaving passengers milling at check-in counters. But today the airline ran radio advertisements advising passengers to check for new developments. Air Zimbabwe's board of directors has responded to the grounding by suspending the airline's chief executive officer Tendai Mahachi and two other top managers, with transport officials saying Mugabe's government felt embarrassed by the halting of flights. "All planes have been grounded because there is no adequate foreign currency to buy fuel and flights have been suspended until further notice," said one Air Zimbabwe official. Air Zimbabwe's official spokesman David Mwenga, and board vice-chairman Jonathan Kadzura, who issued a statement to state media announcing the suspension of the airline's top managers, were both unavailable for immediate comment today. In his statement, Kadzura said the board of directors had been forced to suspend the three "pending investigations into the serious disruptions of the national airliner's operations and services to customers." He said the board was working to restore services but gave no indication of when Air Zimbabwe might resume flights. The airline has long-haul international flights to London, China, Singapore and Dubai. Critics say the airline is a victim of gross mismanagement and almost daily government interference in its operations, including by Mugabe who has sometimes commandeered planes for his business trips abroad. Air Zimbabwe had 15 airplanes when Mugabe assumed power at independence from Britain in 1980, but the fleet has dwindled to seven, including two small planes bought this year from China. — Reuters.

N1153C

London, Nov 17 — Rockwell Commander 500B N1153C crashed near Gaylord, Michigan, at 2328, Nov 16, while on a flight from Grand Rapids, MI, to Gaylord. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N130HS

London, Nov 22 — Eurocopter EC 130 N130HS and Eurocopter AS 350B (Ecureuil) N264BH were in collision Near Homestead, Florida, at 0141, Nov 21. The aircraft each had one person on board, one of whom was killed while the other suffered minor injuries.

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Two helicopters collided at the Homestead-Miami Speedway after the NASCAR championship yesterday, killing one pilot, authorities said. One helicopter was taking off from the speedway's helipad shortly before 2100 hrs while another was attempting to land, said Miami-Dade Fire-Rescue Battalion Chief Richard Martin. "They had either a mid-air collision or a near-midair collision. One of them did a

hard landing right on the helipad. No one on that craft was injured," Martin said. The other pilot died after being airlifted to a Miami hospital, a spokeswoman for the Miami-Dade Police Department said.

N26399

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated Nov 22, states: Emergency crews were up against heavy snow and wind working to reach a small plane that crashed around 1830 hrs, today. The plane went down on Partridge Hill in Williston, which is about two to three miles from Burlington International Airport where the pilot was apparently trying to land. The pilot was killed in the crash. His identity has not been released. Fire crews believe the plane was trying to land at Burlington Airport. But they don't know where it was coming from. Airport officials say it was on its two mile final approach when they lost contact. Emergency vehicles surrounded Partridge Hill to keep people away from the plane while they waited for crews from the FAA and the Medical Examiner's office. There was no early indications as to the cause of the crash and no official word on the type of plane, but airport officials say it was a Piper Aztec a twin-engine, four-seater.

London, Nov 23 — Piper PA-23-250 (Aztec) N26399 crashed near Williston, Vermont, at 2343, Nov 22, while on a flight to Burlington, VT. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N264BH

See N130HS.

N400PD

London, Nov 22 — Schweizer 269C N400PD crashed near Manhattan, Kansas, at 2024, Nov 18. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were not injured.

N546BC

London, Nov 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A small plane with four people aboard crashed in the ocean off San Clemente yesterday, but search-and-rescue teams were unable to locate any survivors, authorities reported. Orange County sheriff's deputies said they received reports about 1400 hrs, from boaters that a single-engine Cessna 210 had crashed about three miles from shore. Lt. Ted Boyne said sheriff's divers reached the scene within 10 minutes of the mayday calls. The U.S. Coast Guard also received reports about the plane crash from boats in the area. Divers searched the chilly waters and used sonar to try to find the wreckage and any bodies. The depth in the area is about 200 feet. "There's nothing on the surface except a strong smell of oil and some debris," Boyne said. Search teams remained at the crash site yesterday night and located the main wreckage with sonar. Sheriff's Lt. Erin Giudice said the search would resume today. Coast Guard personnel are assisting. Authorities believe that four

people were aboard the aircraft, which apparently was headed from Brown Field in San Diego to John Wayne Airport in Santa Ana. The identities of the four people were not immediately released. Bodies had not been recovered. Giudice said there was a possibility that the airplane could be raised tomorrow.

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated Nov 21, states: A private salvage company will attempt tomorrow to retrieve the Cessna 210 that was believed to be carrying off-road racer Jason Baldwin and three other people when it crashed into the ocean over the weekend (Nov 19-20). The attempt to raise the aircraft will begin at daybreak, and if the bodies are located the county coroner's office will become involved, said Jim Amormino, a spokesman for the Orange County Sheriff's Department. The Cessna 210 crashed Saturday afternoon about three miles west of Dana Point, Amormino said. A National Transportation Safety Board investigator identified the pilot as Daniel M. Neuman of Foothill Ranch. The others were identified by authorities and the Baldwin family as Jeffrey TenEyck and Rick Olausen, both longtime friends of Baldwin. Authorities could not confirm the identities of the victims until their bodies were recovered and identified, Amormino said. The aircraft is submerged in 200 feet of water. A sheriff's underwater search and recovery team located the nearly intact aircraft by sonar after it went down, said Sgt. Karl Von Voight of the Orange County sheriff's Harbor Patrol. The aircraft took off in Mexico, stopped in San Diego County for customs purposes and apparently was headed to John Wayne Airport when the crash occurred, said Lt. Tony Migliorini of the U.S. Coast Guard. There was no radio communication from the aircraft before the crash, said Nicole Charnon, an air safety investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board. Radar showed the aircraft cruising at 3,500 feet then making "a pretty rapid descent," she said. The cause of the crash was under investigation.

London, Nov 22 — Cessna T210N (Centurion II) N546BC crashed into the sea off Dana Point, California, at 2203, Nov 19, while on a flight from San Diego, CA, to Santa Ana, CA. The aircraft was destroyed. The four persons on board were killed.

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated Nov 22, states: Divers recovered four bodies today from a small plane that crashed into the Pacific Ocean last weekend and sank in about 200 feet of water. The plane was believed to be carrying off-road racer Jason Baldwin and three other people when it went down. Divers brought the plane up, and the bodies were taken to the coroner's office for positive identification, said Lt. Hans Strand. Investigators plan to study the wreckage for clues about what caused the crash. A National Transportation

Safety Board investigator previously said the pilot of the aircraft was listed as Daniel M. Neuman of Foothill Ranch. Others believed by authorities and the Baldwin family to be on board were Jeffrey TenEyck and Rick Olausen, both longtime friends of Baldwin. The plane left Saturday (Nov 19) from San Felipe, Mexico, and stopped at San Diego's Brown Field to clear customs before taking off for John Wayne Airport in Orange County, authorities said. It was cruising along the coast at about 3,500 feet when there was a rapid descent, said Nicole Charnon, an NTSB investigator.

N666DE

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A Lake Worth couple flying to Virginia for Thanksgiving died yesterday when their Piper PA-32-300 (Cherokee Six) crashed in a heavily wooded area of North Brevard County, Florida. On its way down, the aircraft hit an oak tree east of Interstate 95, leaving tangled steel in its branches, and landed upside down about a mile north of the State Road 46 exit in Mims. The engine was ripped from the aircraft on impact and came to rest about 30 yards from the fuselage and strewn parts. Officials identified the couple as 69-year-old Fred Rosenbaum and his 63-year-old wife, Linda, of Lake Worth. They were en route to Virginia for the holiday, the Brevard County Sheriff's Office said in a written statement. "There was some kind of engine malfunction. They radioed in the air that they were in distress," said Cmdr Jimmy Donn of the sheriff's office. Air controllers at Daytona Regional Airport notified the sheriff's office that the aircraft was in trouble at about 1045 hrs, officials said in a written statement. The sheriff's helicopter crew found the bodies about 1140 hrs, officials said. "They died at the scene," Donn said. The aircraft took off from Palm Beach Gardens, according to the sheriff's office. The pilot radioed that engine fluids sprayed onto the windshield, blocking his view. He said he was trying to make it to Arthur Dunn Air Park in Titusville to land, according to the sheriff's office. Airport radar in Daytona Beach tracked the aircraft near I-95 in the Scottsmoor area about 1100 hrs, and a caller reported seeing an aircraft circling around Grant Line Road near US 1 in Titusville before the aircraft went down. According to the Federal Aviation Administration Website, the aircraft, tail number N666DE, is registered to Legal Air LLC, based in Palm Beach Gardens. National Transportation Safety Board investigators from Miami are to determine the cause of yesterday's accident.

N70MT

London, Nov 23 — American Champion 8-KCAB N70MT crashed near Colorado Springs, Colorado, at 1530, Nov 21, while on a local flight from Colorado Springs. The one person on board was killed.

N7460P

London, Nov 17 — Piper PA-24-250 (Comanche) N7460P lost power and landed on Interstate 25, south of Denver, Colorado, at 1600, Nov 16. The aircraft sustained no damage. The one person on board was not injured.

N821KF

London, Nov 17 — Cessna 177B (Cardinal) N821KF crashed into the Neuse River near New Bern, North Carolina, at 1745, Nov 16. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was seriously injured.

N86TR

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated Nov 17, states: A small aircraft landed safely on its belly after circling an Atlanta airfield for nearly half an hour with landing gear that wouldn't deploy. The King Air twin propeller skidded to a stop at the Fulton County Airport just after noon yesterday, and the three people on board walked safely from the aircraft. Firefighters sprayed the aircraft with foam, even though no sparks or smoke appeared during the landing. The aircraft, registered to an Atlanta company, was on a flight from Savannah, Ga. The pilot tried to land the aircraft once earlier by "bumping" the runway to try to dislodge the landing gear. He returned to the sky and continued circling to burn fuel before landing the aircraft on its belly.

London, Nov 17 — A small aircraft (N86TR, Beech B100) that was having landing gear trouble landed safely this morning at an airport near Atlanta. Television pictures showed the aircraft making a belly-landing with its gear retracted, and three people emerging from the aircraft. The Federal Aviation Administration said it had some sort of landing gear problem. The aircraft circled the Charlie Brown Airport in Fulton County and made a touch-and-go landing before circling again and landing with the gear up. FAA spokeswoman Laura Brown said the Beechcraft King Air left Savannah this morning.

London, Nov 18 — Beechcraft King Air B100 N86TR made a gear-up landing at Fulton County Airport, Atlanta, Georgia, at 1710, Nov 17. The aircraft sustained minor damage. The three persons on board were not injured.

N9928H

London, Nov 22 — Cessna 182R (Skylane) N9928H crashed near Alpine, Wyoming, at 1543, Nov 18, while on a flight from Jackson, WY, to Afton, WY. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

P4-OIN

London, Nov 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A Russian plane with eight people on board crashed overnight killing all passengers and crew, Russian media reported today. The Cessna light aircraft came down just outside Moscow and burst into flames when it hit the ground, news agencies reported. Officials said heavy

snow and the pilots violating the flight regulations caused the crash. RIA Novosti news agency reported that among the passengers was Igor Olshansky, an assistant and son to a deputy in the State Duma, lower house of parliament. There were also two women on board. The passengers were reportedly returning to Moscow after spending the day hunting in Voronezh, Gazeta.ru added.

London, Nov 21 — Cessna 208B (Grand Caravan I) P4-OIN, operator Ivolga-Avia, departed Voronezh at 2117, Nov 19, on a flight to Domodedovo Airport, where it was supposed to land at 2240 hrs, however, the aircraft crashed 10 km from Stupino around 2230 hrs. There were two crew and six passengers on board who were all killed.

V3-HCT

London, Nov 22 — Britten-Norman BN-2A-21 Islander, operated by Blancaneaux Lodge departed at 1003, Nov 19 for a 35-minute flight from Belize City to the airstrip of the Blancaneaux resort. Last radio contact with the pilot was at 1016 hrs when he reported near La Democracia while climbing to 2,500 feet. As the aircraft descended for the Privacion Airstrip poor visibility conditions were encountered. On a 240-degree heading the airplane flew into a wooded hillside, 50 feet from the top, at an altitude of about 1800 feet.

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Civil aviation authorities in Belize said heavy winds and rains from tropical storm "Gamma" were a factor in the crash of Britten-Norman BN-2A-21 Islander V3-HCT. The crash on Friday (Nov 18) killed the Belizean pilot, Rene Ram, and two passengers on board the private aircraft belonging to Blancaneaux Lodge, an exclusive jungle resort owned by the filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola. The Americans were identified as Douglas Scratchley Jr and his wife Cristy Dy Scratchley of St. Petersburg, Fla, according to the man's family and US officials in Belize. Civil aviation authorities in Belize said heavy winds and rains from "Gamma" were a factor in the crash, which saw the aircraft fall into a ravine near another exclusive ranch.

Product Recalls

**BABY MILK, EUROPE**

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Italian judicial authorities ordered the recall of 30 million litres of baby milk produced by Swiss food giant Nestle after ruling the product unfit for human consumption. Members of a special security unit were deployed throughout the country with orders to seize the milk, the Ansa news agency

reported today. Almost all the company's baby milk on the Italian market was targeted by the order as "the milk is contaminated by a substance in the packaging," Ansa said quoting Italian judicial authorities. A statement by Nestle's Italian subsidiary, dated November 21, said the company had decided on the "immediate recall of all the products indicated by the authorities" containing traces of a product, ITX, used in the manufacturing of packaging.

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated Nov 22, states: Nestle SA, the world's biggest food company, said today it had recalled hundreds of thousands of gallons of baby milk from France, Portugal, Spain and Italy after traces of ink from the packaging were found in the product. Nestle spokesman Francois-Xavier Perroud said the substance posed no health risk and disputed an Italian official's claims that it appeared to be toxic. Routine tests in Italy in the autumn had revealed the presence of isopropylthioxanthone in its Latte Mio and Nidina 1 and 2 milk brands, he said. Perroud said most of the milk, up to 530,000 gallons, was recalled in Italy, and "much smaller" amounts in France, Spain and Portugal. "We are sad that the packaging material that we bought from a reliable source did not live up to the standards that we expect," Perroud said. "We are replacing every single contaminated product that you can lay your hands on." Earlier today, authorities in Italy said they ordered the confiscation of about eight million gallons of the baby milk. Cristina Attina, an official with forest rangers in Rome whose duties include overseeing food safety, said a batch of milk due to expire in September, 2006, had been contaminated by a chemical that leaked from the packaging. It said the substance appeared to be toxic. Nestle Italy said it had withdrawn the milk in question from the Italian market and that new milk using alternative packaging had since been distributed. Nestle's office in Spain, where Perroud said the milk was packaged, said recalls there were precautionary and that the substance was not dangerous. "In the quantities that this chemical is found in the food, it is not a health risk and there is a broad scientific consensus about that," Perroud said. "It is simply a chemical and chemicals have no business in food."

BABY STOLLERS, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 17 — A Colorado company is expanding its recall of Mountain Buggy jogging strollers. Sycamore Kids Inc., is adding about 3,200 Mountain Buggy Urban Single, Urban Double and Breeze Strollers to an earlier recall issued in July. The company says the handlebar can crack or break, causing the handlebar to come off while in use. Sycamore Kids has received 22 reports of the handlebar either cracking or breaking

when the stroller was pulled up or taken down stairs. This resulted in two reports of bruises and scrapes. The recalled strollers have a metal frame and a cloth seat with a sun canopy. The strollers were sold in a variety of colors including, navy, red, black, silver and orange. The recalled Mountain Buggy Urban Single strollers have item number U1204-002, and serial numbers between 000000 and 012893. The recalled Mountain Buggy Urban Double strollers have item number U2204-002, and serial numbers between 000000 and 006957. The recalled Mountain Buggy Breeze strollers have item number B1204-002, and serial numbers between 000000 and 000191. The serial number and model number are on the back of the metal plate. All recalled buggies have a grey handlebar button. The recalled strollers were sold at furniture retailers and baby product stores and Web retailers nationwide from December 2004 through July for between \$400 and \$640.

CHERY MOTOR VEHICLES, CHINA

London, Nov 22 — Chinese auto maker Chery has filed a report to the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine for a recall of its Oriental Son models which were produced between July 14, 2003 and May 6, 2005. This is the first such action by a Chinese sedan brand in China. Qin Lihong, vice general manager of Chery's marketing company, said in an interview on Nov. 20 that Chery has made full preparation and guarantees sufficient supply of components and parts for this move which will begin as of Nov. 26. The national quality watchdog issued its annual report on the implementation of regulations on recall of defected automobiles recently. Since the regulations were promulgated in Mar. Last year, 29 such actions have had been initiated by 21 Chinese and foreign auto makers by Sep this year, involving 33 models and 339,696 units recalled.

FORD MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Safety problems related to fuel tanks on three models are prompting Ford Motor Co. to recall some of its popular new vehicles. The models — the Ford Freestyle crossover and Ford Five Hundred and Mercury Montego sedans — are among the most important of Ford's new product lineup. Ford's total sales in October fell 26%, marked by a big decline in trucks, but sales of the Freestyle, Five Hundred and Montego all rose last month. There are about 123,206 of these 2005-model vehicles affected by the recall, according to announcements on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Web site. Straps used to hold the vehicles' fuel tanks could break, according to Ford. Recall

notices will go out Dec 1, with the straps to be replaced by Ford dealers. Ford spokeswoman Kristen Kinley said that the company discovered problems with the metal straps during high-mileage testing. No reports of problems have been reported by customers, she said.

London, Nov 16 — Ford, the Dearborn, Mich.-based automaker is also recalling 98,836 of its 2005 Ford Crown Victoria, Lincoln Town Car and Mercury Grand Marquis sedans because of fire risk associated with battery cables. Vehicle owners should have a dealer inspect the cables, according to NHTSA, and a recall will begin on Nov 18.

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated Nov 16, states: Ford is recalling more than 225,000 mid and full-size cars to rectify problems that could cause the vehicles to catch fire. Affected by the recall notice are 127,492 Ford Five Hundred and Mercury Montego sedans from the 2005 model year. According to Ford, those models are vulnerable to having the straps that hold the fuel tank give way, allowing the tank to come in contact with the driveshaft or exhaust system. Those recall notices will go out on Dec 1. Ford emphasized that the recalls are purely precautionary, and that no injuries or accidents have been caused by the defects.

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated Nov 16, states: A problem potentially affects 98,444 new Crown Victoria, Mercury Grand Marquis and Lincoln Town Car sedans. Those vehicles are being recalled because a battery cable could rub against an adjacent bolt, sending an electrical charge into vehicle's frame and potentially causing a fire. Owners of the affected vehicles will start receiving recall notices on Nov 18. Ford emphasized that the recalls are purely precautionary, and that no injuries or accidents have been caused by the defects.

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated Nov 17, states: Ford is issuing a recall involving a couple hundred thousand vehicles. The latest recall covers about 235,000 pickups, vans and sport utility vehicles in the 2006 model year because of potential problems with the windshield wiper motor. The models include the E-150, E-250, E-350 and E-450 vans, the Escape, Expedition and Explorer SUVs, F-150 and Ranger pickups and Taurus sedan. It also includes the Lincoln Navigator SUV and Lincoln Mark LT pickup and Mercury Mountaineer and Mariner SUV. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is concerned that if the wiper motor breaks during bad weather, it could cause a crash.

HARLEY DAVIDSON MOTORCYCLES, WORLDWIDE

London, Nov 23 — Harley-Davidson Motor Company has issued a voluntary safety recall on 2006 model year Dyna series motorcycles built

between Jun 9 and Oct 19, 2005. Approximately 13,400 motorcycles are included in the recall. The transmissions in the affected motorcycles have a defect which under certain circumstances may allow them to go into a false neutral position even though the neutral indicator light is illuminated. As part of its Initial Care Program for 2006 Dyna motorcycles, the Company will provide owners with free pick-up and delivery, if desired. This service will commence and recall kits will be available at dealerships beginning the week of December 12, 2005. The Company estimates that the costs associated with this voluntary recall will be less than \$5.0 million and it will reserve these costs in the fourth quarter of this year.

OSCILLATING ELECTRIC TOWER FANS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Nov 22 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Haier America Trading LLC, of New York, N.Y., today announced a voluntary recall of about 150,000 oscillating electric tower fans, manufactured by Metropolitan Electrical Appliance Co. Ltd., of Hong Kong. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. Internal electrical arcing in the fan can cause a fire hazard. Haier has received eight reports of fires or flames associated with this electric fan, including minor property damage and one report of minor burns. This recall involves a Haier oscillating electric tower fan, model FTM140GG. The gray tower fan has three speed settings and a 120-minute shut-off timer. "Haier" is printed on a silver label near the top of the front of the tower. The model number is printed on the lower back of the fan. No other Haier fans are included in this recall. Sold at discount department stores nationwide from February 2004 through November 2005 for between \$20 and \$30. Manufactured in China. Consumers should immediately stop using the tower fan and call Haier for instructions on how to obtain a \$30 coupon redeemable for the purchase from Haier of any available product. Consumers who previously received a \$10 mail-in rebate will get a \$20 coupon. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

SCANIA TRACTORS, SOUTH KOREA

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Scania Korea Ltd, the local unit of Swedish truckmaker Scania, will recall more than 300 tractors for defective electric wire covers in their power generators, the Ministry of Construction and Transportation said today. A total of 342 tractors will be recalled, the ministry said, adding such uncovered electric wires could cause an electric discharge. The tractors were sold from Jan 1, 2004 to Jun 30, 2005.

SUZUKI/MAZDA/NISSAN MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

Tokyo, Nov 24 — Japanese auto makers Suzuki Motor Corp., Mazda Motor Corp. and Nissan Motor Co. will recall a combined 359,589 minivehicles in Japan built by Suzuki to fix faulty transmissions, a recall report issued to the government showed today. The affected cars are Suzuki Alto, Mazda Carol, Nissan Moco and other minicars, all built by Japan's top minivehicle maker — under an original equipment manufacturer deal for the Mazda and Nissan models — between November 2000 and June 2002. There was no report of any accident resulting from the defect, which in the worst case scenario could cause the bearing in one of the gear shafts to break, resulting in

the sudden deceleration of the vehicle. A Suzuki spokesman said the company does not disclose estimated recall costs. The 660cc vehicles are only sold in Japan. — Reuters.



FRANCE

London, Nov 21 — Due to maintenance, piers B & C (CPP/DPP) at Lavera Terminal will be unavailable from 0730, Nov 22 until 1830, Nov 25.

ITALY

Genoa, Nov 21 — There are currently no delays in berthing at Genoa, Savona or La Spezia. — Lloyd's Agents.

MALAYSIA

London, Nov 21 — Due to bad weather, all operations at TCOT Kerteh Port SALM No.1 & SALM No.2 were suspended from 1630, yesterday until further notice.

NEW CALEDONIA

See under "Labour Disputes."

NIGERIA

See "Nigeria" under "Piracy".

Port Delays

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbott Point	21-Nov-2005	Coal: 10 vessels due by 17/12; no delays expected.
Brisbane	21-Nov-2005	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 2 vessels due by 18/12; no delays expected.
Dalrymple Bay	21-Nov-2005	Coal: 3 vessels berthed and loading; 24 vessels due by 1/12; up to 4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Dampier	21-Nov-2005	Iron ore: Parker Point A berth: 3 vessels waiting to load; 8 vessels due by 3/12; 1-6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; a 54 hour maintenance shutdown is planned to start 17/11; Parker Point B berth: 1 vessel waiting to load; 2 vessels due by 25/11; no delays expected; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting to load; 7 vessels due by 29/11; up to 5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Gladstone	21-Nov-2005	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 2 vessels berthed and loading; 36 vessels due by 12/1; up to 1 day's berthing delay expected subject to port congestion and cargo availability; plant shutdown for repairs and maintenance on shiploader 2 from 28/11 to 8/12; Barney Point: 7 vessels due by 27/12; no delays expected.
Hay Point	21-Nov-2005	Coal: 2 vessels berthed and loading; 10 vessels due by 30/11; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Newcastle	21-Nov-2005	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting at berth; 54 vessels due by 13/12; 1-6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 10 vessels off port awaiting berths; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels berthed and loading; 20 vessels due by 13/12; 6-9 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal, coal product problems with some shippers berthed congestion and cargo receipt; 5 vessels off port awaiting berths.
Port Hedland	21-Nov-2005	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 7 vessels due by 30/11; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 5 vessels due by 28/11; 1-3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 2 vessels due by 25/11; no delays expected; "D" berth: 1 vessel waiting at anchor; 5 vessels due by 30/11; up to 4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; Cockatoo Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading; no delays expected.
Port Kembla	21-Nov-2005	Coal: 12 vessels due by 20/12; up to 1 day's delay expected.
Port Latta	21-Nov-2005	Iron ore: 2 vessels due by 25/11; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Walcott	21-Nov-2005	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 9 vessels waiting to load; 9 vessels due by 10/12; up to 4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Whyalla	21-Nov-2005	Iron ore: 7 vessels due by 14/12; no delays expected; wharf maintenance is taking place on fender piles at ore jetty berth from 10-30/11 inclusive.

Port Conditions

Bulgaria

Bourgas	21-Nov-2005	Six vessels in port operating, of which 2 loading (1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 coils), 4 discharging (1 metals, 1 salt, 1 zinc concentrate, 1 coals); 1 vessel detained in roads; 15 vessels due, of which 7 to load (1 wheat, 2 gasoil, 2 containers, 1 sunflower seeds, 1 copper concentrate), 8 to discharge (2 containers, 1 gasoil, 1 pig-iron, 1 iron ore, 1 chemicals, 1 billets, 1 zinc concentrate).
Varna	21-Nov-2005	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 14-20 November: Thirty-six vessels in port operating of which 25 loading (1 scrap, 1 silica sand, 1 packed hardboard, 1 cement/equipment in packing cases/pipes, 1 silica sand/other, 3 bulk wheat, 1 bulk wheat/empty bags, 1 bulk maize, 1 liquid urea, 1 bulk sulphuric acid, 9 soda, 1 soda/other, 1 bulk clinker, 1 bulk cement, 1 sunflower seed meal), 6 discharging (1 bulk feldspar, 1 equipment in packing cases/pipes, 2 bulk coal, 2 bulk copper concentrate), 5 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in roads.

Brazil

Paranagua	22-Nov-2005	Twelve vessels berthed of which 2 fertiliser dischargers, 1 reefer loader, 3 sugar loaders, 2 pellets loaders, 4 other loaders/dischargers; 8 vessels waiting in roads, of which 5 to load (1 sugar, 1 pellets, 3 other vessels), 3 to discharge (2 full containers, 1 sugar); 40 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio de Janeiro	22-Nov-2005	Porto do Rio: 2 steel products loaders, 1 paper coils discharger; Tecon: 1 container loader/discharger; Porto de Sepetiba: 1 iron ore loader, 1 coal discharger, 5 other loaders/dischargers; 24 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio Grande	22-Nov-2005	Two soya meal loaders berthed; 3 vessels waiting in roads; 37 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Sao Sebastiao	22-Nov-2005	Nineteen vessels berthed of which 1 bulk salt discharger, 4 sugar loaders, 1 bulk wheat discharger, 2 bulk soya loaders, 3 fertiliser dischargers, 3 chemical products loaders, 1 Ro/Ro, 1 full container loader, 1 citrus juice loader, 2 other loaders; 12 vessels waiting in roads; 30 vessels due over the next 7 days; Private terminals: Terminal 37: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Tecondi: 1 full container loader/discharger; Termares: no vessels; Rodrimar: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Cosipa: 4 steel products loaders, 1 bulk coal discharger; Ultrafertil: 1 fertiliser discharger; Cargill: 1 bulk sugar loader, 1 bulk pellets loader; Santos Brasil: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Cutrale: 1 bulk pellets loader; Dow: 1 chemical products loader/discharger.
Vitoria	22-Nov-2005	Four vessels berthed of which 1 steel products loader, 1 cellulose loader, 1 pig iron loader, 1 pipes discharger; Terminal Vila Velha: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Tubarao: 1 fertiliser discharger, 3 iron ore loaders; Praia Mole: 3 steel products loaders, 1 coal discharger; Portocel: 1 cellulose loader; Ubu: 1 iron ore loader; 26 vessels due over the next 7 days.

Chile

Antofagasta	22-Nov-2005	Five vessels berthed, 2 berths vacant; 17 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers and general cargo.
Arica	22-Nov-2005	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 18 vessels due this week.
Iquique	22-Nov-2005	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 16 vessels due this week.
Lirquen	22-Nov-2005	Three vessels at terminal, 3 berths vacant; 14 vessels due this week.
Puerto Montt	22-Nov-2005	Two vessels at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 7 vessels due this week.
Punta Arenas	22-Nov-2005	Three vessels at terminal, 4 berths vacant; 13 vessels due this week.
San Antonio	22-Nov-2005	Five vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 22 vessels due this week.
San Vicente	22-Nov-2005	Three vessels berthed, 2 berth vacant; 19 vessels due during the week; Steel pier: no vessels at terminal, 2 berths vacant; 1 vessel due this week; Coronel pier: 2 vessels at terminal, 2 berths vacant; 5 vessels due this week; Oil terminal: 1 tanker at terminal, 1 berth vacant; no tankers due this week.
Valparaiso	22-Nov-2005	Three vessels berthed, 5 berths vacant; 4 vessels anchored; 19 vessels due this week.

Cyprus

Larnaca	22-Nov-2005	One conventional vessel discharging at berth; 1 conventional vessel due 23/11; no delays expected.
Limassol	22-Nov-2005	Five container vessels loading/discharging at berth, 1 conventional vessel discharging at berth; 5 vessels due 23/11, of which 4 containers, 1 conventional vessel; no delays expected.

Egypt

Adabiya	21-Nov-2005	Seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 1 containers.
Alexandria	21-Nov-2005	Thirty vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 19 general cargo, 6 bulk carriers, 2 tankers, 2 container vessels, 1 cruise vessel; 19 vessels dry-docked; 18 vessels at inner anchorage, 30 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	21-Nov-2005	Fifteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 11 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 2 containers; 4 vessels at outer anchorage, none at inner anchorage.
Dekhaila	21-Nov-2005	Twelve vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 7 bulk carriers, 3 container vessels; 1 vessel at outer anchorage.

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Port Conditions

Port Said	21-Nov-2005	Four vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 1 general cargo, 3 containers.
Suez	21-Nov-2005	Eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 3 reefers, 3 passenger vessels; 4 tugs, 1 vessel dry-docked.
Suez Canal	21-Nov-2005	Twenty-one vessels transiting Northbound, 25 Southbound.
Estonia		
Tallinn	21-Nov-2005	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 2 vessels loading at berth (1 fertiliser, 1 sawn timber), 1 food products vessel discharging at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 3 vessels due, with 10 days berthing delay expected.
India		
Kolkata	21-Nov-2005	6 vessels operating at berth of which 3 loading (General Cargo, Iron Ore, Containers), 3 vessels discharging (Pulses, Edible Oil, Containers); 1 vessel working at mid stream waiting to discharging Crude; 1 vessel awaiting berth to discharge; 4 vessels under repairs; 1 vessel waiting to sail; 5 vessels due (Containers-2, Timber Logs, Edible Oil, Petroleum Coke).
Haldia	21-Nov-2005	17 vessels operating at berth of which 6 loading (Iron ore-3, Thermal Coal, Benzene, POL), 10 vessels discharging (Palm, Crude, Coke-3, Fertilizer-2, Net Coke, Steel, Rock Phosphate); 1 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 10 vessels awaiting berth (4 to discharge, 4 to load, 2 to load and discharge); 6 vessels waiting at anchorage (5 to discharge, 1 to load); 4 vessels due (Crude, POL, Iron ore, Containers).
Paradip	21-Nov-2005	11 vessels operating at berth of which 4 loading (Iron ore-2, Chrome Concentrate, Thermal Coal), 7 vessels discharging (Coking.Coal, N.C.Coal-2, A.Coal, Met Coke, Rock Phosphate, Lime Stone); 1 vessel awaiting berth to load; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load.
Visakhapatnam	21-Nov-2005	12 vessels operating at berth of which 4 loading (Iron ore-3, Soya Bean), 8 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-2, Steam Coal-2, LPG, MOP, Alumina, Timber Logs); 1 vessel awaiting berth to discharge; 11 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (5 to discharge, 6 to load); 1 vessel under repair (MV Chin Shwe Haw at Hsy Jetty which was collided with MV Uttar Kasi); 31 vessels due (Iron Ore-6, Aumina, Illeminate Sand, Thermal Coal, Food Grains-3, B.F.Slag, Feld Spar, POL, MOP-3, Rock Phosphate, Urea, Sulphur, Coking Coal-5, DBM Bags, Antracite Coal, Containers, Peas, POL Products).
Chennai	21-Nov-2005	10 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading (HSD, Iron ore), 8 vessels discharging (Wood Pulp/Project, Urea-2, Soda Ash/S.Pipe, Met Coke, Petroleum Oil, S.Coal, Crude Oil); 3 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 2 to load); 4 vessels due (S.Coil/Granite Blocks, General Cargo, Containers-2).
Tuticorin	21-Nov-2005	9 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading Cement, 7 vessels discharging (Thermal Coal-2, LPG, Urea, Sulphur, Project Cargo, Logs); 1 vessel awaiting berth to discharge; 3 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load, 1 to load and discharge); 1 vessel at the anchorage after completion of cement loading operations for want of MMD clearance.
Cochin	21-Nov-2005	3 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Gas Cylinders, 2 vessels discharging (Crude, Rock Phosphate); 2 vessels (*) awaiting berth to discharge.
New Mangalore	21-Nov-2005	7 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (POL Product, Iron ore Fines-2), 4 vessels discharging (Bentonite, Fertiliser, Crude Palm Oil, LPG); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 18 vessels due (Granite Stone-3, Machinery, Iron ore(P)-2, Iron ore (F), Urea, POL Product-4, Containers, POL Crude-2, LPG, Soya Bean Oil, Iron ore (C)).
Mormugao	21-Nov-2005	1 vessels operating at berth and discharging Coal; 4 vessels working at midstream to load Iron Ore; 5 vessels under repairs/dry dock; 8 vessels due (Containers, Scrap, MOP, Met Coke, Iron ore-4).
Mumbai	21-Nov-2005	18 vessels operating at berth of which 9 loading (General Cargo-7, POL-2), 6 vessels discharging (General Cargo-3, POL-3), 3 vessels loading and discharging (Containers, General Cargo-2); 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load; 7 vessels awaiting order to discharge, 3 vessels waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 1 to load and discharge); 10 vessels under repairs/dry docked, 6 vessels under arrest, 1 vessel under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 33 vessels due (Containers-11, fertilizer(RM)-2, General Cargo-20).
J.N.P.T.	21-Nov-2005	8 vessels operating at berth of which 1 loading RKO, 2 vessels discharging (Lubricant Oil, SKO), 5 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels awaiting berth to load and discharge; 2 Containers vessel due.
Kandla	21-Nov-2005	14 vessels operating at berth of which 7 discharging (DAP, Timber Logs-3, SB.Oil, Chemical-2), 5 vessels loading (Agriculture Product-3, Salt, BL/TP Cargo), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel working at mid stream to discharge Timber Logs; 11 vessels awaiting berth (7 to discharge, 4 to load); 4 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to discharge; 1 vessel under repair/dry docked; 1 vessel under arrest; 1 vessel under dredging purpose.
Ennore	21-Nov-2005	1 vessel operating at berth and discharging Thermal Coal; 1 Thermal Coal (MV Rani Padmini) vessels due.

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

Port Conditions

Mozambique

Maputo	22-Nov-2005	Eight vessels in port operating, of which 2 loading bulk coal, 2 discharging (1 bagged rice, 1 bulk maize), 1 discharging/loading containers, 1 under repairs, 1 tug, 1 other vessel; no vessels due to berth 22/11; 18 vessels due by 30/12 of which 7 to load (2 aluminium ingots, 2 bulk coal, 1 gaz condensate, 1 stakes, 1 general cargo), 7 to discharge (1 bagged rice, 2 bulk wheat, 1 frozen fish, 2 bulk alumina, 1 containers), 4 to discharge/load (1 containers/steel plates, 3 containers).
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Poland

Gdansk	21-Nov-2005	Six vessels loading at berth (3 coal, 1 general cargo, 1 bulker, 1 tanker), 2 vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 1 grain); 8 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 2 general cargo vessels waiting in roads; 18 vessels due.
Gdynia	21-Nov-2005	Five vessels loading at berth (2 general cargo, 3 grain), 3 vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 1 grain, 1 coal); 18 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 45 vessels due.

Russia

Novorossiysk	21-Nov-2005	Seventeen vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 1 WRIC/coils/steel billets/equipment, 1 scrap, 3 steel billets, 1 equipment/coils/pipes, 4 wheat, 1 copper, 1 steel billets/coils/steel sheets/tin plate, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate/bulk urea, 1 coils, 1 aluminium, 2 diesel oil; 11 vessels waiting in roads of which 10 to load (1 copper, 1 slabs, 3 wheat, 1 coils, 2 steel billets, 1 bulk NPK, 1 pig-iron), 1 to discharge bulk sugar; 71 vessels due, of which 69 to load (2 DRI, 9 bulk ammonium nitrate, 2 copper, 6 steel billets, 2 scrap, 3 bulk urea, 8 wheat, 1 steel sheets/coils/WRIC/steel billets/steel sheets/pipes, 1 steel billets/pipes, 4 bulk NPK, 2 WRIC, 1 steel billets/coils/steel sheets, 1 coils, 1 DRI, 1 steel billets/coils, 1 UAN solution, 1 H-beams, 3 aluminium, 3 bulk cement, 2 HBI, 1 cars, 1 steel sheets/steel billets, 2 slabs, 1 WRIC/steel, 3 pipes, 1 steel sheets, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate/bulk NPK, 1 diesel oil, 1 flowers, 1 cartons, 1 ammonium sulphate, 1 rails/copper), 2 to load/discharge containers; Oil terminal: 3 tankers berthed, all loading crude oil; 3 tankers in roads, all to load, of which 2 crude oil, 1 diesel oil; 13 tankers due, all to load, of which 10 crude oil, 2 fuel oil, 1 diesel oil.
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Slovenia

Koper	21-Nov-2005	Port working normally. Ten vessels berthed of which 3 bulk carriers discharging coal/minerals/solid chemicals, 1 bulk carrier loading grain, 3 vessels loading sawn timber, 2 car carriers discharging/loading vehicles, 1 tanker discharging mineral oils; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 21 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 6 to discharge/load containers, 4 bulk carriers to load coal, 1 barge to load coal, 5 vessels to load sawn timber/timber products/general cargo, 3 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 1 Ro/Ro to discharge/load trailers, 1 tanker to discharge mineral oils.
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Spain

Bilbao	22-Nov-2005	Twenty-six vessels operating (5 tankers, 21 other vessels), of which 7 loading, 13 discharging, 6 loading/discharging.
Cadiz	22-Nov-2005	Nineteen vessels in port of which 8 operating (3 Ro/Ros, 2 containers, 1 clinker, 1 sunflower seeds, 1 passenger vessel), 11 vessels under repair; no delays.
Sagunto	22-Nov-2005	Twenty-seven vessels in port operating, of which 4 loading (1 steel products, 1 cement, 2 bulk fertiliser), 18 discharging (15 steel products, 2 vehicles, 1 anhydrous ammonia), 5 discharging/loading (1 steel products, 4 general cargo); no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.

Sri Lanka

Colombo	21-Nov-2005	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Five container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 17 vessels discharging at berth (9 containers/feeders, 1 bagged cement, 1 bulk cement, 1 bagged soya bean meal, 2 bulk palm oil, 2 steel cargo, 1 bagged maize); 1 bagged maize vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 6 vessels dry-docked, 1 at dolphin tanker berth; 4 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays expected.
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Port Conditions

Ukraine

Mariupol	21-Nov-2005	Fourteen vessels in port operating, of which 12 loading (5 steel, 3 fire-clay, 1 coal, 1 bran, 1 sulphur, 1 sunflower beans), 1 discharging fluorspar, 1 loading/discharging borax/containers/steel; 7 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 2 steel, 2 fire-clay, 2 coal, 1 other; 44 vessels due, of which 42 to load (23 steel, 10 coal, 2 fire-clay, 1 sulphur, 1 pitch, 1 wheat, 1 kaolin, 1 barley, 1 coke, 1 equipment), 1 to discharge pipes, 1 to discharge/load containers.
Illichevsk	21-Nov-2005	Six vessels in port operating, of which 3 loading (1 steel products, 1 sunflower oil, 1 ferro nickel), 1 discharging scrap, 2 discharging/loading containers; 1 vessels in roads to discharge/load containers; 32 vessels due, of which 18 to load (11 steel products, 2 sunflower oil, 1 cake, 4 grain), 3 to discharge (2 nickel ore, 1 palm oil), 11 to discharge/load containers.
Odessa	21-Nov-2005	Twelve vessels in port operating, of which 7 loading (5 metal, 1 barley, 1 wheat), 3 discharging (1 bananas, 1 luggage, 1 citrus), 1 loading/discharging containers, 1 passenger vessel; 3 vessels in roads, of which 2 to load (1 metal, 1 corn), 1 to load/discharge containers; 57 vessels due, of which 31 to load (18 metal, 4 pig-iron, 2 ore, 1 ferro alloy, 1 corn, 2 wheat, 1 wood, 1 soya beans, 1 pitch), 7 to discharge (1 ore, 1 oil, 1 meat, 1 rice, 1 citrus, 2 wheat), 19 to discharge/load containers.

United States

Beaumont, TX	22-Nov-2005	Seasonal cold fronts may reduce available deep draft sailing drafts. No new restrictions in draft (normal 38 ft. 0 ins. f.w. max. deep draft enforced). Traffic schedule: 22/11: inbound traffic a.m., outbound traffic to follow; due to damage from hurricane Rita, the Sabine waterway is open under following conditions: one way, daylight traffic only with max. transit draft 38 ft. until further notice; shoaling has been observed in some parts of the Sabine waterway; parts of the port are still without power and city services. Louis Dreyfus terminal: no delays.
Houston, TX	22-Nov-2005	Seasonal cold fronts may reduce available deep draft sailing drafts. Pilots report normal 45 ft. 0 ins. max. draft up to Shell terminal, 40 ft. 0 ins. max. draft above Shell terminal to 610 ship channel bridge, 36 ft. 0 ins. max. draft above 610 bridge to turning basis area; Cargill terminal: 1-2 days delay; LDC Dreyfus terminal: 1 day's delay.
Kalama, WA	22-Nov-2005	Kalama export terminal: 4 days delay; United Harvest terminal: 1 day's delay.
New Orleans, LA	22-Nov-2005	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 5-6 days delay expected; Cargill-Westwego: 2-4 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 3-4 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 5 days delay expected; ADM/Destrehan: 3-4 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 3-4 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 1-2 days delay expected; ADM/Paulina: 3-4 days delay expected; Zen-Noh/Convent: 2-3 days delay expected; Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays; Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: 1 day's delay; Mile 158.0 Myrtle Grove midstream terminal: in the process of being set up; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 1 day's delay.
Portland, OR	22-Nov-2005	Columbia Grain terminal: 2 days delay; CLD Irving terminal: 2 days delay; CLD, O Dock terminals: no delays.
Seattle, WA	22-Nov-2005	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 1 day's delay.
Tacoma, WA	22-Nov-2005	Temco terminal: 2 days delay.
Vancouver, WA	22-Nov-2005	United Harvest terminal: 4 days delay

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