

Global piracy levels fall but hotspots continue

writes Nathaniel Xavier - Wednesday Nov 01 2006

PIRACY attacks worldwide have fallen but hotspots such as Bangladesh and Nigeria continue to be plagued, the latest piracy report by the International Maritime Bureau has shown.

The number of attacks from January to September this year decreased to 174 from 205 during the same period in 2005, a decline of 30 incidents.

IMB director Captain Pottengal Mukundan said: "While piracy continues to be a serious concern, credit for this welcome reduction in attacks must go to those law enforcement agencies responding to incidents in high risk areas."

Of the 174 total attacks listed in the report, vessels were boarded in 113 cases and 11 ships were hijacked with 163 hostages were taken. Twenty crew members were kidnapped and six were killed.

The report noted that Bangladesh recorded as many as 33 incidents, with 22 attacks and 11 attempted ones. Most of the attacks occurred in and around the port of Chittagong.

Nigerian waters also remain in the hotspots list. Although there were only six attacks and three attempted, three of those attacks led to 17 crewmembers being kidnapped and held for ransom.

Eight attacks were reported off the eastern coast of Somalia where pirates armed with guns and grenades attacked ships and fired upon them. The eastern and northeastern coasts of Somalia continue to be high-risk areas for hijackings.

While incidents in Indonesian waters

dropped from 61 during the same nine months last year to 40 this year, Indonesia still accounts for more attacks than any other country.

Capt Mukundan applauded the decision by a Kenyan court last week to convict 10 Somalis of piracy, after they were captured by US Navy off Mogadishu in January.

"This will send the right signal to others that piracy will not be tolerated along the east coast of Africa and that neighbouring countries will act to punish those responsible," he said.

The men, who claimed to be stranded fishermen, are expected to be sentenced early this month. They face a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

Offshore divers go on indefinite strike

writes Martyn Wingrove - Thursday November 02 2006

MORE than 900 offshore divers have started an indefinite strike to force contractors to improve their latest pay offer.

Divers mostly in the UK and Norway have halted work and subsea construction vessels are heading back to port as the strike started to grip the North Sea industry.

"There are no diving support vessels operating in the North Sea. Members on vessels as far away as Singapore, Canaries and Egypt have also joined the strike," said Bob Crow general secretary of union RMT.

Union officials and oil company executives expect a prolonged strike could affect UK oil production as new fields and wells cannot be connected to production infrastructure.

RMT members voted 68% to reject the latest pay deal placed on the table by a joint group of seven subsea contractors that includes Technip, Subsea 7 and Acergy.

The deal included a 20% rise in wages now and 5% increase in April 2007. Divers were asking for a 50% hike in wages to compensate for erosion of pay during more lean years in the offshore industry.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>BRUCE L. HAHN</i>	tug	USA	—	792	—	1981	When pushing 25 grain barges, at Mile marker 219.5, Lower Mississippi, Baton Rouge area, Oct 21, collided with tanker <i>Eagle Subaru</i> . Two barges taking water and pushed ashore. Proceeded. Awaiting barge salvage.
<i>CCNI CARTAGENA</i>	container	DEU	GL	25,624	33,914	1998	Grounded near San Vicente, Chile, Sep 26. Proceeded to San Vicente to discharge. General Average declared. Arrived Talcahuano Sep 29.
<i>EAGLE SUBARU</i>	crude oil tanker	SGP	NK	52,504	95,675	1994	In collision with tug <i>Bruce L.Hahn</i> (pushing 25 grain barges) at Mile marker 219.5, Lower Mississippi, Baton Rouge area. Sustained 12 feet by 8 inch gash to forepeak ballast tank. Discharging at Mile 232.
<i>GRAMPIAN PRINCE</i>	tug	GBR	ABS	1,294	1,229	1982	Had ingress of water at Aberdeen, Oct 19, after rudder was accidently dropped. Water pumped out same day and vessel entered drydock for routine repairs.
<i>HEIDELBERG EXPRESS</i>	container	DEU	GL	35,919	45,977	1989	Lost power and collided with bulker <i>Yerotsakos</i> , then contacted the dock and subsequently grounded at Mile marker 57, Lower Mississippi Oct 22. Sustained structural damage. Still aground Oct 25.
<i>HERTHA O.</i>	bulker	ATG	GL	2,818	4,216	1994	Reported drifting in lat 50 34N, long 00 22E, Oct 22 with steering gear failure. Taken in tow of <i>Anglian Monarch</i> and at Dungeness east roads. To be towed to Dover when weather improves. Arrived Dover Oct 23.
<i>ROKIA DELMAS</i>	ro-ro/ container	PAN	BV	32,924	27,577	1985	Sustained total blackout/loss of propulsion and grounded near La Rochelle Oct 24. Cargo shifted causing 20 deg list. Crew taken off. Tugs on scene. Breaches to hull. Ingress of water to engine-room & lower decks.
<i>SILINA</i>	container	VCT	LR	3,141	4,676	1978	Abandoned about 50 miles from Tartous Oct 23, due fire in accommodation and engine-room. All 12 crew rescued. Adrift in lat 34 47.5N, long 34 55.9E, and a danger to navigation. Being towed to Syria.
<i>SINEGORIYE</i>	general	RUS	RS	2,448	3,511	1979	Reported Oct 23 to have sent a distress signal from the Sea of Japan. Currently off the Korean peninsula with water ingress and 8 degree list to starboard. Subsequently sank in lat 38 25N, long 129 55E. 3 rescued. 1 dead. 14 missing.
<i>VLADIMIR VYSOTSKIY</i>	product tanker	RUS	RS	10,949	16,970	1988	Had blackout and grounded near Sorel Oct 20. Still aground Oct 21. No damage/leakage reported. Tugs attempting to refloat. Refloated same day and proceeding. Berthed at Montreal Oct 23.
<i>YEROTSAKOS</i>	bulker	LBR	NK	35,874	69,220	1993	In collision with container carrier <i>Heidelberg Express</i> at Mile marker 57, Lower Mississippi Oct 22. Structural damage sustained. Restricted from sailing.

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Lloyd's
Marine Intelligence Unit



The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AFRICAN HAWK (Bahamas)

Aarhus, Oct 24 — Bulker *African Hawk* (17944 gt, built 2004) grounded off Aarhus at approximately 1730 hrs, Oct 23. The vessel was towed off at 0430 hrs, this morning and is now safely berthed in Aarhus to discharge her cargo of 24,000 tons of soya beans. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *African Hawk* was previously reported sailed from New Orleans on Oct 4.)

ALKIONI (Greece)

Piraeus, Oct 20 — Passenger ro/ro *Alkioni* completed repairs and sailed from Chalkis on Sep 23, bound for Lavrion. — Lloyd's Agents.

AMADA (North Korea)

Piraeus, Oct 20 — General cargo *Amada* remains under arrest at Kalamata port. Reportedly no agreement has been reached and prospects of release are still unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

AMANDA C. (Cayman Islands)

See "Belgium" under "Port State Control".

APL ALMANDINE (Singapore)

See *APL Dubai*.

APL DUBAI (Panama)

Singapore, Oct 20 — Container Carrier *APL Dubai* is still at Raffles Reserve Anchorage, Singapore. Container Carrier *APL Almandine* sailed from Singapore at 0210 hrs, Sep 30 bound for Jeddah, where it arrived on Oct 10, departing on Oct 12.

ARAHURA (New Zealand)

Wellington, Oct 20 — Interislander ferry sailings were disrupted after the passenger ro/ro *Arahura* (13621 gt, built 1983) sustained electrical problems in Wellington Harbour. The fault struck soon after the vessel left its berth in Wellington yesterday on a morning sailing to Picton, a Toll spokeswoman said. The ferry was on a cargo-only journey and remained in the harbour for several hours while crew fixed the problem. "It wasn't major but it had to be 100 per cent before it sailed," the spokeswoman said. The 1035 hrs sailing to Picton and 1425 hrs return to Wellington were cancelled. The *Arahura* resumed sailings last night, leaving Wellington at 1815 hrs. — Lloyd's Agents.

ARCTICA (Netherlands Antilles)

Gothenburg, Oct 20 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Arctica* docked at Falkvarv, Falkenberg on Oct 16. Repairs are expected to be finished at the end of this month. — Lloyd's Agents.

ARINA (Lithuania)

Klaipeda, Oct 26 — General cargo *Arina* is still in dry dock under repair. Repairs are scheduled to be completed during the week commencing Nov 6 and it is expected that she will depart upon completion of repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

ATC 350 (U.S.A.)

See *Dean Reinauer*.

ATLANTIC COMPANION (Sweden)

London, Oct 22 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 1025, UTC: Roll On Roll Off Container Car *Atlantic Companion* (57255 gt, built 1987), inbound to Gothenburg, lightly grounded on soft mud at 1002 hrs, this morning, at the entrance to Gothenburg, in lat 57 40.8N, long 11 50.0E, after experiencing a "black-out". The vessel has been refloated, with tug assistance. Vessel was the towed into port and is now berthed alongside a quay, where an inspection will be carried out.

Gothenburg, Oct 22 — Roll On Roll Off Container Car *Atlantic Companion* ran aground this morning while inbound to Gothenburg from last port of call at Bremerhaven. Vessel had only approximately one nautical mile left before berthing after having passed through the difficult part of the inlet when it experienced a total blackout and no electricity, also turned off engines and steering gear. The speed was, according to pilot onboard, around 6 knots and well inside the fairway. Vessel was just about to pass the outgoing passenger/ro-ro *Stena Danica* and the pilots and masters had radio contact and shortly after the emergency engines started and the vessel dropped anchor. Some minutes later *Atlantic Companion* was caught in the clay at the bottom but other vessels could still proceed and pass the vessel in a safe way. Two of R'da Bolagets tugs refloated the vessel a good hour later, the engines running again at that time and everything back to normal. Vessel's bottom was investigated and survey by diver carried out, showing no alleged damage, not a single dent as they described it. No emergency visit to drydock required and an investigation will be commenced tomorrow but no injuries and no outlet of oil. The vessel will return to normal schedule. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Oct 24 — Roll On Roll Off Container Car *Atlantic Companion* was reported passing Skaw, in a northerly direction, at 2230 hrs, Oct 30. Vessel is ETA Antwerp on Oct 25.

BALTA (Malta)

New York, Oct 19 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Balta* is currently at Perth Amboy Anchorage. — Maritime Association of the Port of New York/New Jersey.

New York, Oct 25 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Balta* is still at Perth Amboy Anchorage. — Maritime Association of the Port of New York/New Jersey.

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

BARBARA (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 24 — A press report, dated Oct 20, states: Three runaway barges, laden with coal, caused significant damage when they struck the Montgomery Locks and dam in the Ohio River, around 2230 Wednesday (Oct 18), destroying one of the dam's 10 gates and severely damaging another, according to Karen Auer, spokeswoman for the Army Corps of Engineers. No injuries were reported. The barge that destroyed a gate was corralled shortly after the incident, Auer said. Two others remained wedged against one of the gates, until crews with Ingram Barge Co. of Nashville were able to pull one free yesterday afternoon. The second barge remained wedged against the gate as of late yesterday afternoon. Auer said, and would not be as easily removed, she said. She said crews would have to wait until later next week to save the barge, likely by first taking the coal off so that the barge would float higher in the water. The U.S. Coast Guard was investigating the circumstances surrounding the accident, Auer said. Auer said that tug *Barbara* (237 gt, built 1975), owned by Crouse Corp of Paducah, Ky, was pushing nine barges into the dam's lock chamber late Wednesday, headed downstream toward Ohio. The pilot, whose name Auer did not know, apparently steered some of the barges into the upper guide wall of the lock chamber. The impact tore three barges loose from the rest of the group, and they were swept into the dam by the downstream current. The barge that destroyed one of the steel gates was swept through the dam, Auer said, but a towboat was able to regain control of it shortly after that. Auer said the destroyed steel gate likely sank a short distance from the dam, in an area that is restricted to river traffic, so she did not expect the gate wreckage would cause any navigational problems. The other two barges smashed against another gate, Auer said, forming a "V" against the bent steel structure. One of the barges was removed shortly before 1400 hrs, with crews attaching ropes to the barge so that it could be pulled free from the dam. Auer did not know if the lock sustained any damage when the barges hit it. Auer said Crouse Corp. would be responsible for the cost of repairs. As for the cost, "I'm sure it's going to be quite a lot," Auer said. Auer did not have a timetable for when repairs might be made, but she said that with the remaining gates, she did not foresee any problems with controlling the flow of water through the dam.

BEAUMAJOR (Netherlands)

London, Oct 26 — Following received from Lisbon, MRCC, timed 2330, UTC, Oct 25: At 1746, UTC, Oct 23 the master of tug *Leopard* (271 gt, built 1969) reported rope in propeller in lat 39 21.9N, long 09 21.4W, in bad weather. At 1815, UTC, the master

reported his tow, a new building IMO No.9373266 (general cargo *Beaumajor*, 2400 gt), was adrift and shortly after reported the new building to be aground. (Note — Tug *Leopard* was reported passing Tarifa at 1436, Oct 18 towing a new building from Constantza to Harlingen.)

London, Oct 26 — A SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage report, dated Oct 24, states: SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV was instructed overnight to assist the new build hull that had ended high up on the beach some 60 miles north of Lisbon after its towing tug (*Leopard*) ended up with the tow wire in the propeller. This happened during a spell of bad weather; the towing tug was able to anchor just before running aground as well. Two tugs were immediately sent in under instructions of SvitzerWijsmuller Lisbon, one being the *Svitzer Leixoes* with the other tug first attending to the troubled tug and move it out of harms way. Salvage personnel, including a salvage master were initially brought in from Lisbon as well, with further staff following from The Netherlands. Also special "floating towrope" was mobilised in since the tugs can not come close enough due to the waterdepths at the location, and the normally used steel tow wires could be damaged on the sea bottom. The refloating operation will be based on the need to obtain sufficient buoyancy in the hull and a variety of activities, including weight re-distribution and dredging works, are in progress in between refloating attempts executed during the present spring tide to achieve same. The new build hull has what will become the, accommodation stowed in its holds.

BOREAL (Liberia)

See "Pay Dispute On Liberian Flagged Vessel" under "Labour Disputes".

BRUCE L.HAHN (U.S.A.)

See *Eagle Subaru*.

CASTILLO DE SAN JUAN (Brazil)

Lisbon, Oct 23 — Bulker *Castillo de San Juan* completed repairs and sailed Setubal Oct 21. — Lloyd's Agents.

CCNI CARTAGENA (Germany)

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated Oct 18, states: Container Carrier *CCNI Cartagena* (25624 gt, built 1998) U.S. for South American ports including San Antonio, San Vicente & Callao, with containers grounded Sep 26. Vessel proceeded under its own power into San Vicente where normal discharge and loading of containers was effected. Discharge of a number of containers at San Vicente was required to enable the necessary casualty repairs. Owners have declared General Average. Stichling Hahn Hilbrich (Average Adjusters) Ltd. have been appointed. (Note — *CCNI Cartagena* arrived Talcahuano Sep 29.)

CFS PALAMEDES (Antigua & Barbuda)

See "Drugs Found On Antigua & Barbuda Flagged Vessel, Bridgetown, Barbados" under "Miscellaneous".

CITYCAT (Australia)

Brisbane, Oct 24 — Understand there was a mechanical malfunction as ferry *Citycat* came into a jetty, resulting in it contacting the jetty. The ferry was not overly seriously damaged and there were a few very minor injuries. — Lloyd's Agents.

CLIPPER FALCON (Bahamas)

Troy, Mich, Oct 22 — Understand bulker *Clipper Falcon* has engine problems. Apparently the trouble began when *Clipper Falcon* was down bound in the Seaway on Oct 15. Seaway Iroquois requested the ship send a fax describing the problems with the ship's engines. When *Clipper Falcon* reached the Snell Lock early the next morning it stopped and delayed traffic for a few hours. Radio transmissions mentioned an engine cylinder head problem with *Clipper Falcon*. *Clipper Falcon* then went down the river until it arrived above the Beauhornois Lock where it tied up on the north wall. It is believed the owner is attempting to contract a tug to bring the ship down out of the Seaway. — Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping News.

London, Oct 23 — Following received from St.Lawrence VTS, Montreal, timed 0025, UTC: Bulker *Clipper Falcon* is still alongside at Beauhornois Lock. A Transport Canada inspector has been on board the vessel today and will return to the vessel tomorrow.

Montreal, Oct 24 — Bulker *Clipper Falcon* expects to complete main engine repairs early Oct 25 and then bunker at Montreal later that day before proceeding on its planned voyage. — Lloyd's Agents.

CMA CGM ALGER (Antigua & Barbuda)

Piraeus, Oct 20 — Container Carrier *CMA CGM Alger* arrived at Piraeus on Aug 16 and on Aug 18, proceeded to Eleusis for inspection/repairs. On Sep 7, the vessel returned to Piraeus and on Sep 8, she sailed, with a destination of Malta. — Lloyd's Agents.

CMA CGM YANTIAN (Liberia)

Antwerp, Oct 25 — Container carrier *CMA CGM Yantian* (39800 gt, built 2003), Los Angeles for East China ports, encountered a storm in the Pacific Ocean, off Alaska, at about 2130, Oct 9. One container on board the vessel was deformed and nine others were lost overboard. No injuries were reported. After discharging some containers at Shanghai and Ningbo on Oct 18 and 20, the vessel continued operating as usual. — "DPS Teamhead Surveyors."

COLUMBIA (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 26 — Passenger ro/ro *Columbia* is still in port at Ketchikan.

CONCEL PRIDE (Nigeria)

Cadiz, Oct 23 — Understand some repairs are being carried out on board product tanker *Concel Pride*, and the vessel's owners are investigating the cost of repairing its turbines. — Lloyd's Agents.

CRECIENTE (Hong Kong)

London, Oct 23 — Bulker *Creciente* arrived at Kashima on Oct 21, from Port Hedland.

DANIA (Germany)

See under "Miscellaneous".

DCI DREDGE VIII (India)

See *Nehru-Shatabdi*.

DEAN REINAUER (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 25 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1415, UTC: Reported at 0445, local time, 0445, UTC, that tug *Dean Reinauer* (139 gt, built 1979) in collision with barge *ATC 350* (5320 gt, built 1968), being pulled by tug *Zeus* (98 gt), in New York. Barge holed above the waterline. All vessels remain at New York pending Coast Guard investigation.

DIEPPE (France)

See "Crew Of France Flagged Vessel, Dieppe, France" under "Labour Disputes".

DOGUCAN (Cambodia)

London, Oct 24 — Following received from Ankara MSRCC, timed 1122, UTC: General cargo *Dogucan* is still aground.

DOLE HONDURAS (Bahamas)

Balboa, Oct 19 — Container Carrier *Dole Honduras* shifted to anchorage Oct 13 where we understand repairs continue, with completion expected in next few days to be followed by sea trial. — Lloyd's Agents.

DYVI PUEBLA (NIS)

Zeebrugge, Oct 21 — Vehicle carrier *Dyvi Puebla* (37237 gt, built 1999) sailed Zeebrugge 0225, local time, today for Ghent, passed Flushing roads 0336 hrs and struck the lock at Terneuzen at 0630, local time. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Dyvi Puebla* sailed Santander Oct 20, arrived Zeebrugge 0713, Oct 20 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was stationary in lat 51 19 40N, long 03 49 03E, at 0524, UTC, today.)

Maassluis, Oct 21 — Vehicle carrier *Dyvi Puebla* struck the lock at Terneuzen at approximately 0630 today. Vessel sustained damage on "boardside" above waterline. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Zeebrugge, Oct 21 — Vehicle carrier *Dyvi Puebla* proceeded from Terneuzen locks to Ghent at 0835, local time. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Dyvi Puebla* was stationary in lat 51 06 38.5N, long 03 45 26.08E, near Langerbrugge, at 2213, UTC, today.)

London, Oct 25 — Vehicle carrier *Dyvi Puebla* sailed from Ghent at 1055 hrs, Oct 23, bound for Rotterdam,

arriving later the same day, at 1745 hrs. The vessel sailed at 0050 hrs, Oct 24, for Bremerhaven where she arrived later that day, at 1750 hrs.

EAGLE SUBARU (Singapore)

London, Oct 22 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 2235, UTC: Tug *Bruce L.Hahn* (792 gt, built 1981), southbound pushing 25 grain barges, was in collision with crude oil tanker *Eagle Subaru* (52504 gt, built 1994), upbound, at mile marker 219.5, Lower Mississippi, Baton Rouge area, at 2230, UTC, Oct 21. Two of the grain barges started taking water and were pushed to the shore. The tug was undamaged. *Eagle Subaru* sustained a 12 ft by eight inch gash about 12 ft above the light draught mark in the forepeak ballast tank and No.1 port ballast tank. *Eagle Subaru* is now discharging its cargo at the Exxon facility at mile marker 232, its intended destination. Drug and alcohol test were negative. (Note — According to Lloyd's LMIU AIS *Eagle Subaru* was stationary in lat 30 28 38N, long 91 11 39W, at 2043, UTC, today and *Bruce L.Hahn* was in lat 30 17 47N, long 91 13 56W, at 2247, UTC, today, speed 6.4 knots, course 174.5 degrees.)

London, Oct 23 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1505, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Eagle Subaru*: Situation remains unchanged. The two barges in tow of tug *Bruce L.Hahn* that sank, remain sunk awaiting salvage plan.

London, Oct 25 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1447, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Eagle Subaru*, collision with tug *Bruce L.Hahn*: The two barges in tow of *Bruce L.Hahn* remain sunk. Have requested permission to jettison cargo on barges into the river for salvage operations. If approved, salvage to commence during daylight hours.

ELLIDA ACE (Panama)

Portsmouth, UK, Oct 24 — Bulker *Ellida Ace* (85350 gt, built 1996) ran aground today after being driven away from the waterway near Kashima due to heavy winds, according to the Japan Coast Guard All 20 Filipino crew members on board the vessel were safe, according to a Coast Guard spokesman. He said that *Ellida Ace* was carrying 163,000 tons of coal from a Canadian port. — Correspondent. (Note — *Ellida Ace* arrived Kashima Oct 14 from Vancouver, BC.)

London, Oct 24 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 1945, UTC: *Ellida Ace* remains aground in lat 35 57N, long 140 41E. There has been no spillage of oil reported up until now.

London, Oct 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Japan's coast guard mobilized helicopters to rescue crew members of bulker *Ellida Ace*, an official said today. All 20 Filipino crew members were rescued early today and none of them were injured, according to coast guard official Shigeyuki Sato. The vessel ran aground yesterday

after being driven away from the waterway near Kashima port due to heavy winds.

London, Oct 25 — Following received from Coast Guard Japan, timed 1935, UTC: Bulker *Ellida Ace* remains aground.

ENNERDALE (Hong Kong)

London, Oct 19 — Following press release, dated today, received from Singapore: ICSM Pte Limited, managers of Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Ennerdale*, confirm that the leakage of propane gas from the vessel was sealed at 0300 hrs, today, following an incident while loading a cargo of liquid propane at the Fawley Oil Refinery in Southampton, on Oct 17. The Hampshire Fire Service has now left the vessel, while the MCA and MAIB have conducted their initial investigations into the incident. The vessel is now at anchor in the Solent. Representatives from Class NK, MCA, MAIB and the P&I Club were all in attendance onboard the vessel during the night and Class has approved the temporary repairs until the discharge ports. It is intended that the vessel will proceed to discharge port and then directly to Amsterdam for dry docking.

London, Oct 20 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Ennerdale* sailed from Fawley at 0925 hrs, Oct 19, bound for Leixoes, where ETA Oct 22.

EVER GAIN (Panama)

London, Oct 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Nine sailors are missing after Panama vessel "*Epelgain*" (general cargo *Ever Gain*, 5360 gt, built 1982) and China container vessel "*New Lianyungang*" (? Container Carrier *Xin Lian Yun Gang*, 66433 gt, built 2003) collided in Fujian Province this morning, authorities and rescuers said. Twelve sailors were rescued from the Panama-registered freighter which sank early this morning near Ningde, Fujian. All of the 21 sailors on the sunken freighter are Chinese, said a spokesman with the Shanghai-based East Sea Salvage Bureau under the Ministry of Communications. Three sailors are being treated at hospital for serious injuries, the spokesman said. Four rescue boats are searching the area for the missing people, he said. The Panama-registered freighter was loaded with timber from "Liberia" (? Papua New Guinea) on route to Zhangjiagang when it sunk. The crew of the other ship rescued the sailors from the sunken vessel. There have been no reports on the condition of the Chinese freighter. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Ever Gain* was in lat 25 29 45N, long 121 42 35E, at 0308, UTC, Oct 24, speed 4.8 knots, course 355.9 degrees and *Xin Lian Yun Gang* was in lat 24 14 11N, long 118 29 10E, at 1012, UTC, Oct 24, speed 19.4 knots, course 80 degrees.)

London, Oct 25 — Following received from Beijing MRCC, timed 2225, UTC: The Panama vessel that sank following a collision was general cargo *Ever Gain*.

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

EVIACEMENT I (Greece)

Piraeus, Oct 20 — Only minor damages were reported from the collision between bulk cement carrier *Eviacement I* and general cargo *Melody*. After the incident *Melody* called at Mesolongi port. On Oct 17, the port authorities allowed her departure and the vessel sailed, bound for Bari, Italy. *Eviacement I* sailed on Oct 19, bound for Drepanon port, where she remains for loading operations. The vessel is expected to sail to Venice. — Lloyd's Agents.

EXPRESS ATHINA (Greece)

Piraeus, Oct 26 — passenger ro/ro *Express Athina* (5643 gt, built 1973) had mechanical failure on her port main engine on Oct 4. The vessel had sailed from Piraeus, destination Paros, Naxos, Ios and Santorini islands. She returned to Piraeus and berthed safely in port. She completed repairs and returned to service; date of sailing after completion of said repairs unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

EXPRESS SANTORINI (Greece)

Piraeus, Oct 26 — Passenger ro/ro *Express Santorini* is still under repair at Drapetzona. The vessel will reportedly return to service in the high season. — Lloyd's Agents.

FENG YE 26 (China)

See *Petrel Arrow*.

FIONA (Netherlands Antilles)

London, Oct 24 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1218, UTC: Refrigerated general cargo *Fiona* (3978 gt, built 1986), Falmouth for Santa Marta with ammonium nitrate, is reported not under command in lat 49 54.8N, long 00 54.9W, due to a broken temperature sensor. The vessel's crew are attempting to effect repairs. Tug/supply *Anglian Princess* is proceeding to stand by vessel.

London, Oct 24 — Refrigerated general cargo *Fiona* is to be taken in tow to Falmouth by tug/supply *Anglian Princess*.

London, Oct 24 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 2025, UTC: Refrigerated general cargo *Fiona*: Tug *Anglian Princess* engaged at 1915, UTC, to proceed to vessel's location for towage to Falmouth.

London, Oct 25 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0738, UTC: Refrigerated general cargo *Fiona* remained under tow all night of tug *Anglian Princess*, due to weather conditions making anchoring in Falmouth Bay unsafe. *Fiona* was towed into harbour and alongside at 0700, UTC.

Falmouth, Oct 25 — Refrigerated general cargo *Fiona*, with engine problems, arrived Falmouth at 0700 hrs, today, in tow of tug *Anglian Princess*. The vessel was handed over to local harbour tugs and berthed at Queens Wharf, Falmouth Docks, at 0900 hrs, to effect repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Refrigerated general cargo *Fiona*, carrying a hazardous chemical, has been towed to docks in Falmouth following an engine failure off the coast of Cornwall. A tug was used to bring the ship to the docks for repairs. She is expected to depart tomorrow night.

FLYINGCAT 4 (Greece)

Piraeus, Oct 26 — Ferry *Flyingcat 4* (794 gt, built 1999) sustained mechanical failure to her main starboard engine on Sep 29. The vessel completed repairs and returned to service. Exact date of sailing after completion of repairs not available. — Lloyd's Agents.

GECO SAPPHIRE (Panama)

London, Oct 23 — Research *Geco Sapphire* now named *EDT Protea* was reported passing Skaw, in a northerly direction, at 1317 hrs, Oct 22.

GIANT STEP (Panama)

London, Oct 21 — A Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd press release, dated Tokyo Oct 13, states: Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd, MOL, president Akimitsu Ashida, today reported that two more crew members of the MOL-operated bulk ore carrier *Giant Step* were found at sea, and confirmed dead yesterday. The confirmed death toll is now at eight, and the company continues to search for two missing crew members. A total of 16 crew members were rescued, and two of them are in the hospital. Yesterday, the swell finally subsided so the company worked to prevent oil spills from the fuel tank and conducted underwater inspection by divers with the intent of extracting the remaining oil. MOL will start full-scale oil removal work if weather and hydrographic conditions permit.

GRAMPIAN PRINCE (U.K.)

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Water gushed into anchor handling tug/supply *Grampian Prince* (1294 gt, built 1982) at Aberdeen harbour yesterday after a rudder was accidentally dropped during routine maintenance. The oil supply vessel was in dry-dock - lifted out of water so all parts of the hull were accessible for repairs - when the accident happened at about 1300 hrs. During the lifting process workers from Dales Engineering accidentally dropped the rudder and water started to flood in. A spokeswoman for ship owners, the Craig Group, commended the quick action of the crew. She said: "Thanks to the swift response of the master of the vessel and the crew onboard, the situation was very quickly contained. "At no time was there any threat to anyone onboard the vessel and the quick and efficient way in which our crew followed the appropriate procedures ensured that the level of water in the contained area was never significant enough to cause any damage." She said the fire brigade were called to the scene only as a precaution to ensure additional pumps were on stand by. *Grampian*

Fire and Rescue station manager Mike Gray said that between the vessel's crew and the firefighters they were able to pump all the water out from the affected area, which lay just below the water line of the stern side. The water was pumped out by the end of the afternoon and Dales Engineering got it back into dry dock for full repairs.

GULSUM ANA (Turkey)

London, Oct 21 — A SMIT Salvage report states: Bulker *Gulsum Ana*, loaded with cargo of coal was en route to the Suez Canal, when the cargo of coal spontaneously caught fire in the first two holds in the southern part of the Red Sea. SMIT Salvage sent out a team to liaise with the assisting tug from Egypt. Upon arrival of the salvage team with fire experts, the first action taken was to stabilize the situation in order to create more time for a permanent solution. With the aid of construction foam and canvas sheets all possible air inlets, apart from a vent for the flammable gases to escape, were closed. This way the holds do inert by own means and the oxygen level decreases. Temperatures were kept under control by spraying water over the coal surface. The next task was to discharge the smouldering coals in order to assure a safe Suez Canal passage for the onward voyage of *Gulsum Ana*. A geared lightering vessel was hired to discharge approximately 3,000 tonnes of the smouldering coals. After discharging most of the affected coals, the heating problem was resolved by means of spraying water; the holds 1 and 2 were closed and sealed and further monitored. The vessel's trim and stability were secured in order to safely redeliver *Gulsum Ana* to its owners to subsequently proceed to the Black Sea which was the actual port of discharge. (Note — *Gulsum Ana* was last reported to have passed Istanbul 1023, Sept 11 for Mariupol.)

HEGE (NIS)

Madrid, Oct 23 — Following received from sub-agents at Seville: Understand from the agents of general cargo *Hege* that technicians are working on board dismantling the damaged main engine and preparing the installation of the new one. As per agents' information the new machine will arrive at Seville to be installed Oct 30 /31. Vessel is berthed at La Corta /Tablada pier at Seville port. — Lloyd's Agents.

HEIDELBERG EXPRESS (Germany)

London, Oct 22 — Following press release, dated today, issued by US Coast Guard New Orleans: The U.S. Coast Guard is investigating the cause of a collision between two vessels today that occurred at the IMTT Myrtle Grove facility near Point A La Hache, La. The collision occurred at 0125 hrs, between Container Carrier *Heidelberg Express* (35919 gt, built 1989) and bulker *Yerotsakos* (35874 gt, built 1993), full of iron ore. The

Heidelberg Express experienced a loss of power when travelling outbound at mile marker 57 along the Lower Mississippi River, and the crew of the *Heidelberg Express* dropped both anchors in an attempt to stop the vessel. There were no reports of injuries or pollution at the time of the incident and the waterway remains open and unrestricted. Investigators from Coast Guard Sector New Orleans are on scene to investigate the cause of the collision.

London, Oct 23 — A press report, dated Oct 22, states: Container Carrier *Heidelberg Express* struck bulker *Yerotsakos* at about 0125 today in the Mississippi River near Pointe a la Hache after one of the ships lost power, according to the U.S. Coast Guard. The accident caused minor structural damage to both vessels but no pollution or injuries were reported, according to Lt. Cmdr. Cheri Ben-Iesau, a Coast Guard spokeswoman. The waterway remains open and unrestricted, she said. *Heidelberg Express* reported that it lost power while travelling outbound at Mile Marker 57, said Ben-Iesau. Its crew dropped both anchors, but could not keep the vessel from striking *Yerotsakos*, which was mooring at a commercial dock.

London, Oct 23 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1505, UTC: Container Carrier *Heidelberg Express*, collision with bulker *Yerotsakos*: *Yerotsakos* was not moored at time of collision but attempting to berth. *Heidelberg Express* subsequently contacted the dock.

London, Oct 25 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1447, UTC: Container Carrier *Heidelberg Express*, collision with bulker *Yerotsakos*: *Heidelberg Express* subsequently contacted the dock, not lock as before reported, and grounded. *Heidelberg Express* remains aground restricted from sailing pending repairs. *Yerotsakos* also restricted from sailing pending repairs.

HERTHA O. (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Oct 22 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0915, UTC: Bulker *Hertha O.* (2818 gt, built 1994), V2BS6, Vesteras for Preveza, with 2700 tonnes of timber, reported drifting at 0905, UTC, in lat 50 34.18N, long 00 22.18E, as a result of steering gear failure. Winds south-south west, force five-six. Seas rough. Visibility three nautical miles. Coastguard tug is proceeding. Understood vessel's owners and insurers are also arranging for a tug to attend the vessel.

London, Oct 22 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1412, UTC: Bulker *Hertha O.* was taken in tow by tug *Anglian Monarch* at 1400, UTC. The port to which the vessel will be towed for an underwater inspection is currently under discussion, with Dover being one possibility.

London, Oct 23 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed

2310, UTC, Oct 22: Due to bad weather bulker *Hertha O.* is at Dungeness east roads and will probably remain there overnight and then be towed into Dover when weather improves.

London, Oct 23 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1855, UTC: Bulker *Hertha O.* was towed into Dover at 1123, UTC, today and is now safely berthed alongside the cruise terminal.

Dover, Oct 24 — A diver's inspection of bulker *Hertha O.* was carried out today, and the vessel's rudder was found to be missing. The owners are currently assessing repair options. — Lloyd's Agents.

HIGH CHALLENGE (Liberia)

See "United States" under "Port State Control".

HOBURGEN (Bahamas)

London, Oct 20 — Roll On Roll Off *Hoburgen* was reported passing Gibraltar at 0348 hrs, Oct 19, on a reported voyage of Rauma for Beirut.

INCH ARRAN (Canada)

London, Oct 25 — Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 1755, UTC: Ferry *Inch Arran* (261 gt, built 1962) experienced engine problems in heavy weather off Newfoundland in lat 49 37.5N, long 55 51.27W, at 1209, UTC, today. Vessel was subsequently able to get its main engine restarted and it arrived safely at Shoal Arm, Notre Dame Bay, at 1616, UTC.

London, Oct 26 — A press report, dated Oct 25, states: Weeks after a public warning that aging ferry *Inch Arran* would likely have a mechanical failure, the vessel's engine stopped off Newfoundland's north-east coast and forced the master to send a mayday. Passengers and crew members prepared to abandon ship after *Inch Arran* broke down near Little Bay Islands in Notre Dame Bay today. The report on the province's aging ferry fleet, prepared by BMT Fleet Technology Ltd. and released publicly on Oct 6, singled out *Inch Arran* for criticism and warned that it was at "high risk of major machinery failure." Less than three weeks later, *Inch Arran*'s only engine quit amid rough seas and strong winds. The ferry was only about a third of the way on its journey from the Little Bay Islands when it began to drift toward rocks. The master lowered the anchor and put out a mayday. The six crew members on board lowered one life-raft to the water but found it would not inflate. A second one inflated properly. Three fishing vessels from the area went alongside the ferry, ready to take off passengers if needed. However, the ferry's crew was able to restart the engine and bring the vessel to port in Shoal Arm, Notre Dame Bay. All further crossings have been cancelled for the time being.

IRAN MADANI (Iran)

London, Oct 23 — Bulker *Iran Madani* sailed from Mangalia on Oct 20, bound for Piraeus, where ETA Oct 24.

ISSAQUAH (U.S.A.)

Seattle, Oct 20 — Roll On Roll Off *Issaquah* had a reduction gear bearing failure on the reduction gear high speed shaft Oct 15. The reduction gear bearing, and high speed shaft will be replaced. WSF Engineering estimates that the vessel will be out of service for approximately two weeks. — Lloyd's Agents.

JAG PAHEL (India)

London, Oct 24 — Product tanker *Jag Pahel* (27627 gt, built 2004) and tug/icebreaker *Ocean Delta* (722 gt, built 1973) were in contact when the tug was assisting the tanker to berth at Section 53, Quebec, in lat 46 49 53N, long 71 11 41W, at 1018, EDST, Oct 23. As a result, *Jag Pahel* lost a small quantity of bunkers into the river. There was no apparent damage to the *Ocean Delta*. (Note — *Jag Pahel*, Corpus Christi for Montreal, is expected to sail from Section 53, Quebec, at 1800, local time, today.)

London, Oct 25 — Product tanker *Jag Pahel* is presently at Section 103, Montreal, at the Shell Canada Berth. It is expected to sail Oct 26.

JET I (Greece)

Piraeus, Oct 20 — Chemical tanker *Jet I* sailed from Kea Island on Sep 29, bound for Chios. — Lloyd's Agents.

JET RAIDER (Singapore)

Auckland, Oct 25 — Ferry *Jet Raider* has been repaired and is now back in service. — Lloyd's Agents.

KANG NAM 1 (North Korea)

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

KELLYS MARK

London, Oct 19 — Following received from the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize, dated today: The registration of general cargo *Kellys Mark* was cancelled by our Administration on Sep 5 2001 and since that date the vessel is therefore not entitled to fly our flag.

KELLYS MARK (Belize)

Port of Spain, Oct 23 — General cargo *Kellys Mark* has been moored at Chaguaramas for some ten years, and was sold for scrap. However, the vessel was never removed from its moorings. It was reported that there was a leak in the aft port side of the vessel's hull which resulted in a quantity of oil being spilled into the gulf, affecting the shoreline and several small craft. The vessel was refloated Oct 19. The spill was contained and the vessel was repaired. — Lloyd's Agents.

KEW BRIDGE

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Oct 26 — A SvitzerWijismuller Salvage report, dated Oct 22, states: Svitzer Wijismuller Salvage and partners Smit Salvage on Friday, Oct 20, redelivered the refloated gas carrier (Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Kew Bridge*) that ran aground just south of

Mumbai over a month ago. The vessel was already refloated on Oct 9 after a part of the cargo was lightered and re-delivery back to its owners/operators took place after the complete cargo of 8,000 tons of liquefied butane had been discharged to the terminal it was originally destined for. This operation required the input again of two of SvitzerWijismuller's terminal tugs from a terminal two days sailing away in order to maintain proper control of the now completely immobilised casualty. Thereafter the casualty was brought at anchor off the port and, once considered completely safe, was redelivered. Services are continuing on a separate contract with the intention to tow the casualty to a repair port.

KHAIRPUR (Pakistan)

London, Oct 24 — General cargo *Khairpur* sailed from Freetown on Sep 18, bound for Paranagua, where it arrived on Oct 6.

KLIRAK (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Messina, Oct 20 — General cargo *Klirak* was originally towed into the roads at Messina, but could not enter port because of congestion. The vessel was then towed into the port of Gioia Tauro, berthing there at 0900 hrs, Oct 19. Emergency shore generator connected and dismantling of generators presently on-going to ascertain cause and extent of damage. — Lloyd's Agents.

Messina, Oct 25 — General cargo *Klirak* is still at Gioia Tauro, undergoing extensive repairs. The vessel has been arrested by the salvors. — Lloyd's Agents.

KOTA BERJAYA (Singapore)

Chittagong, Oct 23 — At approximately 0915, Oct 20, while Container Carrier *Kota Berjaya* was sailing from Chittagong Port Jetty CCT-3, with approximate 742 TEUS, "reportedly fell and collided" with "coaster loading Silo Jetty", which is reported to have sustained damages due to the collision. The cause of collision is not yet known and is under investigation. It is reported that as a result of this collision a water pipe line which is used to pump river water to the TSP fertilizer factory situated behind Silo Jetty, has been broken/damaged. The vessel's local agent PIL, Chittagong has confirmed the accident and has advised that the damages to silo jetty are minor. *Kota Berjaya* did not sustain any major damages and after conducting necessary survey/inspection, sailed at approximately 1000 hrs, Oct 21, for Singapore. The Silo Superintendent has confirmed a formal claim of Tk.4.6 million has been lodged with the vessel's agent for damage to the Silo Jetty. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Kota Berjaya* arrived at Chittagong on Oct 15.)

LA MARIE (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 22 — A Coast Guard Port Arthur press release, dated today,

states: Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur is responding to the pollution threat and salvage of tug *La Marie* (189 gt, built 1969). *La Marie* began taking on water when it struck a submerged object in the Gulf of Mexico, and later sank in the process of being towed to shallower water at about 2145 yesterday. The Coast Guard is on scene to assist and monitor pollution abatement and clean-up efforts. Initial inspections of the vessel found that the vessel sank in about 40 feet of water, with about two feet of *La Marie* remaining visible. The owner is working closely with the Coast Guard to contain and clean any oil that is discovered, and to conduct salvage operations to safely remove the vessel. The flooding began in the vessel's engine-room about 20 miles offshore in the Gulf of Mexico, southwest of the entrance to the Calcasieu Ship Channel in Louisiana. *La Marie* is carrying approximately 100,000 gallons of diesel fuel oil. The vessel is not obstructing navigation and no waterways have been impacted. The cause of this incident is under investigation by MSU Port Arthur.

London, Oct 22 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 2230, UTC: Tug *La Marie* sank in lat 29 24.6N, long 93 23.55W. Weather on scene is currently very poor. A diving survey will be carried out when the weather improves probably tomorrow or the next day. There is a vessel on scene to monitor any oil discharge from the sunken vessel, but no spillage reported to date.

London, Oct 23 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1505, UTC: Understand situation of tug *La Marie* remains unchanged.

London, Oct 25 — A press report, dated Oct 24, states: Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur is responding to the pollution threat and salvage of tug *La Marie*. She began taking on water when she struck a submerged object in the Gulf of Mexico, and later sank in the process of being towed to shallower water at about 2145 Saturday (Oct 21). The Coast Guard is on scene to assist and monitor pollution abatement and clean-up efforts. Initial inspections of the vessel found that the vessel sank in about 40 feet of water, with about two feet of her remaining visible. The owner is working closely with the Coast Guard to contain and clean any oil that is discovered, and to conduct salvage operations to safely remove the vessel. The vessel is not obstructing navigation and no waterways have been impacted. The cause of this incident is under investigation by MSU Port Arthur.

London, Oct 25 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1447, UTC: Understand situation of tug *La Marie* remains unchanged. Salvage operations are complex and expected to take several weeks. Intention is to remove most/all fuel. Divers have sealed all fuel vents except one on starboard side.

LASS MOON (Germany)

Portsmouth, UK, Oct 25 — Parts of a steel tower for a wind farm in the Western Isles have been lost overboard from a vessel in the North Sea. They were being transported from Denmark on general cargo *Lass Moon* (1515 gt, built 1992). The towers should have been built on the island but the contract was taken away after the yard near Stornoway got into financial difficulties. Forest Investment Management (FIM), which owns the Arnish Moor site, said the loss is likely to delay its plans. The original owners of the site — Farm Energy Ltd — got planning permission to build three wind turbines with a total output of 3.9 megawatts three years ago. It is now owned by FIM and was scheduled to be the first wind farm in Lewis to become operational. A spokesman for the company confirmed the loss of the parts and said it would have an impact on the turbine erection phase. It had been hoped to have the site ready by Nov 28. The spokesman said: "Clearly we are short of one turbine." Arnish-based company Camcal had started making the towers but the contract was removed when it was hit by financial problems. The vessel is expected to dock in the Arnish yard to offload the remaining tower parts. The access roads and tower bases have been completed but the loss of the tower parts could delay the commissioning of the wind farm, expected in November, until next year. — Correspondent.

LEMSTERLAND (Netherlands)

London, Oct 20 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Dutch Dredger *Lemsterland*, length of 52 metres, and a breadth of 8,9 metres, is at current being investigated at the Elsflth Yard where it had been taken after its grounding on the Hunte north of Berne, Wesermarsch region. There is no visible damage to the vessel. It had been lying grounded with bow and stern for more than six hours on both river sides. It had seven tons fuel oil on board, so that oil booms were kept ready for usage. The Hunte traffic had to be stopped during this time.

LEOPARD (Slovakia)

See *Beaumajor*.

LOCH DUNVEGAN (U.K.)

London, Oct 25 — Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 2128, UTC, Oct 24: At 1921, UTC, Oct 24, MRCC informed that Roll On Roll Off *Loch Dunvegan* (549 gt, built 1991), operating between Rhubodach and Colintrave, had gone aground on the ferry slip at Rhubodach, Isle of Bute, in lat 55 55.3N, long 05 09.4W, as a result of having taken avoiding action when in close quarters with a passing yacht. Vessel had five persons on board. The vessel contacted the Calmac Duty Manager, who in turn contacted the MCA Duty Surveyor and arranged to refloat on the high tide, sail across to the mainland and put the vessel off service pending a formal

investigation. The vessel is now alongside at Colintrave and off service, pending the formal investigation.

LOTUS BLOSSOM (Panama)

London, Oct 20 — Bulker *Lotus Blossom* passed through the Panama Canal, in a westerly direction, on Oct 14.

MAERSK DOHA (U.K.)

London, Oct 20 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, container carrier *Maersk Doha* is berthed at Coco Solo, Panama, as of 0941, UTC, today.

MARIE FLOOD (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 24 — Barge *Marie Flood*, in tow of tug *Janis Guzzle*, was reported arriving at Lome on Oct 1 and sailing on Oct 2, bound for Cotonou, where they arrived on Oct 4.

MARIETTE LE ROCH (France)

Falmouth, Oct 26 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC: Timed 0117, UTC: Fishing (general) *Mariette le Roch*, FVDX, (297 gt, built 1984), 10 persons on board, reported adrift in lat 50 06N, long 05 48.35W, at 0114, UTC. Wind south-south-west force 5 (fresh breeze). Coastguard tug/supply *Anglian Princess* tasked to standby.

Timed 0155, UTC: *Mariette le Roch* has a main engine failure. Understand a French vessel is due on scene in about 10 hours to take the vessel in tow, however, *Anglian Princess* will be on scene before then.

Falmouth, Oct 26 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0410, UTC: Fishing (general) *Mariette le Roch*, with seven tons of fish on board, was in lat 50 12.3N, long 05 46E at 0400, UTC. A sistership to *Mariette le Roch* has been tasked by owners for towage.

MARVEL K. (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

St. Petersburg, Oct 26 — General cargo *Marvel K.* is still in port at Kanonerskiy Shipyard, St. Petersburg. — Lloyd's Agents.

MASTER K. (Tuvalu)

London, Oct 23 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1930, UTC: General cargo *Master K.* (4697 gt, built 2006), bound Mariupol, in ballast, is currently not under command due mechanical failure in lat 37 52.7N, long 24 38.2E. A tug is due on scene to assist in 30 minutes.

London, Oct 24 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 2310, UTC, Oct 23: General cargo *Master K.* is now under tow of tug *Karapiperis 14* for Piraeus where ETA 0900, local time, today.

London, Oct 24 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1408, UTC: General cargo *Master K.* arrived Piraeus 1215, local time, today, in tow of tug *Karapiperis 14*.

MATHILDE (Netherlands)

Zeebrugge, Oct 20 — General cargo *Mathilde* is currently berthed at River

Scheldt Berth 17A. Its local agents have advised that the inspection authorities are still on board. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Oct 21 — Information received dated Oct 20 states: General cargo *Mathilde* which struck a quay at Antwerp at approximately 1330 hrs (Oct 19), following rudder problems, sailed today. The quayside was damaged over a distance of about 20 metres. There were no injuries. Damage to the vessel was restricted to a crack at the front of the ship one and a half metres above the waterline. *Mathilde* was towed to dry dock for breakdown service. (Note — According to Lloyd's LMIU AIS *Mathilde* was at Hansweert at 2313, UTC, Oct 20.)

London, Oct 21 — General cargo *Mathilde* sailed from Antwerp at 1916 hrs, Oct 20, bound for Oulu.

London, Oct 23 — According to Lloyd's LMIU AIS *Mathilde* was still at Hansweert at 2245, UTC, today.)

MELODY (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

See *Eviacement I.*

MILOS (Greece)

London, Oct 23 — Bulker *Milos* arrived at Dubai on Sep 28.

MINALAND (U.K.)

London, Oct 20 — General cargo *Minaland* was reported passing Gibraltar at 1747 hrs, Oct 11, in an easterly direction, proceeding to Garrucha and was next reported passing Gibraltar at 0720 hrs, Oct 15, in a westerly direction, coming from Garrucha.

MOREA 6 (Belgium)

Portsmouth, UK, Oct 21 — Multraship, URS and Polderman were last night assisting Belgian-flagged barge *Morea 6*, which ran aground near Westerschelde at approximately 1800 hrs. The fully loaded barge, on voyage from Antwerp to Evergem with a cargo of rolled steel, sustained damage. The damage is not yet known. A spokesman for Terneuzen Multraship said last night that the transfer of cargo using a crane barge could last all night and into tomorrow. — Correspondent.

London, Oct 21 — Barge *Morea 6*, being pushed by tug *Morea*, Antwerp for Evergem, cargo rolled steel, ran aground on the Westerschelde near Paal yesterday. *Morea* was detached from the barge and was able to move away from the problem. The refloating effort was being hampered because the barge was "folded" as it were in the form of a banana. The cargo will have to be transferred and yesterday evening salvors were waiting for sufficient water around the barge.

Terneuzen, Oct 22 — Barge *Morea* was successfully refloated at 1535 hrs, yesterday, by Multraship. The vessel then proceeded to Antwerp. — Multraship Towage & Salvage BV.

Zeebrugge, Oct 26 — Barge *Morea 6* headed from berth 355 to Evergem today. — Lloyd's Agents.

NAFTOBULK III (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Piraeus, Oct 26 — General cargo *Naftobulk III* has completed repairs and is expected to sail from Piraeus later today, bound for Cyprus. — Lloyd's Agents.

NAPOCOR POWER BARGE 105 (Philippines)

Manila, Oct 20 — Barge *Napocor Power Barge 105* is still moored at Masbate port in central Philippines, it's owner the National Power Corporation (Napocor) reported. Bunker fuel from its storage tanks were recently offloaded to another barge. Cleaning of its storage tanks is expected to follow shortly. Napocor will be conducting a public bidding to chose a drydocking contractor to repair the vessel which was severely damaged when it caught fire on Jun 23 at Masbate port. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

NEHRU-SHATABDI (India)

London, Oct 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Two dredgers, carrying out dredging work for the Cochin Port Trust, collided at sea in the early hours of yesterday. Cochin Port Trust hopper dredger *Nehru-Shatabdi* (2525 gt, built 1992) was returning from sea after depositing mud when it collided with Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) hopper dredger *DCI Dredge VIII* (8151 gt, built 1977). *DCI Dredge VIII* was on its way to sea to deposit mud dredged from the port. There were 32 labourers on both of the vessels. No injuries have been reported. The front section of *Nehru-Satabdi* was damaged while the steel hull of *DCI Dredge VIII* only sustained minor damage. Both vessels were brought to Kochi in the afternoon with the help of tugs. As their engines were not damaged, they were navigated up to the Kochi estuary. *DCI Dredge VIII* does dredging work for the Cochin Port on contract basis. *Nehru-Satabdi* has been working for the Cochin Port Trust for the last eight years. According to the primary inquiry conducted by the Port Trust authorities, *Nehru-Satabdi* struck *DCI Dredge VIII* when it deviated from the channel. Port Trust authorities will conduct a detailed inquiry into the accident.

NEPTUNIA MEDITERRANEO (Brazil)

Buenos Aires, Oct 25 — Container Carrier *Neptunia Mediterraneo* is still under arrest at Ushuaia. Agents still do not know the date of departure of the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

OCEAN CHALLENGER (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: The search for a crewman missing after fishing (general) *Ocean Challenger* capsized south of the Alaska Peninsula, killing two men and injuring another, was called off yesterday night, the Coast Guard said. Officials had scoured more than 1,730 square miles in the North Pacific for two days, said Petty Officer

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

Sara Francis. "The chances of finding someone alive in these kinds of water temperatures after 24 hours is extremely low," Francis said. "After 48 hours, that chance drastically reduces." She said the water temperature was 48 degrees. Officials said they did not know what caused the boat to capsize and sink. Francis said the Coast Guard was investigating, and planned to talk to the survivor today. Residents in Sand Point, a city of 940 about 570 miles southwest of Anchorage, said the weather has been severe, with high winds and 20-foot seas. The survivor, 28-year-old Kevin Ferrell of Lynchburg, Va., was assisted in the water by a rescue swimmer and hoisted to safety by a Coast Guard helicopter. Ferrell, the only person wearing a survival suit, was in critical condition yesterday, the Coast Guard said. The missing man, Steve Esparza, 26, of Kodiak, was not wearing a survival suit, the Coast Guard said. *Ocean Challenger* had been fishing for black cod near the Sanak Islands and was travelling back to Sand Point when it disappeared, said vessel owner Barry McKee.

OCEAN DELTA (Canada)

See *Jag Pahel*.

OCEAN VICTORY (Hong Kong)

Portsmouth, UK, Oct 24 — Bulker *Ocean Victory* (88853 gt, built 2005) ran aground in bad weather at Kashima today but the crew members were all safe, the Japanese Coast Guard said. The vessel hit the breakwater at the port while it was trying to turn in order to leave the pier to avoid high waves, according to the Coast Guard. It then ran aground in shallow water nearby, a Coast Guard spokesman said. All 24 Chinese crew members on board were safe, although the vessel began taking in some water, he said. *Ocean Victory* was unloading its cargo of iron ore when the master decided to move it out of the port to avoid strong winds and rain, he said. (Note — *Ocean Victory* arrived Kashima Oct 19 from Saldanha Bay.)

London, Oct 24 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 1935, UTC: *Ocean Victory* remains aground in lat 35 55N, long 140 42E. There has been no oil spillage.

London, Oct 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Japan's coast guard mobilized helicopters to rescue crew members of bulker *Ocean Victory*, an official said today. All 24 were taken off the vessel and there were no injuries, coast guard official Shigeyuki Sato said. The vessel was trying to make a turn to avoid high waves as it was leaving a pier yesterday, and ran aground in shallow water nearby.

London, Oct 25 — Following received from Coast Guard Japan, timed 1930, UTC: Bulker *Ocean Victory* remains aground.

ORAHOPE (DIS)

London, Oct 22 — Chemical tanker *Orahope* was reported passing Skaw,

in a southerly direction, at 1551, Oct 21.

ORENBURG (Russia)

London, Oct 24 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1507, UTC: General cargo *Orenburg* (4955 gt, built 1994), Russia for Waterford with ammonium nitrate, requested anchorage at 1355, UTC, while transiting the south-west lane, due to loss of one engine, 16 nautical miles off North Foreland, in lat 51 20.6N, long 01 51.7E. The vessel is currently making between one and 1.5 knots in south-westerly winds of 20 knots. Tug *Anglian Monarch* is proceeding to stand by the vessel while it makes its way to anchorage in the Downs, in lat 51 14N, long 01 26E.

London, Oct 24 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 2130, UTC: General cargo *Orenburg* is presently in lat 50 51N, long 01 02.2E, under way at 6.4 knots on one engine, course 230 deg, destination Waterford. Tug *Anglian Monrach* has been stood down.

London, Oct 25 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0952 today: General cargo *Orenburg* under way but not making much headway, requested a safe anchorage and is now making for St. Helens Roads anchorage, lat 50 42.4N, long 01 03.2W.

London, Oct 25 — Following received from Coastguard Solent RCC, timed 1424 hrs: General cargo *Orenburg* is sheltering from the weather and intends continuing to Waterford when weather moderates. (See issue of Oct 26.)

London, Oct 25 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 1920, UTC: General cargo *Orenburg* remains anchored in St. Helen's Roads, Isle of Wight, in lat 50 42.4N, long 01 03.2W, awaiting improvement in weather before continuing voyage to Waterford.

London, Oct 26 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 0719, UTC: General cargo *Orenburg* is continuing her passage to Waterford, using one engine only, at a speed of approximately seven knots. Vessel's ETA at Waterford is 2359, UTC, Oct 28.

ORION I (Pakistan)

Karachi, Oct 21 — Karachi Port Trust (KPT) said this afternoon that the 65 tons of fuel oil sealed in the tanks of sunken barge *Orion I* was safely siphoned off to oil barge *Navera* for onward disposal at shore. A press release of port authority said: "In the entire process KPT ensured that no spillage takes place into the sea and this operation was conducted by Smit Salvage Singapore along with their local partners-Indus Divers under the careful supervision and guidance of port authority". State of the art equipment including five air driven pumps for pumping oil and hydraulic tapping equipment for cutting steel bulkheads were used by the divers to gain access to the underwater tanks. The operation was

conducted round the clock despite unfavourable conditions of strong winds and rough seas. The threat of pollution and the marine life was of paramount concern and both concerns were addressed to the highest degree. *Orion I*, carrying Furnace Oil, capsized 3.1 nautical miles from Karachi at 2100, Oct 06. The KPT and the owner successfully rescued the 5 member crew. In the final phase or salvage operation the barge *Orion I* will now be refloated and removed to a safe location for further disposal. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Oct 24 — Understand that following the successful transfer of 65 tones of fuel oil trapped in capsized barge *Orion I* off Karachi Port, a team from Smit Salvage Singapore Pte and Indus Divers (Karachi) are preparing a salvage plan to refloat the barge. If the cost is approved by the vessel's owners, the salvage operation will begin by the end of this week. The team earlier gave a detailed presentation to Karachi Port Trust about the position of the wreck and the risk of oil spill. They confirmed that no oil is left in the vessel's tanks, and it is now ready for salvage. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PARAT (Germany)

London, Oct 25 — Tug *Parat* was reported arriving at Brunsbuttel at 1944 hrs, Oct 24.

PASA (Cambodia)

Piraeus, Oct 19 — Barge *Pasa* arrived Neapoli port in tow of launch *Psarromatis M.* at 2315, yesterday. — Lloyd's Agents.

Piraeus, Oct 25 — Barge *Pasa* is still at Neapoli, and no repairs have been effected as yet. — Lloyd's Agents.

PAVEL KUTAKHOV (Russia)

London, Oct 21 — A SvitzerWijsmuller report, dated Oct 14, states: Fish factory *Pavel Kutakhov* ran aground off Copenhagen while heading for a repair yard in Russia early yesterday morning. The vessel became stuck within sight of the SvitzerWijsmuller corporate headquarters. Immediately tug *Svitzer Mjolner* was instructed to proceed to the site and start soundings and other inspection work while the authorities were determining the actions they would allow. One of our Danish salvage masters was sent in to take charge upon the salvage contract having been agreed soon after the grounding with a Dutch salvage master following with ETA around noon that day. The salvage plan set in motion included the internal transfer of bunkers to a safer location within the ship and the mobilisation of further tugs, being tug *Per* from our Swedish operations and tug *Svitzer Menja*. Following a rise in water levels the casualty was safely refloated at about 1900 hrs by *Svitzer Menja* and *Svitzer Mjolner*. The vessel was checked on watertight integrity and thereafter delivered back to its owners alongside in Copenhagen. It subsequently was further inspected by

class and allowed to proceed to destination at the end of today, Oct 14.

PENN NO.120 (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 24 — A press release from the United States Coast Guard, dated Oct 23, states: The unified command responding to the spill of approximately 800 gallons of oil from tank barge *Penn No.120* in Riverhead, NY, on Oct 14, including the Coast Guard, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Penn Maritime Inc, with assistance from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, ended active clean-up operations today. Representatives from the towns of Riverhead and Southold today inspected the beach with members of the unified command. Crews removed 30 20-cubic-yard dumpsters, or approximately 360 tons, of oil-soaked debris. Over 120 workers from Miller Environmental Group responded to the spill at the height of operations utilising backhoes, front loaders and other heavy equipment. Although clean-up operations have been concluded, the Coast Guard and NYSDEC will continue to monitor the site. The cause of the spill is under investigation.

PETREL ARROW (Bahamas)

Antwerp, Oct 25 — General cargo *Petrel Arrow* (27824 gt, built 1985), Taichung for Changshu, fully laden, was in collision with container carrier *Feng Ye 26* (6259 gt) in Shanghai waters on Oct 22. The port tank of hull of *Petrel Arrow* was holed, but no oil was stored inside. The vessel is being held at Shanghai by the MSA, for investigation into suspected oil pollution in the river. *Feng Ye 26* is now discharging in Shanghai, and is then planning to effect repairs. — “DPS Teamhead Surveyors.”

PETRO CLARISSA (Philippines)

Manila, Oct 22 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that Philippine-registered coastal tanker *Petro Clarissa*, 986 gt, built 1996, ran aground off Siete Pecados island off Iloilo province, central Philippines, Friday (Oct 20) afternoon. The tanker, carrying 1.1 million litres of bunker fuel from Navotas in Manila to Batangas province, encountered manoeuvring problems because of strong currents causing it to run aground. Philippine Navy ship *Davao del Norte* and Philippine Coast Guard search and rescue vessel No.3504 rendered assistance. Underwater inspection by Philippine Coast Guard divers indicated that the tanker's double-bottom hull was intact. No oil spill was detected. Neither were there any deaths or injuries to the tanker's crew. A commercial salvage tug helped refloat *Petro Clarissa* in the evening. The tanker is now enroute to Batangas on its own power. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Oct 23 — Transoil Corporation, owner and operator of non specific tanker *Petro Clarissa* clarified today that the tanker was

still anchored off Siete Pecados island in central Philippines. Earlier, the Philippine Coast Guard reported that the tanker had left the island and resumed its voyage after running aground on Oct 20. Transoil officials said that the vessel could not leave until an underwater survey was conducted by a Maritime Industry Authority-accredited diver to determine the vessel's seaworthiness. This was carried out this afternoon. Survey results showed that the bottom hull only sustained scratches as the ship had ran aground on sand. The vessel's propellers and rudder were also in working condition as only the front part of the vessel had hit sea bottom. The survey report had been submitted to the Coast Guard and company officials were confident that the clearance for departure would be given by this evening. From Siete Pecados island, the vessel will proceed to Naga port in Cebu in central Philippines where it will unload its cargo of 1.1 million litres of bunker fuel. From Naga port, the tanker will return to the Shell Refinery in Sta.Rita, Batangas province in Luzon island to take on another load of bunker fuel. — Lloyd's Agents.

Manila, Oct 25 — Transoil Corporation, owner and operator of non specific tanker *Petro Clarissa*, reported that the vessel had left Siete Pecados island in central Philippines, on Monday evening (Oct 23), under its own power. The tanker's destination is the Apo Cement wharf in Naga, Cebu where it will deliver its remaining load of 1.1 million litres of bunker fuel. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Oct 26 — Transoil Corporation, owner and operator of coastal tanker *Petro Clarissa* reported that the tanker had arrived at the Apo Cement wharf in Naga, Cebu, 2050, Oct 24. The vessel has completed discharging its cargo of 1.1 million litres of bunker fuel and is now preparing to leave for the Shell Refinery in Sta.Rita, Batangas province in Luzon island to take on another load of bunker fuel. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PHILIPP (Antigua & Barbuda)

Liverpool, Oct 25 — General cargo *Philipp* ETD 2130 today, destination unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

PRIDE OF AMERICA (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated Oct 19, states: Passenger (cruise) *Pride of America* resumed its cruise around the Hawaiian Islands after making some repairs to its starboard propeller and staying an extra day on Maui. The 920-foot vessel, a part of NCL America, reported on Monday (Oct 16) to the US Coast Guard that it had apparently struck a channel buoy when it left Honolulu Harbor at about 2000, Saturday, and had been dragging the buoy chain. The Coast Guard was investigating the incident, spokesman Lt. John Titchen said yesterday. Titchen said the Coast Guard has not located the missing buoy, worth about

\$6,000, and has replaced it with another. Titchen said it was not uncommon for a vessel to strike a buoy. He said reporting the missing buoy showed good seamanship on the part of *Pride of America*. Robert Kritzman, executive vice president of Hawaii operations for NCL, said one of the engineers discovered the chain in the starboard propeller at Kahului Harbour on Maui, and divers removed it Tuesday. Kritzman said the vessel had to forgo a trip to Kona on the Big Island to make repairs on Maui.

QUETZALCOATL (Mexico)

London, Oct 19 — At least six people have been killed and nine wounded in an explosion on Pemex-owned product tanker *Quetzalcoatl*, in the Mexican port of Coatzacoalcos. A further two men are missing. They were working close to the vessel when the explosion occurred at 1319 on Tuesday (Oct 17) and it is feared they have also been killed in the blast. The 44,650 dwt product tanker was alongside at the Pajaritos oil complex in Coatzacoalcos when the explosion occurred. Pemex said the terminal has not been affected by the explosion. The accident has been blamed on welding work being carried out on the Mexico-flagged vessel at the time. According to a statement from the state-owned oil company, the 1979-built vessel was not loaded and was undergoing repairs by local contractor, LÚpez García when the explosion happened. “The ship did not have an oil on board and was out of service at the time of the repair works. However a spark resulting from these works entered one of the tanks and made contact with the residues of gas causing the explosion,” said Pemex in a statement. Three of the dead have been identified as Pablo Santos García and Oswaldo V-zquez Flores, employed by the contractor, Lopez Garcia, and Octaviano Hernández Mendoza employed by Pemex. Three more bodies recovered are being identified. Nine more men have been hospitalised with burns and minor injuries. Pemex said there had been no damage to the hull of the vessel and there was little likelihood that the vessel would sink. The tanker is classed by Lloyd's Register and insured by the North of England P&I club.

Coatzacoalcos, Oct 24 — Product tanker *Quetzalcoatl* remains berthed at Pemex Pajaritos Terminal. At present, investigations are still being carried out by the General Attorney's Office and information plus security remains very tight. The media mentions that investigations are presently directed to the independent contractor who was performing the repairs when the accident happened. There is no information forthcoming at present regarding extent of damage, however, we have some photographs showing heavy damage on deck in the centre tanks amidships. — Lloyd's Agents.

QUICKCAT (New Zealand)

Auckland, Oct 25 — Ferry *Quickcat* has been repaired and is now back in service. — Lloyd's Agents.

RIVER PRINCESS

London, Oct 23 — A press report, dated Oct 22, states: The government has finally awarded contract for removal of bulk ore carrier *River Princess* that ran aground in June 2000, to Jaishu Shipping Company of Gujarat. As per the contract signed between the government and the company, the vessel would be removed within six months. The government would pay Rs 5.5 crore to the Gujarat-based company for the removal of the vessel, which lies grounded off Candolim-Sinquirim beach.

ROKIA DELMAS (Panama)

Nantes, Oct 24 — Roll on roll off container carrier *Rokia Delmas* (32924 gt, built 1985) grounded near La Pallice early this morning. The vessel is still aground and the crew are being taken off. Salvage tug *Abeille Languedoc* is proceeding. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 24 — Following received from the operators of roll on roll off container carrier *Rokia Delmas*, dated today: At approximately 0300 this morning, the Master of *Rokia Delmas* reported a total black out and loss of propulsion. At the time, the vessel was approaching the pilot station at the Port of La Rochelle, inbound from West Africa where it operates in the Delmas Atlantic West Africa Service. Given the proximity of the vessel to the shore and relatively shallow waters, the Master deployed the anchor to avoid further drift. Due to the bad weather and loss of steerage, there was a shift in cargo resulting in the vessel experiencing a list of some 20+ deg. At approximately 0630 hrs, the Master considered it prudent to request the local authorities to airlift 20 members of the crew to safety. The Master and seven crew remain on board to co-ordinate any salvage operation. The vessel's owners and operators are working in close co-operation with the French Prefecture Maritime 2, to ensure the safety of those on board and the safety of the vessel. There is no pollution reported from the vessel at the present time. Tug assistance has been requested and two deep sea tugs will be on station, the first at approximately 1400, local time, the second by the end of the afternoon.

Donges, Oct 24 — Roll On Roll Off Container Car *Rokia Delmas*, 26 crew on board, stranded about 0500 today near Re Island, two miles from La Couarde sur Mer. Tug is on the way. The vessel must be "right up" before towing. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 25 — Twenty of the 28 crew on board the CMA CGM Roll On Roll Off Container Car *Rokia Delmas* were airlifted off the vessel yesterday morning after it ran aground off the island of Re off La Rochelle in stormy seas. The 1985-built, 27,000 dwt vessel sustained a total loss of power

and electricity at about 0300 hrs, as it was approaching the port of La Rochelle amid four-metre-high waves and winds exceeding 100 kph. It finally ran aground at 0500 hrs, nine kilometres off Re on a rock and sand bottom in nine metres of water. The vessel was listing over 20 degrees on its port side, according to the maritime prefecture in Brest, which said its cargo had shifted but no containers had been lost. Most crewmembers were evacuated by French naval helicopter at about 0700 hrs, although the master and seven other crewmembers stayed on board to help with salvage operations. It had been thought that the vessel would be refloated without too much difficulty but the prefecture reported yesterday afternoon that it was taking in water in the engine-room. Two teams of investigators were dropped on board to assess the damage and the prefecture said priority would be given to patching the breach in the hull with the aim of drying out the engine-room in time for an attempt to refloat the vessel on the early evening tide. The salvage tug *Abeille Languedoc* arrived at the scene at 1300 hrs, and its sister ship, *Abeille Bourbon*, was due at 1730 hrs. An anti-pollution vessel was also on its way to the site from Brest but was not expected to arrive until this morning. The prefecture seemed to be pessimistic about prospects of refloating the vessel, moreover, warning that no attempt would be made to tow it unless conditions allowed. "So long as the nature and length of the breach in the hull are not known with certainty, a risky towage operation cannot be imagined," it said. Delmas Atlantic West Africa Line, which operates the vessel, said yesterday afternoon that no pollution had been detected around it, adding that there was little fuel on board the vessel, which was returning to Europe from West Africa. "Owners and operators are working in close co-operation with the French maritime prefecture to ensure the safety of those on board and safety of the vessel," the company said. The company was unable to say what had caused the loss of power and electricity aboard the vessel, indicating only that it was thought that the vessel had a sustained "a big short circuit", probably provoked by the severe weather conditions.

London, Oct 25 — Following received from the operators of roll on roll off container carrier *Rokia Delmas*, dated today: The owners and managers of *Rokia Delmas*, which sustained an engine black-out and subsequent grounding off La Rochelle in very heavy weather on Oct 23, continue to work in close co-operation with the Prefecture Maritime to ensure the safety of life of all those involved and to avoid any possible pollution to the environment. The seafarers who were taken off the vessel yesterday by helicopter are being cared for in local hotels and the company has assigned a captain to look after their needs. The officer who suffered a broken leg

during the incident is well and also being cared for. Navy divers' inspections are continuing, but preliminary findings show a number of breaches in the hull and ingress of water into the engine-room and lower decks. In these circumstances, the priority for the company and the authorities must be to ensure that all possible pollutants are removed from the vessel with all speed. The vessel currently has some 500 tons of bunker fuel on board and a small quantity of diesel oil to drive the generators. A specialist salvage company "Abeille Bourbon" has been appointed to handle the removal of this oil and it is hoped that this operation can start within 24 hours, when the weather is expected to be more favourable to bringing a barge alongside *Rokia Delmas* and to commence the operation. In addition, the Prefecture Maritime has arranged for a specialist anti pollution vessel *Alcyon* to attend the site with booms and oil-removal equipment to ensure that every step is taken to mitigate the possibility of pollution. A further diving inspection of the vessel will take place today.

London, Oct 25 — Following received from Etel MRCC, timed 1925, UTC: Roll On Roll Off Container Car *Rokia Delmas* remains aground. Its position is lat 46 08.1N, long 01 30W.

London, Oct 26 — Salvors abandoned plans to refloat the grounded Roll On Roll Off Container Car *Rokia Delmas* yesterday after divers discovered that water was entering it via a 20 metre by 50 cm gash in its hull. The Maritime Prefecture in Brest, which is overseeing the salvage effort, said that, given the scale of the damage, freeing the vessel by pumping was no longer an option and towing it may cause the vessel to sink.

SAMJOHN SPIRIT (Greece)

Montreal, Oct 23 — Bulker *Samjohn Spirit* sailed Baie des Ha Ha Oct 22 for Havre St. Pierre, ETA Oct 23. The anchor will not be recovered as the water where it was lost is too deep. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEAN PAPA

See *Torms Fjord*.

SENECA (Malta)

Troy, Mi., Oct 20 — Bulker *Seneca* is currently loading at Pier 51, Toronto. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping News.

SHAH BADAR-I

Chittagong, Oct 23 — A local press report, dated Oct 18, states: Movement of vessels through the navigation channel at Chittagong Port has slowed down due to the failure to salvage lighter vessel *Shah Badar-i* that sunk a few days ago. The sunken vessel is also posing a threat of accumulation of silt in the navigation channel, causing serious obstruction in the movement of vessels. The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has handled the passage of a total of eight ships, including three small-size oil tankers, with utmost caution. The

CPA has created two more temporary, alternative channels for the berthing of ships. One channel is located behind the sunken ship, while the other is in the front. CPA sources said huge levels of silt in the first alternate channel behind the sunken vessel are already creating problems for vessels to enter/approach the jetty. The second alternative channel which was created in front of the sunken vessel is also facing the threat of silting. Faced with this problem, the CPA will create yet another alternative channel very soon, the sources added. Container ships entered the berth through an alternate channel. Three vessels entered the jetty today, while five departed. A total of 13 container ships are waiting at the outer anchorage to berth. The permissible highest draft at Chittagong port is 8.55 metres, but now the draft has decreased by 0.5 of a metre. As a result, large vessels cannot berth at the jetty. CPA sources also said that whilst they could earlier accommodate vessels up to 186.5 metres in length, that has now been cut to 170 metres. The shipping secretary visited the site today and directed the authority to take steps to remove the ship from the navigational channel as early as possible. CPA asked the owner of the lighter to take immediate steps to salvage the vessel and hoped that the owner would be able to raise the vessel within three weeks. Concerned sources said it will take a long time, possibly at least two months, to remove the vessel. During this period, silt would accumulate in the channel. The committee investigating the sinking of the lighter, submitted its report to the Director General yesterday. It concluded that a "shifting of bulk wheat grounded the *Shah Badar-I*. It was carrying 1400 tonnes of wheat. — Lloyd's Agents.

SHATALOVO (Ukraine)

London, Oct 22 — Trawler (All types) *Shatalovo* was reported passing Istanbul, in an easterly direction, at 1108 hrs, Oct 21, reportedly bound for Odessa.

SHIN CO-OP MARU (Panama)

London, Oct 19 — Following Japan Navigation Warning, dated today, states: Tug towing product tanker *Shin Co-op Maru* (4007 gt, built 1986) departs Onomichi Itozaki to Hiroshima, ETA 1920, UTC, today. Speed about six knots.

SILINA

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Oct 23 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0455, UTC: Container Carrier *Silina* (3141 gt, built 1978) was abandoned approximately 50 miles from Tartous following fire in accommodation and engine-room this morning. The vessel's crew, 13 or 14 persons, have been rescued by a German warship in the area.

Limassol, Oct 23 — Following message received from Cyprus Telecommunications Authority Radio-

Maritime Service: At 0200, UTC, today, Container Carrier *Silina*, while in lat 34 50N, long 34 5E sent and SOS message due to fire. Twelve crew were rescued by helicopter from the German warship *Frankfurt*, which is due to arrive at Larnaca this afternoon. *Silina* currently in lat 34 47.5N 34 55.9E and on fire, is currently adrift and a danger to navigation. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 24 — Following received from Piraeus MRCC, timed 1350, UTC: Container Carrier *Silina*: Situation remains unchanged.

London, Oct 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A German Navy helicopter today safely evacuated the 12-man crew of container carrier *Silina*, which caught fire off Cyprus, officials said. Two crewmen from the vessel suffered burns and were airlifted to hospital in Limassol. Officials said they were in good condition but would remain in hospital for further observation. The remaining 10 sailors — Syrian and Egyptian nationals — were carried to Limassol by German navy auxiliary vessel *Frankfurt am Main*. *Silina*, which had sailed from Syria, was 64 nautical miles east of Larnaca when it issued a distress signal at around 0530 hrs after a fire broke out in its engine-room, police said. Cyprus authorities said that *Silina* was being towed back to Syria.

London, Oct 24 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0933, UTC: Container Carrier *Silina* had a fire about 50 nautical miles south of Tartous. Taken in tow by sistership for tartous.

SINEGORYE (Russia)

London, Oct 23 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Sinegorye* (2448 gt, built 1979) has sent a signal of distress from the Sea of Japan. According to the Vladivostok rescue and coordination centre, the signal came at 1340, local time. The ship is now 80 miles off the Korean peninsula. The Russian ship *Legacy*, which is closest to the site, is heading for the site to help the ship in distress. Water is flowing into *Sinegorye*, and it has listed eight degrees to starboard. In order to keep the ship afloat, the crew have jettisoned part of its cargo, timber.

London, Oct 23 — Following received from Vladivostok MRCC, timed 0525, UTC: General cargo *Sinegorye*, Russia for China, cargo timber, is in lat 38 25N, long 129 55E. Vessel is now listing 20 degrees to starboard and is flooding. A South Korean patrol vessel is en route to assist and is due on scene in approximately six hours. The 18 crew are still onboard the vessel.

Vladivostok, Oct 23 — The Vladivostok Salvage Co-ordinating Centre, has reported that general cargo *Sinegorye*, with 18 crew onboard, sent a distress signal at approximately 1300 hrs, today, in lat 38N, long 128E, after discovering a leak in the hold of the vessel. The vessel began to list and when the list reached eight degrees to starboard,

the crew ditched part of the cargo (approximately 1000 c/m of timber) overboard, in order to prevent the vessel capsizing. At the present moment the list has reached 20 degrees. The vessel is 80 miles off the South Korea coast. Weather on the scene: winds - from 20 to 30 metres per second, wave height up - to seven metres. A Korean patrol vessel is proceeding to the distress area. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 23 — Following received from Vladivostok MRCC, timed 1340, UTC: General cargo *Sinegorye*: Four hours after distress issued radio contact with vessel lost. For the last 10 hours a South Korean Patrol vessel has been on the scene but no sign or contact with the vessel. If weather conditions permit, tomorrow Korean Coast Guard vessels and helicopters expected to proceed to scene/area to search for vessel and crew.

London, Oct 23 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Sinegorye*, Posyet for China, with a cargo of timber, has sunk in the Sea of Japan, the Russian Transport Ministry said today. There were 18 crewmen on board. The vessel sent out a Mayday (distress) at 1340, local time, today following ingress of seawater. During the last radio contact the crew reported the vessel had listed to starboard almost 20 deg. Radio contact with *Sinegorje* was lost when the vessel was 90 miles off the nearest port. Rescue centres had been incessantly sending radio messages to the vessel but it did not respond. Rescuers presumed the crew had abandoned it. A South Korean patrol vessel, a Panamanian ship and an Israeli freight vessel proceeded to the emergency area. A heavy sea storm continued in the emergency area with the wind force of almost 30 metres per second and sea waves five metres high. It had been heavily raining and a visibility range was almost at a zero point. Aircraft could not be used for search operations under such weather conditions. All the vessels staying in the Sea of Japan were notified about *Sinegorje* being in distress but none of them were staying close to the emergency area.

London, Oct 24 — A press report, dated today, states: South Korea's coast guard was searching for general cargo *Sinegorye* for a second day today, after the vessel called for help due to bad weather off the country's east coast. "The search is still continuing. We still don't know what happened to the ship," said an official of the Donghae Provincial Coast Guard Headquarters. Two patrol vessels and an aircraft were searching the area, but were having difficulty because of bad weather, the official said. Heavy rains and strong winds battered parts of eastern South Korea yesterday.

Busan, Oct 24 — At about 1156, Oct 23, general cargo *Sinegorye*, Russia for China, laden with 3,284 cubic metres of logs, was deviating to the nearest port of Donghae, due to leakage of cargo hold(s), the vessel reportedly sank in some 1,000 metres of water in

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approximately lat 38 25N, long 129 55E. From the present information, some 1,000 cubic metres, (2,500 pieces) of logs on deck were lost overboard and drifting on the sea surface. Korean marine police craft are at the site for search and rescue. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Oct 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Three sailors from general cargo *Sinegorye* have been rescued in the Sea of Japan, the Vladivostok rescue centre said. "One of them was on a raft and the other two were pulled out from the water. An empty lifeboat was also found. The raft had been spotted by a South Korean ship," the center said. The ship had an 18-member crew. The other 15 crewmembers remain missing. An international team is involved in the rescue effort. A Be-200 amphibious plane flew to the disaster area from Khabarovsk. Russian rescuers have been dispatched to the area by the Emergency Situations Ministry's Far East rescue centre.

Vladivostok, Oct 24 — Three crew members of general cargo *Sinegorye* were saved by "Rescue group". One person was found on a raft and two were lifted from the water. Also one body was found. — Lloyd's Agents.

Vladivostok, Oct 24 — One more person from general cargo *Sinegorye* has been found. At present moment four crew members have been rescued and one body found. Weather on the scene is: Winds from 10 to 15 metres per second, wave height from three to five metres. — Lloyd's Agents.

Moscow, Oct 24 — Rescue teams, battling inclement weather, had saved five crew from the wrecked general cargo *Sinegorye* off South Korea's coast and recovered the body of another seaman, Russian news agencies reported today. A total of 18 crew were on board the vessel. Interfax news agency quoted Russia's Emergency Minister in Vladivostok as saying that four of the five rescued crew were in satisfactory condition and had been taken to South Korean ports. The fifth remained on a vessel taking part in rescue operations. Emergency Ministry officials said poor weather had prompted a postponement until tomorrow of plans to send a Russian aircraft to help search the area. A South Korean vessel had initially found three seamen alive. "A liferaft with one crewman, who was alive, was found. Another two were pulled from the water, also alive," Interfax quoted a Russian rescue service official as saying. "The vessel's lifeboat has also been found but there was no one in it," the official said. Two large patrol boats and a search aircraft were dispatched to the area but the vessels experienced difficulty reaching the area until well into the night, a South Korean Coast Guard official said by telephone from the coastal city of Donghae. "It is too early to talk about the fate of the (other) crew members," the official said. "Weather conditions remain extremely bad." Heavy rain hit South Korea's north-eastern region yesterday. — Reuters.

London, Oct 25 — A press report, dated today, states: South Korean maritime police patrol vessels have found and taken onboard another five crewmembers of the Russian general cargo *Sinegorye*, that sank 80 miles off the South Korean coast on Monday, Oct 23. A duty officer at the maritime police told Itar-Tass there is no data now on whether all the seamen are alive but in all evidence they are. He also said policemen had found the sixth crewmember who was in the water and holding on to a log. To date, twelve of the *Sinegorye's* crew have been found. One of them has died. All the rescued men have been taken to hospitals in Kangnung or Pyonghae. Medics in Kangnung told Itar-Tass that two seamen have already been released and are staying in a local hotel. One crewman is still receiving treatment for shoulder burns and another one remains unconscious. In the meantime, "Prosecutor's Office on Transport" in Nakhodka, has instituted "a criminal case" over the *Sinegorye's* sinking. Investigators have established that the vessel belonged to the company Tranzit-Sever-Vostok and was registered in the port of Magadan on the Sea of Okhotsk, said Irina Namakonova, a senior assistant to the Primorsky territory prosecutor. *Sinegorye* departed from the port of Plastun on Oct 21, with a consignment of 2,794 tons of timber. It was bound for the Chinese port of Changshu. About 1000 tons of timber fell from the ship's deck during extremely stormy weather on Sep 23, destroying the starboard bulwark and ventilation posts. Seawater began filling the vessel's holds and ballast tanks. Radio communications with the crew were lost after 0600, UTC. Investigators have listed two possible causes of the accident - "encroachment on navigation rules" as a result of the storm and "irregularities" in loading the cargo. However, the bad stormy weather was the ultimate cause of the disaster, Namakonova said. Investigative officials say both versions have an equal degree of verity and they cannot give preference to either of them at the moment.

London, Oct 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Russia's Ministry for Emergency Situations has sent out a Beriyev-200 amphibious plane from Vladivostok to search for missing crew members from general cargo *Sinegorye* off the Korean Peninsula. A total of six seamen were rescued yesterday but one of them later died. Russian trawler *Ussuri* has arrived in the distress area and rescue seacraft *Yuri Orlenko* is expected to arrive in the next few hours. *Sinegorye* was caught in a heavy cyclone 80 km from the Korean coastline while en route from Russia's Primorsky (Maritime) territory to China with a consignment of timber. It was severely damaged during the storm and listed, after which water started pouring into its holds. Radio communications with the vessel were lost at around 0600, UTC, yesterday. Officials at the Russian Transport Ministry said it was obvious

that the vessel had sunk. South Korea has committed two patrol vessels to the search. If the weather improves, another 20 patrol vessels and five helicopters will join the operation.

London, Oct 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A total of 11 sailors have now been found alive from the 18-man crew of general cargo *Sinegorye* that sunk in the West Pacific two days ago, after rescuers found another six today, Russian officials in Vladivostok said. One sailor was found dead yesterday, and Russian and South Korean boats and aircraft continue to scour the Sea of Japan in search for the remaining six members of the crew. A spokesman for the regional rescue centre in Vladivostok said the latest six survivors, who had braved two days on the open seas, were detected by a helicopter and picked up by a South Korean patrol boat. South Korea's patrol boats and an aircraft are continuing the search, along with Russia's Yury Orlenko ship and an Emergencies Ministry Be-200 amphibious aircraft. The vessel, which was transporting timber, sunk within one hour when a sudden heavy storm broke out, causing the vessel to lurch violently. Most of the timber broke through the holds, damaging hatches and equipment, and water began to flow into the ship, one of the survivors, speaking from a South Korean hospital, said. When the ship heeled to an angle of about 20 degrees, the captain ordered the crew to leave the vessel. However, only one of the two rescue boats was operational, the other being trapped under a collapsed mast. Russia's Foreign Ministry said yesterday it had instructed its Pyongyang embassy to make every effort jointly with local authorities to locate and rescue the remaining crew members.

London, Oct 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Salvage tug *Yuriy Orlenko* has joined a search for the six missing crewmen of general cargo *Sinegorye* this morning. Eleven sailors have been saved in the last 48 hours, one sailor has died. A spokesman for the Far Eastern centre of the Russian Emergencies Ministry said that a Be-200 amphibious plane would fly to the disaster area this morning. The weather in the Sea of Japan has improved and has facilitated the rescue operation. In the meantime, nine rescued crewmen have been discharged from Korean hospitals. Two people are still in hospital but their condition has improved. The Transit-Sever shipping company that owned *Sinegorye* will arrange the dispatch of Russian sailors to Russia.

London, Oct 26 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Sinegorye*, which sank on Oct 23 in the Sea of Japan, was insured for \$2 million. A representative of the Voенно-Strakhovaya Company said the insurance included the risk of the *Sinegorye's* "destruction, limit at the rate of \$1.75 million", as well as ship-owner's responsibility "against crew members" at the rate of 450,000 rubles

per capita. Eleven crew members were found alive during rescue operations, motor-mechanic-gas welder Valery Dudka died. At present, search and rescue operations continue.

London, Oct 26 — A press report, dated today, states: South Korean coast guards searching for Russian sailors from sunken general cargo *Sinegorye* have sighted two bodies from the air in North Korean waters, a coast guard official said today. The aircraft "identified two bodies, 37 nautical miles to the north-west of Chongjin in north-east North Korea" the official said. Eleven sailors have been found alive from the 18-man crew of the vessel, which sank in the Sea of Japan on Monday (Oct 23), and a total of four have been found dead. The search continues for the other three. North Korea had given authorisation for one South Korean vessel and one aircraft to enter its waters and airspace on Tuesday, to search for the sailors, despite diplomatic tensions between the countries. North Korean military officials were quoted by South Korean coast guards as saying "Guided by humanitarian considerations, our side has decided to allow the rescue teams to enter our territory, on board one vessel and one aircraft." *Sinegorye*, which was transporting timber, sunk within one hour when a sudden heavy storm broke out, causing the vessel to lurch violently. Most of the timber broke through the holds, damaging hatches and equipment, and water began to flow into the vessel, one of the survivors, speaking from a South Korean hospital, said. Russia's Foreign Ministry said Tuesday it had instructed its Pyongyang embassy to make every effort jointly with local authorities to locate and rescue the remaining crew members.

SIRITARA OCEAN QUEEN (Thailand)

London, Oct 25 — Passenger (cruise) *Siritara Ocean Queen* (6092 gt, built 1964) capsized at Bangkok, believed around the beginning of October, in heavy weather.

SOLAR 1 (Philippines)

Manila, Oct 24 — The International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund approved funding for the removal of the remaining bunker fuel on board non specific tanker *Solar 1* during a meeting of its executive committee in London yesterday. The news was confirmed by Presidential Adviser for Western Visayas Rafael Coscuella, who said that "we had some difficulty with the Spanish delegation, but overwhelming support from everyone else." He said that a formal resolution by the executive committee was expected to be released later in the day. The cost of removing the remaining bunker fuel cargo from the sunken vessel could range from US\$8-12 million. The actual cost will be known once tenders from six salvage companies bidding to offload the vessel's cargo have been submitted to the IOPC. The vessel sank 15 nautical

miles south-west of Guimaras Island on Aug 11 while carrying about two million litres of bunker fuel. It is estimated that some 250,000 litres spilled into the sea, causing one of the worst oil spills in the country and damaging the coastal areas of Guimaras and parts of northern Iloilo. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Oct 26 — A press report, dated today, states: The Philippines will wait until calmer weather in January to start siphoning off around 1.4 million litres of oil trapped in a submerged non specific tanker *Solar 1* off its central coastline, an official said today. "The operation will require at least a 30-day window period of good weather," Rafael Coscolluela, the presidential adviser for western Visayas region, told reporters, adding he was advised the recovery of oil would start in early January. Coscolluela said they could not start earlier because weather conditions were unpredictable. A \$300 million insurance claim from the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPC) would fund efforts to siphon off the bunker fuel, Coscolluela added. Portions of the fund would also go to about 4,000 fishermen who lost their livelihood due to the oil spill as well as for the clean up of affected areas. The Philippines said the London-based IOPC would award the contract to an experienced, international maritime salvage firm to recover what remained inside the tanker.

SOUND OF ISLAY (Canada)

London, Oct 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Roll On Roll Off *Sound of Islay* (280 gt, built 1968), brought in last week to serve an island off Newfoundland's north-east coast, has broken down. The vessel, which was put on the run to the island of St. Brendan's in Bonavista Bay, was pulled out of service Saturday (Oct 21) when it developed troubles with its gearbox. The ferry is being repaired at the dock in Burnside, NF. Residents of St. Brendan's have been told to expect delays in the ferry schedule for at least four days. The Department of Transportation, which will try to provide another ferry, started offering helicopter service this morning for St. Brendan's residents who needed to get on and off the island.

SPIRIT OF FOYNES (Malta)

Portsmouth, UK, Oct 22 — On Oct 21, general cargo *Spirit of Foynes* (3585 gt, built 1991) became a "dead ship". The tugs *Smit Japan* and *Thamesbank* assisted it to moor in Waalhaven harbour. — Correspondent. (Note — *Spirit of Foynes* arrived at Rotterdam at 2335 hrs, Oct 20.)

London, Oct 22 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0915, UTC: Rotterdam Port Authorities have advised that general cargo *Spirit of Foynes* experienced gear box problems at 0830 hrs, Oct 21 and as a result was towed to Waalhaven by two tugs. The vessel is still there, ETD presently unknown.

London, Oct 22 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS general cargo *Spirit of Foynes* was in lat 51 15 38N, long 01 46 53E, 18.1 nautical miles from Calais, at 2157, UTC, today, speed 11.7 knots, course 217.4 degrees..

London, Oct 23 — General cargo *Spirit of Foynes* sailed from Rotterdam at 1425 hrs, Oct 22, bound for Foynes.

STAR FUJI (NIS)

London, Oct 20 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, general cargo *Star Fuji* was in lat 53 31 55.8N, long 04 54 26.4E, at 1113, UTC, today, course 246 deg, speed 14.7 knots, nearest port Terschelling at a distance of 21 nautical miles.

STAR ISMENE (NIS)

London, Oct 21 — Bulker with container capacity *Star Ismene* arrived Antwerp 1035, Oct 13, sailed 0122, Oct 19 and passed Dover Strait same day for Panama Canal with eta Los Angeles Nov 13.

STAR PRINCESS (Bermuda)

London, Oct 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A discarded cigarette butt was the likely cause of a fatal fire on passenger (cruise) *Star Princess* in the Caribbean, accident investigators said today. Britain's Marine Accident Investigation Branch said in a report that the Mar 23 fire on board *Star Princess* was probably sparked by a cigarette that ignited combustible materials on a cabin balcony. The blaze spread to almost 300 cabins on the ship. One American passenger died and 13 other passengers were treated for smoke inhalation. The investigators' report found that the balconies' polycarbonate partitions, polyurethane deck tiles and plastic furniture were highly combustible and produced large quantities of thick black smoke when burned. The smoke got into bedrooms and alleyways, hampering the evacuation of passengers. The investigation branch said the ship's owner, Carnival Corp, was taking steps to improve safety and that the International Maritime Organization would consider proposed amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, an agreement governing ships at sea, in December. At the time of the fire the convention did not have rules on combustible materials used on balcony areas since they were not included in the cruise ships' fire zones. Stephen Meyer, Britain's chief inspector of marine accidents, said he was satisfied that the measures being taken by Carnival and the IMO "will improve significantly the safety of cruise ships."

SUNLIGHT (U.S.A.)

Falmouth, Oct 24 — Crude oil tanker *Erik Spirit* sailed from Falmouth at 1950 hrs, Oct 22, bound for Primorsk. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUPERFLYTE (New Zealand)

Auckland, Oct 25 — Ferry *Superflyte* (578 gt, built 1996), which experienced

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

engine failure on Oct 8, is still at Auckland, awaiting the arrival of replacement parts. — Lloyd's Agents.

TAMPA (NIS)

See "Drugs Found On Norwegian International Register Vessels, Australia" under "Miscellaneous".

TARONGA (NIS)

See "Drugs Found On Norwegian International Register Vessels, Australia" under "Miscellaneous".

THEODOROS (Panama)

Piraeus, Oct 20 — Wine tanker *Theodoros* sailed from Megisti port Aug 11 for Genoa. — Lloyd's Agents.

THOR ENDEAVOUR (Thailand)

London, Oct 25 — Bulker *Thor Endeavour* arrived at Fremantle at 2215 hrs, Oct 3. It sailed at 1235 hrs, Oct 4, bound for Bluff, New Zealand, arriving on Oct 14.

TORM ANHOLT (Panama)

London, Oct 20 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1425, UTC: Bulkers *Torm Anholt* and *Zagora* are still restricted from sailing. The *Zagora* has been moved to Pauline St Wharf, Mile 93.1, lower River Mississippi.

London, Oct 23 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1505, UTC: Bulkers *Torm Anholt* and *Zagora* are still restricted from sailing pending repairs and class permission.

London, Oct 25 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1447, UTC: Bulkers *Torm Anholt* and *Zagora* are still restricted from sailing pending repairs and class permission.

TORO (Greece)

Montreal, Oct 24 — Bulker *Toro* is in the final stage of repairs and is scheduled to reload its canola cargo Oct 26 at Sorel and continue its planned voyage to Mexico. — Lloyd's Agents.

TROMS FJORD (Norway)

London, Oct 23 — Supply *Troms Fjord* arrived Den Helder 2132, Oct 20, and sailed at 1029, Oct 22.

London, Oct 23 — Supply *Troms Fjord* sailed from Den Helder at 1029 hrs, Oct 22, bound for Delfziyl, where it arrived at 2300 hrs, Oct 22.

TROMS FJORD (Norway)

London, Oct 20 — Following received from Yarmouth Coastguard MRCC, timed 1219, UTC: At 1150, UTC, today, platform *Sean Papa*, in lat 53 11.4N, long 02 51.6E, reported she was going to muster station with 63 people on board after being in collision with supply *Troms Fjord* (2467 gt, built 2005). Muster was stood down at 1157, UTC, after no structural damage was found, although further investigation would take place. *Sean Papa* stated the collision was "quite substantial." *Troms Fjord* has reportedly suffered "superficial damage" to upper side of hull only. *Troms Fjord* is now leaving the field for Den Helder, ETA 1830, UTC.

UNI-PREMIER (Panama)

Taipei, Oct 24 — Container Carrier *Uni-Premier* arrived Kaohsiung CSBC dry dock for repairs on Oct 12. Repairs are expected to be completed on Oct 26. — Lloyd's Agents.

UNION TOPAZ (Barbados)

Maassluis, Oct 25 — General cargo *Union Topaz* (1543 gt, built 1985) sailed from Antwerp to Luik (Liege) on Oct 22. Engine repairs are to be carried out in Liege and will take another 10 to 18 hrs.

USTYUZHNA (Ukraine)

Piraeus, Oct 25 — General cargo *Ustyuzhna* is still under repair at Kalamata. The vessel is expected to remain in port for at least another 10 days. — Lloyd's Agents.

VAAGEN (NIS)

Portsmouth, UK, Oct 26 — Last week chemical tanker *Vaagen* (11360 gt, built 2006) coming from Lisbon, required assistance from tugs *VS Rotterdam* and *Buizerd* to be escorted into Eemhaven, Rotterdam, because of rudder problems. — Correspondent. (Note — *Vaagen* sailed Lisbon on Oct 6 and arrived Rotterdam on Oct 13. It sailed on Oct 18, but returned at 1350 hrs, Oct 19.)

Maassluis, Oct 26 — Chemical tanker *Vaagen* sailed on Oct 18 to do some cleaning operations at sea. Vessel returned to Rotterdam on Oct 19, to do some propeller shaft repairs at Eemhaven Damen Shipyard. The vessel is still at the shipyard. Repairs are nearly completed. At 1800 hrs, today, the vessel will shift from Eemhaven Dok C to Eemhaven jetty Nr 4. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

VAGABOND (Panama)

London, Oct 20 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 1355, UTC: Roll On Roll Off *Vagabond* remains aground in the British Virgin Islands, with commercial salvage plan being worked out.

London, Oct 20 — Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 1415, UTC: Roll On Roll Off *Vagabond*: A light sheen has been observed coming from the vessel but this is dispersing rapidly due heavy seas. Salvors Titan Maritime are believed to be commencing fuel removal operations today.

London, Oct 21 — Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 1255, UTC: Roll On Roll Off *Vagabond* is still aground.

London, Oct 23 — Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 1905, UTC: Roll On Roll Off *Vagabond* remains aground awaiting commencement of fuel removal operations.

London, Oct 25 — Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, PR, timed 1449, UTC: Roll on roll off *Vagabond* is still aground. Work is currently under way to patch the vessel's hull.

London, Oct 26 — A press report, dated Oct 25, states: Emergency responders have been working since

Oct 16 at the site of the grounded Roll On Roll Off *Vagabond* in the British Virgin Islands. Just before midnight on Oct 15 *Vagabond* ran aground at Fallen Jerusalem en route to Anguilla. Fire and Rescue officers, along with members from the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force (RVIPF), Shipping Registry's vessel *Vigilant II* and the Virgin Islands Search and Rescue (VISAR), responded to the scene and discovered that the vessel's cargo had been spewed in the surrounding channel waters. A passing vessel rescued the nine crew members from the ship and brought them safely into Baughers Bay. No serious injuries were reported to the crew members. At 0700 hrs staff members from the Conservation and Fisheries Department (CFD) launched their vessel *Lightning* on a reconnaissance of the area. Their initial report indicated that the vessel was observed resting with its bow and bridge house on Broken Jerusalem and the rest of the vessel was submerged. There was also a clearly visible oil sheen coming from the vessel. The owner of *Vagabond*, Ishmael Stoutt of Caribbean Transport Ltd and the master of the vessel, Magnus De Roche, have been assisting responders in removing large debris from the water. Other Government owned vessels continued to operate in the areas to remove smaller debris items. With assistance from the US Coast Guard, messages of caution to boaters approaching the area were issued. Director of the Department of Disaster Management (DDM), Sharleen DaBreo, said that the accident has most likely impacted the reef. She said, "There will be some impact to the reef at Fallen Jerusalem, however, the extent of the damage will not be known until proper assessments have been completed by various agencies." DaBreo added that responders are expected to work throughout the next few days to contain the incident. "There are various factors that can turn this incident into an environmental disaster but responders will be working throughout the coming days to contain any oil that may seep from the vessel and any floating debris that may cause navigational obstruction for mariners." Four hundred feet of boom was placed around the vessel overnight to contain spilled oil. With permission from Her Majesty's Customs the remaining cargo from the vessel is being removed to prevent further items from depositing in the water and to also allow for the 20,000 gallons of oil, still in the vessel, to be pumped out later. As a result of this accident, the BVI National Parks Trust (NPT) made the decision to close National Parks at the Baths, Devil's Bay, Spring Bay and Fallen Jerusalem to allow for proper clean up of the Parks from oil and debris deposits that have floated into these areas.

VLADIMIR VYSOTSKIY (Russia)

Montreal, Oct 20 — Product tanker *Vladimir Vysotskiy* (10949 gt, built

1988), bound Montreal, loaded ran aground near Sorel at 1500 today after a blackout. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Vladimir Vysotskiy* sailed Emden Oct 3 for Montreal.)

London, Oct 21 — Following received from the St. Lawrence Alerting Network, timed 0025, UTC: Product tanker *Vladimir Vysotskiy*, cargo magnesium chloride solution, is still aground. No damage or leakage reported. Tugs should be on scene shortly. Once afloat the vessel has been authorised to be taken to Sorel anchorage or to the wharf at Sorel for inspection

London, Oct 21 — Following received from the St. Lawrence Alerting Network, timed 1303, UTC: Product tanker *Vladimir Vysotskiy* is still aground. Two tugs are currently on scene and attempting to refloat the vessel. Once refloated the vessel will proceed to Sorel anchorage where she will undergo an inspection

Montreal, Oct 21 — Product tanker *Vladimir Vysotskiy* was refloated at 1330, Oct. 21, using two tugs. Vessel is proceeding to Sorel anchorage for inspection. No leakage and no pollution reported. Vessel will then continue to Montreal, which is one of its discharge ports. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 23 — Product tanker *Vladimir Vysotskiy* is currently berthed at Section 58 Pipeline LGM, Montreal. Its next scheduled port is Hamilton, Ont.

VOYAGEUR INDEPENDENT (Canada)

Troy, Mich, Oct 23 — Bulker *Voyageur Independent* (12296 gt, built 1952), in ballast, is reported to have struck the lower wall at Lock No.3, Beauharnois Shipping Canal upon its approach. The vessel struck the end of the wall while upbound. Damages are reported on the port side mid-ship section. The vessel has a tear approximately 4 to 6 inches in width over a span of four feet long, just above the waterline. The vessel reports no ingress of water. The vessel has been moved to Lock No. 4 where the vessel was inspected by a SLSA inspector and a Montreal TCMS officer. The vessel has now proceeded to Valleyfield to the McKeil Company pier for temporary repairs. — Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping News. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Voyageur Independent* was in lat 45 19 51N, long 73 54 33W, 12.5 miles from Valleyfield, at 0244, UTC, Oct 21, speed 3.9 knots, course 227 degrees.)

Montreal, Oct 24 — Bulker *Voyageur Independent* was at Hamilton as of Oct 23. The contact with the lock wall is believed to be quite minor. The vessel was not delayed at the Beauharnois lock. — Lloyd's Agents.

XIN LIAN YUN GANG (China)

See *Ever Gain*.

XINHE (Panama)

Guangzhou, Oct 26 — General cargo *Xinhe* was berthed alongside at Changzhou Oct 17. Repairs will be completed in the middle of November. — Lloyd's Agents.

YEROTSAKOS (Liberia)

See *Heidelberg Express*.

ZAGORA (Greece)

See *Torm Anholt*.

ZENITH (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing (general) *Zenith* (186 gt, built 1980), 107 foot, with 16 people aboard is adrift off St. George Island in the Bering Sea awaiting assistance from a U.S. Coast Guard cutter, a Coast Guard official reported this morning. The *Zenith*, owned by Jubilee Fisheries of Seattle is slowly drifting in 18-foot seas in about 35 mph winds. The vessel is not considered to be in danger because it's large enough to handle the waves, said Petty Officer Wesley Shipley. It is nine miles south of the island and moving toward shore at about one mile an hour, said John Bruce, Jubilee's personnel director, speaking by phone from Seattle. The 378-foot Coast Guard cutter *Jarvis* arrived on the scene last night, Shipley said. It's awaiting enough morning light before officers attach tow lines. It was too dangerous to attach lines in the dark, Shipley said. The Coast Guard will probably tow the vessel, which was fishing for Pacific cod, to Dutch Harbor for repairs, Bruce said. The coupling between the reduction gear and the engine failed about 2100, last night when it was 18 to 20 miles south of St. George

London, Oct 20 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 1935, UTC: *Zenith*, VIN 628313, is currently in tow of Coast Guard cutter *Jarvis*, bound Dutch Harbour.

London, Oct 21 — A Coast Guard Anchorage press release, dated Oct 20, states: The Coast Guard received a request for assistance from fishing (general) *Zenith* at 1930 yesterday. The vessel was disabled and adrift approximately 25 nautical miles southwest of St. George Island in the Bering Sea in 16-foot seas. The vessel reported that they had 16 crew, 8,000 pounds of fuel and a catch of approximately 125 tons on board. They were experiencing a problem with their engine's reduction gear. No injuries have been reported. The nearest Coast Guard asset was Coast Guard cutter *Jarvis*. *Jarvis* was about 80 nautical miles east of *Zenith*. *Jarvis* was diverted to assist. Until *Jarvis* arrived on scene the Coast Guard Command Center in Juneau established a one hour communications schedule with the vessel. *Jarvis* rendezvoused with *Zenith* at 0300 today. The waited for first light to begin the process of establishing a tow operation. Weather conditions made establishing a tow in the dark too dangerous. As of 1020 hrs the crew was still in the process of setting up the tow. Once established they will set course toward Dutch Harbor (see earlier report). The company, Zenith Fisheries in Seattle, has arranged for tug *Redeemer* to get underway from Dutch Harbor to meet *Jarvis* and take over the tow. Although the Coast Guard does not generally conduct commercial towing operations

it was deemed necessary in this case to safeguard the lives of the crew onboard *Zenith*. Weather conditions on scene are reported as 35 knot winds with 17-foot seas and rain.

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated Oct 20, states: A Seattle-based fishing vessel was adrift today in the Bering Sea, the Coast Guard said. The 107-foot fishing (general) *Zenith* with 16 crew and 125 tons of fish on board was disabled about 25 nautical miles southwest of St. George Island. The Coast Guard reported that seas were about 17 feet and winds were 40 knots. The *Zenith* was fishing for black cod when it experienced engine trouble. No injuries were reported. The Coast Guard sent the 378-foot cutter *Jarvis* to the scene. The cutter rendezvoused with the fishing vessel at about 0300 hr, today but waited until dawn to set up a towing operation. The ship would be towed to Dutch Harbor, the Coast Guard said. The towing operation began at 1040 hrs, said Coast Guard Petty Officer Sara Francis. The ship was moving toward Dutch Harbor at about two mph. Francis said she did not know when the *Zenith* was expected to arrive in port.

London, Oct 22 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 2305, UTC, Oct 21: Fishing (general) *Zenith* is still in tow of Coast Guard cutter *Jarvis*, bound Dutch Harbour. Tug *Redeemer* is en route and will take over the tow. Eta Dutch Harbor not known at the moment as weather is very bad.

London, Oct 23 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 1915, UTC: Fishing (general) *Zenith* arrived Dutch Harbor at 1921, UTC, Oct 22.

ZEUS (U.S.A.)

See *Dean Reinauer*.

ZIEMIA CHELMINSKA (Liberia)

London, Oct 21 — Bulker *Ziemia Chelminska* (16699 gt, built 1984) had engine trouble during Dardanelles passage in front of Gocuk Bay (lat 40 17N, long 26 34E) 2313, local time, Oct 20. The vessel has been given instructions from the authorities to drop anchor at Gocuk Bay for survey procedure at 0201, local time, today. (Note — *Ziemia Chelminska* sailed Monfalcone Oct 16 for Odessa.)

London, Oct 21 — Following received from MRCC Ankara, timed 0905, UTC: Bulker *Ziemia Chelminska* is still anchored in Gocuk Bay, awaiting the arrival of a surveyor.

London, Oct 22 — Following received from MRCC Ankara, timed 0845, UTC: Bulker *Ziemia Chelminska* departed from anchor in Gocuk Bay, at 1345 hrs, Oct 21, resuming passage to Odessa.

Port State Control



BELGIUM

Zeebrugge, Oct 25 — Bulker *Amanda C.* is still under detention at Antwerp.

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

The vessel's agent is hopeful that it will be able to sail Oct 27. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

HONG KONG

London, Oct 24 — A press report, dated today, states: North Korea general cargo *Kang Nam 1* (702 gt, built 1989) has been detained in Hong Kong over suspected safety violations, the first such detention in Hong Kong since UN sanctions mandated all North Korean ships to be inspected for banned cargo. The ship, which arrived empty from Shanghai on Sunday, was formally detained yesterday morning after an inspection by the Marine Department found 25 faults. These ranged from faulty navigational, fire fighting and life safety equipment, to obsolete nautical charts. The vessel was the first North Korean ship to enter Hong Kong waters since UN Security Council sanctions, clamping down on the movement of military, nuclear and luxury goods, were imposed on North Korea 10 days ago, following the country testing a nuclear weapon in early October. All countries are required to inspect North Korean ships entering their ports for goods banned under the sanctions regimen. Japan and Australia have closed their ports to all North Korean vessels. The customs department has not yet commented on the action taken against *Kang Nam 1*, but according to the report, foreign diplomats were seeking information about the ship. The director of the Marine Department, Roger Tupper, said the detention was not unreasonable and that *Kang Nam 1* was the ninth North Korean vessel to be inspected this year, of which six had been detained. The vessel was due to take a cargo of scrap metal from Hong Kong to Taiwan and will not be allowed to leave until the Marine Department is satisfied it is seaworthy.

UNITED STATES

London, Oct 25 — Chemical tanker *High Challenge* sailed Long Beach Oct 19 for Esmeraldas. (See issue of Oct 20.)



Seizures & Arrests

BAI LONG QUAN (China)

London, Oct 23 — General cargo *Bai Long Quan* is still at Western Anchorage No.1, Hong Kong, under Admiralty and High Court arrest.

CHERYL ANNE (Philippines)

Manila, Oct 25 — Barge *Cheryl Anne* was arrested by the Bureau of Customs, reportedly for carrying about two million litres of hazardous used oil from Palau. The barge and her entire crew are still in custody, with no information available concerning their release. — Lloyd's Agents.

GREGORIO I (Panama)

Limassol, Oct 24 — General cargo *Gregorio I* is under detention for port state control (she needs some repairs and also for unpaid crew wages). — Lloyd's Agents.

HERMES-THALASSA (Greece)

Piraeus, Oct 20 — Passenger (cruise) *Hermes-Thalassa* (362 gt, built 1966) remains at Eleusis under detention due to a distress applied against her owners reportedly by Messrs. Bakopoulos, Ship breaking Co. for a debt of 30,000 euros. (Note — *Hermes-Thalassa* was listed for sale on Nov 1, carrying a start-up price of 26,000 euros.)

NEPTUNIA MEDITERRANEO (Brazil)

See under "Marine."

NYZDAN (North Korea)

Karachi, Oct 26 — General cargo *Nyzdan* is still under arrest at Karachi Ship yard. — Lloyd's Agents.

PACIFIC ACE (Hong Kong)

Karachi, Oct 26 — Product tanker *Pacific Ace* was released from arrest on Oct 21 and sailed from Karachi later that day. — Lloyd's Agents.

SARANA BAHARI (Indonesia)

See *Starlite Glory*.

SENTINEL (Comoros)

Genoa, Oct 25 — General cargo *Sentinel* remains under arrest at Genoa. — Lloyd's Agents.

STARLITE GLORY (Malaysia)

Kuala Lumpur, Oct 26 — General cargo *Starlite Glory* and general cargo *Sarana Bahari* were handed over to the State's Royal Customs and Excise by the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency for further investigation. Both vessels were subsequently fined. Understand they have settled the fine imposed by the authorities. The vessels were released, and departed Tanjung Datu Oct 20. — Lloyd's Agents.

WENG TENG NO.688 (South Korea)

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Authorities in Fiji have detained a South Korean fishing vessel at the Kings Wharf in Suva on suspicion that its crew may have been fishing illegally in Pacific waters. The vessel: fishing (general) *Weng Teng No.688* has been black-listed by the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) in the United States. Having arrived in Suva, the crew then changed its name to *Mahkoia Abadi*. "At the moment the vessel is grounded pending our investigation and we understand that the vessel was also carrying illegal goods such as liquor, cigarettes and pornographic materials," said Minister for Fisheries, Ilaitia Tuisese. "The customs authority is carrying out investigations into the matter but so far I can confirm that there were also other illegal activities going on in the

ship." Greenpeace campaigner, Nilesh Goundar said they alerted the authorities after one greenpeace campaigner saw a crew scraping off the ship's name and painting a different name on it.



Pipeline Accidents

BIZERTE, TUNISIA

Tunis, Oct 20 — An explosion triggered by a fire ripped through an oil pipeline in the northern Tunisian city of Bizerte today, prompting residents in at least one district to flee, residents and rescue service workers said. Bizerte, a garrison town that houses Tunisia's only oil refinery, is located 70 km from Tunis. The explosion hit the pipeline carrying oil to the STIR refinery terminal, the government said in a statement. An initial fire caused the explosion, which sparked a bigger fire on the pipeline, the statement said. "The exact causes behind the incident are still not known but work on the pipeline was under way before the incident occurred," the government said, without giving details. The fire and explosion caused material damage but no casualties, it added. Rescue workers, backed by government soldiers and refinery employees, brought the fire under control. "The fire is now contained to one spot and the efforts were continuing to extinguish the flame," the government added. Residents near the facility were shaken by the blast. "A huge explosion rocked the oil pipeline from the refinery to the port that feed ships docked there," Zouheir Khelifi, who resides in the Intilaka neighbourhood some 600 meters (yards) from the pipeline, told Reuters. "More than 200 families from our neighbourhood left home," he added. STIR, or Societe Tunisienne de l'industrie de raffinage, has a refining capacity of 30,000 barrels per day. The pipeline carries crude oil from southwestern Tunisia's al Borma main oilfield. STIR, is majority-controlled state refiner. Officials at the Energy Ministry, which controls STIR, were not immediately available to comment on the possible impact of the incident. STIR managers declined comment. — Reuters.

DJIROU, ALGERIA

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated Oct 19, states: An explosion on a gas pipeline in northern Algeria injured dozens today, the country's state energy company Sonatrach said. The blast, which struck Djirou, 450 kilometres south-west of the capital Algiers, was caused by a gas leak and injured nearby residents, Sonatrach said in a statement. The company said it did not know the exact number of victims but said that 40 people had been hospitalized. Four of the victims

had suffered second-degree burns and one of them was in serious condition, the statement said. Rescue teams sent by Sonatrach and local authorities were able to contain the blaze and the gas line is expected to be running normally within 48 hours. The incident will not affect the flow of gas to clients, including refineries and power stations, Sonatrach said.

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated Oct 19, states: The family of a worker killed in a pipeline explosion two years ago and three injured construction workers will receive \$6 million from a settlement with a regional water agency and one of its contractors. Mountain Cascade Inc. was installing a new water main for the East Bay Municipal Utility District near Walnut Creek when its backhoe struck a high-pressure gas line, causing a massive fiery explosion that killed five people. The family of Miguel Reyes, a welder from Yuba City who was killed, will receive \$3 million. Injured welder Jeremy Knox, who suffered second and third-degree burns over 40 percent of his body and partially lost hearing in his left ear, will receive \$2 million. Roger Paasch, who was badly burned, will get \$1.1 million. Patrick Farley, who injured his back and knee when he jumped from his crane, will get \$75,000. They will be paid out of a \$26 million insurance policy purchased by Mountain Cascade. The settlements, which contain no admission of fault on the part of the utility district or Mountain Cascade, are the first to emerge from 17 lawsuits stemming from the November 2004 explosion. Other companies being sued include Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, the Houston-based owner of the pipeline. Trial for the combined lawsuits is scheduled for next spring.

YASUNI RESERVE AREA, ECUADOR

Quito, Oct 20 — Ecuador's state petroleum company said today it had contained most of a small oil spill near the country's largest rain forest park, which is home to rare species of pumas and pink dolphins. Petroecuador said it had recovered about 450 of the nearly 650 barrels of crude oil that spilled on Wednesday (Oct 18) after a pipeline rupture several miles from Yasuni national park, one of the most biologically diverse reserves in the world. The 2.4 million-acre park is deep in Ecuador's Amazon region and inhabited only by Huaorani indigenous tribes. Petroecuador said in a statement the oil spill was blocked from reaching a river that flows inside the park 150 miles south-east of Quito. "The Yasuni reserve was not affected, but we are worried because the spill occurred only two hours away from the park," Alonso Jaramillo, the park director, told Reuters. — Reuters.



Pollution

AMUR RIVER, RUSSIA

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated Oct 17, states: Environmental prosecutors in the city of Khabarovsk, in Russia's Far East, are taking the investigation into an oil spill in the Amur River under special control. An oil slick was discovered Friday at the confluence of a small river and the Amur in Khabarovsk. Some 400 kilograms (3 bbl) of petroleum derivatives could have spilled into the river. Work to clean up the spill is underway. "The check into the reasons that could lead to an oil spill will last at least 10 days," the Khabarovsk Inter-District Environmental Prosecutor's Office said. Some 50 large and small enterprises working with petroleum derivatives are located near the oil slick.

GULF OF MEXICO

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated Oct 19, states: The U.S. Coast Guard is investigating a 100-gallon spill of crude oil in a waterway near Empire, Louisiana, early yesterday, Petty Officer James Harless said. The vessel traffic on the waterway remained normal in spite of the oil spill. "We are in the process of cleaning up now. The oil spill was in the waterway, and not near the shore," he said. The investigation is under way to determine the source of the oil spill. "It could be from a ship or a barge. There are also storage tank farms and refineries nearby," Harless said.



Weather & Navigation

GREECE

London, Oct 21 — Torrential rains caused flooding in parts of southern Greece, just three days after storms triggered a state of emergency elsewhere in the region, authorities said. Around 30 homes were flooded in the southern Peloponnese and several occupants had to be rescued by firemen. Three cars were swept away by torrents, while landslides halted road traffic in parts of the region.

HURRICANE "PAUL"

Mexico City, Oct 21 — Tropical Storm "Paul" formed off Mexico's Pacific Coast today and looked set to turn into a hurricane as it headed toward luxury resorts on the Baja California Peninsula, the U.S. National Hurricane Centre said. Charts showed "Paul" passing near the tip of the desert peninsula next week, before

heading for the Mexican mainland across the narrow Sea of Cortez. "Paul" was moving west with maximum winds near 50 mph and was expected to veer toward the peninsula and strengthen in coming days due to climatic factors including warm ocean currents, the hurricane centre said. "Paul" is currently on a strengthening trend," it said. — Reuters.

London, Oct 23 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Hurricane "Paul": A hurricane watch remains in effect for the southern Baja California peninsula from Agua Blanca southwards on the west coast, and from La Paz southwards on the east coast. Hurricane centre located near lat 16.2N, long 111.5W, at 0900, UTC, Oct 23. position accurate to within 15 nautical miles. Present movement towards the west-north-west, or 285 deg, at four knots. Diameter of eye 15 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 85 knots with gusts to 105 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 20 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 40 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 75 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 100 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 12-foot seas 150 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 100 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 125 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Oct 24: Position lat 19.1N, long 110.3W. Maximum sustained winds 96 knots with gusts to 115 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 25 nautical miles east semicircle, 15 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 50 nautical miles east semicircle, 30 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 100 nautical miles east semicircle, 75 nautical miles elsewhere.

Los Cabos, Mexico, Oct 24 — Hurricane "Paul" lost strength today as it swept toward Mexico's Pacific coast and forecasters said its winds were expected to slow further. The storm carried maximum sustained winds of around 80 mph as it headed northwards at close to 8 mph at 0200, PDT, the Miami-based US National Hurricane Centre said. The storm was 315 miles south-south-west of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, and due to sweep past the resort, made up of the towns of Cabo San Lucas and San Jose del Cabo, today before hitting the Mexican mainland. A hurricane watch that had been in force for the tip of the peninsula, which extends south from California, was replaced with a tropical storm warning. A less-urgent tropical storm watch was issued for the west coast of mainland Mexico from Mazatlan to Altata. The eye of the storm was forecast to miss Los Cabos but the Hurricane Centre in Miami warned authorities there not to drop their guard. "Only a slight deviation to the left of the forecast track could bring 'Paul' closer to that area," it said. There were no evacuations. — Reuters.

London, Oct 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Paul" weakened to a tropical storm today, easing the threat to resort cities and

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surrounding villages at the tip of Mexico's Baja California peninsula. The storm's top winds fell to near 45 mph and it was expected to weaken further before slipping just south of the twin resorts of San Jose del Cabo and Cabo San Lucas, known jointly as Los Cabos. By early tomorrow, "Paul" was forecast to hit mainland Mexico around the state of Sinaloa, unleashing rain that could cause dangerous flooding, the US National Hurricane Centre in Miami said. Paul's maximum sustained winds had reached 110 mph on Monday (Oct 23), making it a Category 2 hurricane. Early today, the storm was 75 miles west-south-west of Cabo San Lucas and about 245 miles west-south-west of Mazatlan on the mainland. It was moving north-east at about nine mph. A tropical storm warning was in effect for the tip of Baja. A 23-year-old Mexican fisherman died on Monday after he slipped off rocks being battered by the rough sea in the coastal community of Todos Santos, north of Los Cabos, said Baja California Sur civil defence director Jose Gajon. Off the coast of Cabo San Lucas, officials were searching for the body of an American man who was swept away by the waves while he was walking along the beach with his wife and sister. Streets were already flooded with ankle-deep water in Cabo San Lucas, where authorities closed schools and opened eight shelters yesterday. Later police drove through neighbourhoods, calling on people to take refuge. City government spokesman Jorge Castaneda said at least 1,000 residents were being evacuated, most from shanty towns in areas at high risk for flooding.

HURRICANE "WILMA"

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated Oct 19, states: Hurricane "Wilma" caused \$3 billion in damage, the largest insured losses in Mexican history, the director of the Mexican Insurance Association said today. About \$1.8 billion of the losses were insured damage. "Wilma" hit Cancun last October 21st.

NEW ZEALAND

London, Oct 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Heavy swells in Cook Strait prevented an Interislander ferry from berthing in Wellington this afternoon. The ferry was waiting just inside Wellington Harbour for heavy seas to die down so it could berth. It left Picton shortly after 1300 hrs and was due to arrive just after 1600 hrs. Four other Interislander ferry sailings were cancelled. Passengers on board the vessel described the seas as extremely rough. One of them, Cam Bardell, said the vessel was pitching from side to side and a lot of people were suffering sea sickness. Its passage was part of major disruption caused by heavy rain and high winds in the lower North Island throughout today. Flights and ferry sailings in Wellington were cancelled, roads closed, trains disrupted and emergency services had

to deal with fallen trees, slips and flooding. Air New Zealand said at least 5,000 passengers were affected when the airport closed today, with at least 24 domestic flights cancelled, some diverted and many regional flights also cancelled. Flights were resuming on a restricted basis this evening. Trees on the line, slips and washouts affected some rail services in the Waikanae area and in the Wairarapa. Kevin Ramshaw from OnTrack said it was forced to temporarily close the rail line in a few places, and workers spent the day clearing debris from tracks. The Hutt City Council was nervously watching river levels in its catchment area. A council spokesman said the Hutt River, Waiwhetu Stream and Black Creek in Wainuiomata were being monitored closely because water levels were already high and the heavy rain was not expected to abate until midday tomorrow. There was surface flooding throughout the city, and residents were asked to clear drains of debris if water built up. Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council was on standby to open the Moutoa flood gates as the Manawatu river continued to rise. Meanwhile, lower North Island police said they were being kept extremely busy with weather-related calls. Sergeant Andy Dow, from the lower North Island communications centre, said emergency services were also dealing with reports of fallen trees, signs, slips and surface flooding. The MetService had heavy rain warnings in place for Taihape, Wanganui, Manawatu, Wellington, Wairarapa and the seaward Kaimouras and said a further 70-100 mm of rain was expected in these regions overnight.

PHILIPPINES

London, Oct 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Nearly 3,000 families were evacuated today after floods submerged six villages in Carmen, Davao del Norte, Philippines, ABS-CBN Regional Network Group reported. Authorities said flooding came after water at the Mactan Channel overflowed. The overflow was also triggered by the collapse of dyke constructed to protect the villages of Asuncion, Magsaysay, Ising, New Camiling, Alejal and Mangalkal. The report added that an estimated 9,000 hectares of farmland were destroyed by floods that rose to the waist-level. The flooding also resulted in the loss of electricity in the affected districts after the floodwaters toppled posts. The local government hopes that the flooding will subside in the next two days.

THAILAND & MYANMAR

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Acting Governor of the Bank of Thailand (BOT) Tarisa Wattanagase has said that floods have caused damage worth over 17 billion baht to the national economy. The BOT's preliminary evaluation of the flood damage puts the current figure at 17 billion baht. She said that the

flood situation is not expected to affect prices of vegetables much both in short and long terms. The BOT will evaluate the damage again after the flood situation has died down.

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from severe flooding in Thailand and neighboring Myanmar has jumped to 143 after Thai authorities confirmed another 16 victims. At least 124 people have died in Thailand since severe flooding began in late August in the kingdom's central and northern provinces, the interior ministry said today. The water that inundated northern Thailand was slowly working its way south, with Thai weather authorities warning of heavy rains over the weekend in the region. At its peak earlier in the month, the flooding, triggered by heavy rains from typhoon "Xangsane", affected 46 of the nation's 76 provinces, and 16 central provinces were still suffering from the floods, the ministry said. In neighboring Myanmar, 19 people died in floods across central and eastern parts of the country, but the water has already subsided in most places there.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "XAVIER"

London, Oct 23 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone "Xavier" near lat 11.5S, long 168.0E, at 0001, UTC, Oct 23. Movement past six hours 145 deg at four knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 80 knots with gusts to 100 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 15 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 30 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 95 nautical miles south semicircle, 90 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0001, UTC, Oct 24: Position lat 12.9S, long 168.3E. Maximum sustained winds 100 knots with gusts to 125 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 30 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 60 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 115 nautical miles south semicircle, 110 nautical miles elsewhere.

TROPICAL STORM "PAUL"

London, Oct 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm "Paul" weakened as it headed toward the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula, still threatening to cause heavy flooding on Mexico's mainland. A Baja California fisherman died after slipping off sea-battered rocks and rescue workers were searching for an American who they feared drowned while swimming in surging waves. "Paul" had maximum sustained winds near 100 kph and was moving north at about 15 kph, but was expected to further weaken before slipping just south of Los Cabos early tomorrow, the US National Hurricane Center in Miami said. Forecasters, however, warned that remnants of the storm could still dump up to 25 centimeters of rain in the mountains on Mexico's mainland, potentially causing severe flooding.

London, Oct 25 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0900, UTC, the centre of tropical storm "Paul" was located near lat 21.8N, long 109.9W. Maximum sustained winds are 45 knots, with higher gusts.

Earthquakes



HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated Oct 19, states: Sunday's (Oct 15) earthquake damaged one-thousand-173 homes on the Big Island. Twenty-nine are considered uninhabitable. That's according to Hawaii's director of civil defense, Major General Robert Lee. Preliminary damage estimates from the quake have hit \$73 million. President Bush has declared a major disaster, ordering federal aid to help state and local recovery efforts.

London, Oct 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved relief and recovery assistance for Hawaii residents who were victims of last week's magnitude 6.7 earthquake, Governor Linda Lingle said yesterday. The aid may include grants for temporary housing, home repairs and other serious disaster-related expenses, Lingle said in a news release. In addition, low-interest loans from the US Small Business Administration will be available to cover residential and business losses not fully compensated by insurance. "While no amount of assistance can cover the loss of personal sentimental items, the announcement by FEMA today will help bring some peace of mind to many residents," Lingle said. The Oct 15 earthquake was the strongest to hit the islands in more than two decades. No deaths or serious injuries were reported, but preliminary damage estimates were as high as \$46 million. The quake struck near Hawaii's Big Island, a 4,000-plus-square-mile isle with a population of 167,000. Also yesterday, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said the government planned to increase to 15 the number of advanced earthquake monitors in the Hawaiian islands. There are currently only three. Officials hope to install the new monitors in 18 months.

INDONESIA

London, Oct 25 — A press report, dated Oct 24, states: A strong earthquake rattled central Indonesia but there were no immediate reports of damage or casualties. The 6.1-magnitude temblor was centered in Sangihe, an island 360 km north-east of North Sulawesi's provincial capital Manado, the US Geological Survey said on its website. It struck at 1103 hrs, 0833, IST, and was the most

powerful of six quakes to hit the same region in the last two days. Local officials said they had no immediate reports of damage or casualties on the remote, sparsely populated island.

PERU

London, Oct 20 — A report, dated today, states: An earthquake occurred at 1048, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.5 event has been located in central Peru in lat 13 43S, long 76.57W, depth 33 km.

Volcanic Activity



MOUNT TUNGURAHUA, ECUADOR

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated Oct 19, states: Lava and ash erupted from an Ecuadoran volcano and forced the evacuation of about 300 villagers, a local mayor said today. An eruption two months ago of the Tungurahua volcano killed four people and left two others missing and still unaccounted for. "We were able to take them out last night from the most dangerous zones located on the flanks where the explosions occurred August 16," said Juan Salazar, mayor of Penipe, 12 miles from the volcano. The upper slopes of the volcano have been mostly deserted since August, but Salazar said about 80 families had returned to attempt to farm in the ash-encrusted ground. "They saw incandescent rocks coming down on the slopes and so they evacuated," he said. No injuries were reported. In addition to the casualties, nearly 5,000 homes were destroyed or severely damaged and tens of thousands of acres of pasture and crops were also destroyed in the August eruption, according to the Civil Defense. Experts have warned that renewed explosions could come any time from the 16,575-foot volcano located about 85 miles south of the capital, Quito. "What we have seen now is evidence that something there could be something similar to the episodes in July and August," said Hugo Yepes, director of Ecuador's Geophysics Institute. "Inside the ground there is a chamber of magma much larger than the volcano itself."

Political & Civil Unrest



BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro, Oct 19 — Indians daubed in war paint and armed with bows and arrows occupied a major mine belonging to CVRD, the world's biggest iron ore miner, in northern Brazil for a third day today, blocking production and rail transportation. "Operations are suspended and 15,000

workers are idle," Companhia Vale do Rio Doce, said in a statement. CVRD said that the National Indian Agency, or FUNAI, was responsible for negotiating with the Xikrin Indians but had not persuaded them to leave the area. Federal police delivered a legal writ to the Indians yesterday telling them to quit. But chief Bep-Karoti Xikrin told Reuters in Carajas: "If CVRD replies (to our demands) we'll leave. If it doesn't we could stay here for up to 90 days. CVRD said the Carajas mine was not on Indian land and it would not give in to what it called blackmail. It said it might have to take legal measures regarding its supply contracts with clients. Asked for clarification, a spokesman said that it was not immediately clear if the company would invoke force majeure. The official could not confirm talk that CVRD only had three days' iron ore stocks at the port of Ponta da Madeira, Sao Luis, in Maranhao state, from where iron ore from Carajas is exported. — Reuters.

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Indians who occupied an Amazon mining complex in Brazil and paralyzed production for two days have left the site. Companhia Vale do Rio Doce SA, the world's largest iron ore miner, said production at Carajas resumed yesterday. The complex produces 250,000 tonnes of iron ore daily. The Indians stopped daily production of the iron ore destined for export and defied a police order to leave the complex.

CHAD

London, Oct 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Rebels in Chad have launched a series of attacks in the east, although the government denies claims they have seized the town of Am Timan. Troops have been recalled to base for the Muslim holiday of Eid, the biggest festival of the year in Chad. Communications Minister Hourmadji Moussa Doumgor confirmed that the rebels had "entered" Am Timan but that they left immediately "after having fired shots into the air, like on Sunday in Goz Beida." There has been fierce fighting in the border town of Ade. Some reports say the rebels have also been seen in the Mongo region, closer to the capital, N'Djamena, where there has also been a noticeable increase in security.

London, Oct 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Security has been tightened in the Chad capital, N'Djamena, amid reports that rebels are moving towards the city. A correspondent says that tanks are stationed in key areas, such as outside the presidential palace, and military vehicles are on patrol. Troops have been recalled to base despite the Muslim holiday of Eid — the biggest festival of the year in Chad. The rebels began their offensive in the east at the weekend but are now said to be near the central town of Mongo. A correspondent said there were reports that the outskirts of the capital were heavily fortified with government

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troops. Last night, the rebels claimed to have seized the town of Am Timan, some 600 km from N'Djamena but they are now reported to be just five hours' drive from the capital. The government has denied that Am Timan had fallen and urged the capital's residents to stay calm. "The government appeals to the population to remain calm and to go normally about one's business," said spokesman Hourmadji Moussa Doumgor. On Sunday (Oct 22), the Union of Forces for Democracy and Development (UFDD) rebels seized the small town of Gos Beida.

N'djamena, Oct 25 — Chad said today it had pushed back a rebel convoy which attacked two towns in the country's remote south-east and accused neighbouring Sudan of backing the insurgency. Chad's Foreign Minister Ahmat Allam-Mi summoned Sudan's ambassador to demand an explanation after the rebels briefly seized Goz Beida near the Sudan border on Sunday (Oct 22) then attacked Am Timan further west as they moved deeper into the country. "Having signed agreements to normalise our relations, we cannot understand how Sudan can send over motorised rebel columns with sophisticated weaponry," Allam-Mi said. Chad's government said that army reinforcements had been sent to the region around Am Timan but that the rebels had withdrawn without putting up a fight. Communication Minister Hourmadji Moussa Doumgor said Am Timan was now under government control. "There is absolutely no support from the government of Sudan to any rebels," a Sudanese army spokesman said but noted the border between the two countries was porous. "It is entirely possible that rebels can enter the border and attack from Sudan as rebels enter and attack the Sudanese armed forces from Chadian territories," he said. The army bolstered security in N'Djamena yesterday as the rebels appeared to be advancing across the mostly desert country. However, the city was calm today, with a lone tank guarding the presidential palace. A leader of the rebel coalition, the Union of Forces for Democracy and Development (UFDD), said late yesterday that its fighters would not advance immediately from the area around Am Timan, some 600 km east of N'Djamena. Diplomats and government officials said the rebels appeared to be playing a game of cat and mouse, as they did in April, launching small-scale strikes on poorly fortified towns in the former French colony in order to disorientate the armed forces. — Reuters.

COLOMBIA

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A car bomb exploded in the parking lot of a military university in Colombia's capital today, killing at least two people and wounding others, authorities said. The blast occurred just as the morning rush hour was

ending at Nueva Granada university, which was hosting an event attended by foreign dignitaries. Initial reports said none of them were injured. The attack may have been aimed at leading members of Colombia's armed forces as the blast destroyed three cars used by bodyguards of two top generals. "There are two dead and an undetermined number of wounded," the capital's health secretary, Hector Zambrano, told Caracol radio.

Bogota, Oct 20 — Colombia's president, upset over a bombing he blamed on leftist rebels, broke off efforts today to organize a prisoner swap and ordered the military to rescue hostages held by guerrillas in secret jungle camps. Families of the hostages condemned the move by President Alvaro Uribe as dangerous. Among the 62 hostages who were to be exchanged for rebels held in government jails are three American defense contractors and former presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt. Uribe's decision followed a car bombing in Bogota yesterday that the government says was carried out by the Revolutionary Armed Force of Colombia, or FARC, which denied involvement. "The only path that remains is a military rescue," a visibly angry Uribe told reporters, saying the government had intercepted a communication from a rebel leader proving the FARC planted the bomb, which injured 10 people in the parking lot of Bogota's Military University. "We cannot continue the farce of a humanitarian exchange (of prisoners) with the FARC," he said. The FARC issued a statement on its Web site speculating the bomb was planted by the United States in an attempt to kill the possibility of ending Colombia's four-decade-old guerrilla war. The rebels kidnapped French-Colombian citizen Betancourt during her 2002 presidential campaign and Americans Marc Gonsalves, Thomas Howes and Keith Stansell during a 2003 mission to locate crops used to make cocaine. The rebels executed a group of hostages, including a former defense minister, during a botched military rescue in 2003. French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy issued a statement calling for renewed dialogue, saying his country was against "any use of force to rescue the hostages." Colombia's cities have become safer under Uribe, but the guerrillas still control wide rural areas, funding their operations with the country's multibillion-dollar cocaine industry. Uribe has started talks with a smaller rebel group, the National Liberation Army, or ELN, and disbanded right-wing paramilitaries while peace with the 17,000-strong FARC remains elusive. Colombian peace negotiators entered a fourth round of exploratory talks in Havana with the ELN today. They hoped to draw up an agenda for negotiations after a year of confidence-building meetings hosted by Cuba, which inspired the ELN rebellion in 1964. — Reuters.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Kinshasa, Oct 25 — Clashes between supporters of the two candidates have raised tensions ahead of Congo's election on Sunday (Oct 29), greatly reducing campaigning and underlining the dangerous role of well-armed private armies. The run-off vote between President Joseph Kabila and Vice-President Jean-Pierre Bemba is meant to be the final step in a drawn-out peace process to end Democratic Republic of Congo's 1998-2003 war, which killed more than four million people. However, days before the run-off, neither candidate has ventured out of the capital, leaving campaigning to their lieutenants. Several rallies across the vast country have been marred by clashes between their supporters. Kabila failed to get a winning majority in the first round on Jul 30, necessitating the run-off with second-placed Bemba. That outcome sparked pitched battles in August between Kabila's personal guard, using tanks and rocket-propelled grenades, and Bemba's fighters on the streets of Kinshasa. "I don't want to take any further risks," Bemba said when asked why he was not actively campaigning. Kabila's camp, which was largely blamed for the August fighting in which several Bemba houses and offices were attacked, also cited security fears. "There are people with weapons everywhere. It's a threat," a Kabila aide said. "The security issue is a problem. What happened in August is a threat to both candidates' security so this is why they are not campaigning." UN officials say both sides' fighters are rearming. "It's very dangerous to head towards elections like this where the loser still has substantial military capacity," Jason Stearns, senior analyst at the International Crisis Group think-tank, said. — Reuters.

HUNGARY

Budapest, Oct 23 — Hungarian police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at thousands of anti-government protesters today, marring commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the country's 1956 uprising against Soviet rule. Police also used water cannon and some protesters lobbed stones and other missiles at them. The ambulance service said that 20-25 people had been injured, although no one was seriously hurt. One policeman was stabbed in the hand. Protesters took to the streets more than a month ago following the admission by Socialist Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany in a leaked speech that he lied about the economy to win national elections in April. As police pushed the crowd of mostly far-right protesters back towards a rally by the main right of centre Fidesz opposition and further away from parliament, demonstrators seized a Soviet-era T-34 tank — on show for the commemorations — and drove it at police. Reporters said police had fired hundreds of teargas rounds and used mounted police to clear

protesters from the streets and that paving stones had been thrown at the lines of police in riot gear. Gyurcsany has defied calls for him to quit, and backed by his Socialists and the Free Democrat parliamentary allies won a vote of confidence to carry on with his tough economic policies. — Reuters.

Budapest, Oct 24 — Hungary's government pledged today to stand by embattled Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany who blamed the opposition for riots that marred the 50th anniversary of the country's anti-Soviet uprising. Gyurcsany and his coalition of Socialists and Free Democrats have come under attack since the leak last month of a tape in which the prime minister admitted lying about the parlous state of the economy to win a national election in April. Anti-government protesters have staged daily demonstrations outside parliament demanding Gyurcsany step down amid the worst violence in Hungary since the fall of communism. Yesterday, police used rubber bullets, water cannon and teargas to disperse mostly far-right rioters and Fidesz accused police of deliberately driving the protesters into their peaceful rally. Around 167 people were injured in the violence, including one Fidesz MP and 17 policemen, but Budapest was calm today. Police said they had made 131 arrests. Rallies against Gyurcsany and his fiscal policy are expected to keep the government under pressure in the coming weeks. The country's main farmers group, Magosz, an ally of Fidesz, said today it would hold demonstrations in Budapest with 1,000 agricultural vehicles between Nov 2 and 20, the national news agency MTI said. Fidesz said it wanted a referendum on the government's reform policies. — Reuters.

INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 24 — Indian security forces fired teargas shells in Kashmir's main city today to quell violent protests by hundreds of demonstrators after a police vehicle killed a father and son, officials and witnesses said. Over a dozen people, mostly policemen, were injured when security forces clashed with the protesters who pelted stones and set ablaze two vehicles in the northern Natipora area of Srinagar city, the summer capital of the troubled Himalayan region. Carrying the bodies of the two men who were travelling on a scooter when a police truck hit them early today, the protesters demanded justice. Police said the incident was unfortunate and said the driver of the truck had been arrested. An activist from the ruling coalition party was shot dead by suspected militants in Srinagar today, police said. In northern Kashmir, a policeman was shot dead and a civilian was killed when a bomb exploded in a cable television operator's offices. Police said both attacks were carried out by separatist militants but no group claimed responsibility for the violence.

Militants have in the past accused cable television operators of spreading immorality. Elsewhere in the region, Indian troops shot dead three suspected militants in separate gunbattles. — Reuters.

IRAQ

Balad, Oct 20 — Nine people were killed by mortars in the Shi'ite city of Balad and militias attacked two Sunni villages nearby, police said today, in a new round of sectarian attacks in an area where dozens were killed this week. Police said at least 15 mortars hit Balad yesterday and shortly afterwards gunmen wearing the black outfits associated with local Shi'ite militias attacked two Sunni villages. They had no information on casualties in those attacks. Police said the black-clad gunmen took over an Iraqi army checkpoint between Balad and Dhuluiya, a mostly Sunni town involved in the reprisal killings over the past week, and tensions remained high in Balad today. U.S. forces, who maintain a large base near Balad after recently handing over control of the city to Iraqi forces, sent some troops back into Balad at the height of the attacks this week. The tit-for-tat killings started with the slaying of 14 Shi'ite labourers whose bodies were found with their throats cut in an orchard in Dhuluiya. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Oct 23 — The Iraqi government imposed a curfew in the tense southern town of Amara today after fierce battles between Shi'ite militias and police last week. Hours before the curfew went into effect, gunmen dragged two police lieutenants from their homes and dumped their bodies on the city's outskirts, a local councillor said. Clashes between Shi'ite militia and Iraqi security forces, mainly fuelled by tribal divisions, killed at least 25 people last week in Amara, which was handed over by British troops to Iraqi security forces two months ago. The government has ordered its military forces to confront armed groups breaking the law. "We have imposed the curfew due to the security situation there," Defence Ministry spokesman Mohammed al-Askari said. Askari said the Defence Ministry was redeploying the army and the curfew, which will remain in force until further notice, would allow soldiers to control Amara. Defence Minister Abdul Qadir Jassim told local state channel al-Iraqiya the ministry had received intelligence that militias were planning more attacks on police stations. The US-backed, Shi'ite-led government is struggling to exert its authority over Shi'ite militias blamed for reprisal killings and to build a viable police force. "Lately, unlawful armed operations have increased, which is putting the security and the political stability of the country in danger," a government statement said in a message aimed at the Mehdi Army, a Shi'ite militia loyal to powerful cleric Moqtada al-Sadr. "Everybody should know that orders were given to our armed forces to

confront any attempts at violating the law, whoever is the source." — Reuters.

London, Oct 26 — A press report, dated today, states: The US military today announced the deaths of five US troops in fighting in Iraq, raising to 96 the number of American forces killed this month. The four Marines and one Navy sailor all died in fighting in Anbar province, a hotbed of the Sunni insurgency against US troops and their Iraqi government allies. The 96 deaths is the highest monthly total since October, 2005, when the same number of American forces were killed. The sailor was assigned to the 3rd Naval Construction Regiment, the military said. Two of the Marines were attached to Regimental Combat Team 5, and two others to Regimental Combat Team 7. All died yesterday from wounds suffered in attacks that day, it said. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki disavowed a joint US-Iraqi raid in the capital's Sadr City slum yesterday, and criticised the top US military and diplomatic representatives in Iraq for saying his government needs to set a timetable to curb violence in the country. Al-Maliki spoke at a news conference a day after US Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad said Iraqi leaders had agreed to set deadlines by year's end for achieving specific political and security goals laid out by the United States, including reining in militia groups. "I affirm that this government represents the will of the people and no one has the right to impose a timetable on it," the prime minister said. Al-Maliki complained that he was not consulted beforehand about the Sadr City offensive. The raid was conducted by Iraqi special forces backed by US advisers and was aimed at capturing a top militia commander wanted for running a Shiite death squad. Mouwafak al-Rubaie, his national security adviser, later said that al-Maliki's anger grew out of a misunderstanding that had since been cleared up with Gen George Casey, the top US commander in Iraq. While the US military said the raid had been cleared in advance with al-Maliki's government, President Bush acknowledged that al-Maliki himself may not have been consulted. The US military said Mahdi Army militiamen fought back in the Sadr City raid and that the Americans called in an air strike and cordoned the sprawling east Baghdad region. Late yesterday the military said it had killed 10 suspected militia fighters and wounded two in the battle. It did not identify the wanted militia leader or say whether he was still at large. Earlier, police and hospital officials said four people were killed and at least 18 wounded. The military also said it had raided a mosque in Sadr City looking for a missing US soldier and his kidnappers. The soldier was not found but three suspects were detained.

ISRAEL-LEBANON

Gaza, Oct 22 — Masked gunmen killed a senior Fatah militant in a Gaza Strip refugee camp today in what appeared to be another deadly

episode of an increasingly violent power struggle with the governing Hamas movement. Fatah blamed Hamas for the attack that killed Mohammed Shahadeh, commander of al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades in the Bureij camp, and ordered its forces across the Gaza Strip to go on alert, Fatah officials said. There was no immediate comment from Hamas. At least 19 Palestinians have been killed this month in internal violence that has raised fears of civil war. Gunmen wearing masks shot Shahadeh, who also serves in the Preventive Security service loyal to President Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah, at the door to his home, residents and Fatah officials said. Residents said Fatah militants then torched several cars belonging to Hamas members. In a meeting yesterday with Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, a Hamas leader, prominent Palestinians urged him to consider naming a cabinet made up of professionals to end a deadlock with Fatah over formation of a unity government. The session was held a day after gunmen fired shots at Haniyeh's convoy. He was unhurt. After the meeting, Haniyeh reaffirmed a commitment to try to build a unity cabinet with Abbas but did not say what shape such a government should take. In Israeli-Palestinian violence on Friday (Oct 20), Israeli forces killed a Palestinian civilian, medics said, as the army pressed on with a four-month-old offensive against militants launched after gunmen from Gaza abducted a soldier in Israel in June. — Reuters.

LIBERIA

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated Oct 20, states: The U.N. Security Council decided today that a ban on Liberian diamond exports should remain in place for now, saying the war-battered West African country could not ensure that the gems are tracked properly. The Security Council urged Liberia to speed up reforms that would allow it to join the Kimberley Process, a programme launched in 2002 to certify the origins of rough gems. It allows the diamond industry to block stones mined in conflict zones from sale in overseas markets. Conflict diamonds have long fuelled Africa's wars, with fighting forces selling the gems to raise funds for weapons. The Security Council imposed arms and diamond embargoes on Liberia in May 2001 amid a 14-year civil war, which ended in 2003 with a peace deal and a national-unity government. In a press statement, the council said it would revisit the issue in December. Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf argued in a May 24 letter to the council that sanctions on diamonds, arms, timber and the travel of designated individuals, were outdated. She said the measures were stunting the country's economy and hurting its drive to cut poverty. The council lifted timber sanctions in June, and agreed today that it would not reinstate any restrictions on its

trade. Some 15,000 U.N. peacekeepers are still in Liberia, overseeing the country's newfound calm.

MALI

Bamako, Oct 24 — Algerian Islamic insurgents launched a revenge attack against a group of former Tuareg rebels in the deserts of northern Mali yesterday, killing nine of them, a Malian official said today. The attack came a month after Tuareg fighters killed a leader of the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), an Algerian rebel movement that has pledged allegiance to al Qaeda. GSPC fighters ambushed members of the Tuareg's Democratic Alliance for Change near the village of Arouan, some 150 km from the desert city of Kidal where Tuareg rebels launched an uprising in May to demand greater autonomy. "There was violent fighting. The toll was nine dead, several injured and two prisoners from the ranks of the Alliance," the official said. The GSPC leader killed in September by the Tuaregs was believed to be close to Mokhtar Belmokhtar, the Algerian militants' commander in the southern Sahara. "The GSPC's strategy is clear: they want to settle a score with the leaders of the Alliance before the disarmament of its fighters, which should begin immediately," said the official. In July, the Malian Tuareg rebels, who have sought greater autonomy for their desert region of northern Mali, signed a peace deal with the government in Bamako, brokered by Algeria, whose military has been seeking to stamp out the still active GSPC. Tuareg fighters have long coexisted with the GSPC in the lawless regions of northern Mali, where they control trans-Saharan smuggling routes into north Africa. However, recent GSPC attempts to recruit Tuaregs have raised tensions between the groups. The Tuareg are due to begin disarming this week but Malian officials could not confirm whether the process had already begun. — Reuters.

NIGERIA

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Seven oil workers, including four Britons, have been freed after being held hostage in Nigeria, says American oil giant Exxon Mobil. The men were captured on Oct 3 when gunmen raided one of Exxon Mobil's residential compounds housing expatriate workers in the Niger Delta. They include one Romanian, one Malaysian and one Indonesian. Police in Akwa Ibom, the state where the men were kidnapped, say all seven are in good health. They say the men have been sent to neighbouring Rivers state, where security services will release the men to their various companies. The men were employed by Aberdeen-based Sparrow Offshore and Texas-based Oceaneering International. A number of Nigerian security guards were killed when armed men were captured at Nancy's Bar inside the Exxon compound at Eket.

Port Harcourt, Oct 25 — Villagers invaded four oil pumping stations in Nigeria's southern delta region today in a dispute with Western oil companies over contracts and community benefits, oil company sources said. It was not immediately clear how much oil production was closed as a result of the invasions in Rivers State, the sources said. One of the four flow stations — Chevron's Robertkiri — was pumping 15,000 barrels per day before the incident. The other three flow stations — Ekulama I and II and Belema — are operated by Royal Dutch Shell. "Some flow stations were invaded by youths. We understand there are community issues and we expect a quick resolution of these issues with the intervention of the state government," a Shell source said. Ekulama I was already shut by fighting between militants and troops earlier this month and the Shell source declined to say how much oil was being produced from the other two platforms. A Chevron source said the company closed the Robertkiri facility when it became clear the community was intent on occupying it. "This is a very unexpected situation. We are fulfilling our aspects of the global memorandum of understanding with the community. We have created jobs," he said. — Reuters.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, Oct 24 — The attacks on important energy infrastructures in western Province of Pakistan are going on despite heavy contingent and security measurements. Pakistan state owned gas utility-Sui Southern Gas Co said this afternoon that its pipelines were damaged by unknown terrorists at two different places in Balochistan, including Kalat and Dasht, Kolpur in last two days. The yesterday's blast disturbed gas supply to Quetta and complete shut down at Kalat and its adjoining areas. A spokesman of SSGC in a statement said two unidentified armed miscreants managed to enter the premises of SSGC's Town Border Station (TBS) Kalat and after made hostage security guard, they installed a powerful explosive device, which blown up at 2140 hrs resulting in the suspension of gas supply in the entire Kalat district. The restoration team for Kalat left from Quetta and the repair work is under process. The SSGC concerned engineers informed that TBS has been completely damaged and it will take sometime to bring it back to order. The other blast took place at SSGC's main transmission pipeline in Dasht, Kolpur area approximately 22 kms from Quetta at 1205 today by unknown terrorists. A layoff of 15 minutes gas supply was restored through alternate sources by SSGC's technical team, which reached the spot in quick time. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Quetta, Pakistan, Oct 25 — Five Pakistani tribe members were killed and five others wounded when a

gunfight between rival clans broke out after midday prayers for the Muslim festival of Eid al-Fitr today, police said. The clans in Pakistan's south-west province of Baluchistan had been feuding since a man and woman were killed two months ago following accusations that they had been having a relationship out of wedlock — a strict taboo in Pakistani tribal societies. "Five people were killed and five wounded when two factions of the Magsi tribe clashed," said Jamil Asghar, deputy police chief in Jaffarabad, a district on the border of Baluchistan and Sindh provinces. Police arrested two suspects and seized their Kalashnikov rifles. — Reuters.

PERU

Lima, Oct 21 — Argentine oil company Pluspetrol said today it was losing about \$2.4 million a day in revenue after suspending operations this week because hundreds of indigenous protesters occupied its oil wells. Pluspetrol has said some of its workers were being held hostage at its oil fields in the Amazon region of northern Peru by the protesters, who say the company is damaging the environment. The government is mediating between the company and the Achuar Indian community to try to bring an end to the protest, which began more than two weeks ago, but talks continued today without coming to a resolution. "At this moment we have stopped producing some 40,000 barrels per day, at \$58 or \$60 per barrel, that means lost sales of \$2.4 million a day approximately," Roberto Ramallo, general manager of Pluspetrol Norte, told Reuters. The government had said yesterday it expected the protest would end today but Ramallo said armed indigenous groups remained at the company's oil fields. "Tomorrow at midday we should have an agreement, or failed talks," he said. Ramallo said protesters had freed some small wells, which meant the company had recovered some production. Earlier in the week Pluspetrol said it was losing 50,000 barrels per day of production. The energy and mines ministry says that half of Peru's national crude production has been affected by the protests. — Reuters.

PHILIPPINES

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Suspected explosive materials placed inside six PVC tubes were found early Wednesday afternoon (Oct 18) by a five-year-old boy near the plant box adjacent to the Guardhouse AT Gate No.3, fronting the Terminal Management Office of the Iloilo Port Terminal inside the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) compound along Fort San Pedro area city. Port authorities said the six pieces of sealed and blue-colored PVC tubes estimated at one inch in diameter and four metres long, was found by an innocent boy who stumbled on the objects at about 1250, Wednesday. The Iloilo City Police

Office Explosive and Ordnance Division (EOD) bomb disposal team recovered the six PVC pipes, estimated at one inch in diameter and four inches long containing more or less 610 grams of suspected bronze and grey fillings which are basic components in making a bomb. Operations at the Port of Iloilo in central Philippines were temporarily suspended for several hours. Police authorities allowed port activities to resume in the afternoon after the bombs were removed from the terminal. Police are still investigating if this was a terrorist act. The Muslim terrorist organization Abu Sayyaf has in the past weeks carried out a series of bomb attacks in southern Philippines.

Manila, Oct 20 — Muslim gunmen in the Philippines freed three local engineers and their driver working on a U.S.-funded road project on a remote southern island after abducting them three days earlier, the military said today. Lieutenant-Colonel Bartolome Bacarro said the four men were found by soldiers just after dawn today walking on a jungle trail near Indanan town on Jolo island, the stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf group of Muslim rebels. "They were tired but appeared to be in good shape," Bacarro told reporters, adding military pressure helped local officials convince the gunmen to free their captives. Six gunmen snatched the men late on Tuesday (Oct 17) while they were inspecting the project near Parang town on Jolo and demanded an unspecified "board and lodging fee". Benjamin Loong, governor of the troubled southern island, said the captives were freed without conditions after ransom demands were rejected. He said relatives of the kidnappers also helped in the negotiations. But one of the four captives said they had escaped after a guard fell asleep late yesterday and then they walked through the night until soldiers found them the next day. Security officials said the kidnappers withdrew money from banks in Zamboanga City using five ATM cards taken from the engineers, but there was no immediate estimate of how much money was taken. Local police said one of the suspected kidnappers was related to the head of a private security group hired to guard the 3.6-km road project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). — Reuters.

SOMALIA

Mogadishu, Oct 21 — Somali government troops fought with a local militia loyal to the country's newly powerful Islamist movement today, residents said. "Heavy fighting took place early this morning between government troops and a local militia loyal to the Islamists," said Abdihakim Ahmed, a resident of Bur Hakaba town. "The fighting is still raging on. It looks like the local militia have been pushed out of town," he added. — Reuters.

SRI LANKA

Colombo, Oct 20 — Sporadic violence continued in Sri Lanka with troops and Tamil Tiger rebels exchanging artillery and mortar fire, the army said today, as peace envoys pushed both sides to stick the course for planned peace talks. In the latest clashes, rebels fired mortars at an army base in the eastern Batticaloa district late yesterday, sparking army retaliation. There were no casualties, the military said. Both sides also had artillery duels overnight in the northern Jaffna peninsula but no details of casualties were immediately available. The continuing violence came as U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher is visiting the country. "Richard Boucher wants to send a message there should be an immediate cessation of violence," U.S. embassy spokesman Evan Owen said. "It is more important to talk now than ever as Sri Lanka is in danger of going to all-out war." Boucher, who met Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse yesterday, will hold a news conference later today. Japan, the biggest financial donor to Sri Lanka, also sent its envoy Yasushi Akashi this week who met with Tamil Tiger leaders in Kilinochchi, the rebel headquarters in the north, yesterday. Security was tight in the capital Colombo with soldiers manning checkpoints and using cordon searches to look for suspected rebels. — Reuters.

Colombo, Oct 21 — The Sri Lankan navy destroyed two Tamil Tiger boats today off an island in the country's restive north, killing six rebels, a naval spokesman said, the second military engagement at sea in less than 24 hours. Yesterday, the navy destroyed seven Tamil Tiger craft in a major sea battle, killing at least 35 rebels off the northern Jaffna peninsula. The latest clash took place near the government-controlled Kytes island off the Tamil-dominated peninsula after navy patrol boats spotted rebel craft approaching the island. "All six LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) members on board were killed," Commander D.K.P. Dassanayake told Reuters. Yesterday's clash saw rebels and government forces fight for hours off the coast of the Jaffna peninsula. Two sailors were wounded in the fight. Pro-rebel Web site www.tamilnet.com said the LTTE denied suffering casualties and that rebel boats had damaged two navy attack boats. It said the rebels were attacked first by the navy. — Reuters.

THAILAND

Taepa, Thailand, Oct 20 — At least six people were killed in a series of bomb and gun attacks in Thailand's rebellious Muslim south, despite a post-coup government promising a peaceful solution to the insurgency, police said today. In a dawn attack, militants used a mobile telephone to detonate a 10-kg bomb at a village teashop in Songkhla province's Taepa district aimed at police and soldiers who often drank morning coffee there, police said. Instead, they killed three

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civilians, two Muslims and a Buddhist, and wounded 13, police said. Also today, a 35-year-old Muslim rubber tapper was killed in a drive-by shooting by militants in Narathiwat while heading to a rubber plantation on a motorcycle with his wife, who escaped unhurt, police said. Militants also raided a house of a 37-year-old Muslim village leader and killed him with an M-16 rifle and shot dead a 29-year-old Muslim woman roadside vendor with a pistol in separate attacks in Narathiwat yesterday night, police said. Militants then hid a five-kg bomb in her stall and detonated it when soldiers arrived to investigate, wounding two, police said. — Reuters.

Narathiwat, Oct 22 — A remote-controlled bomb killed a soldier and wounded 11 people in Thailand's Muslim south today, police said. Militants used a mobile phone to detonate a 5-kg bomb hidden in a rubbish bin in the city of Narathiwat as soldiers accompanied five Buddhist monks to protect them as they sought alms, police said. One soldier died on his way to hospital, while other soldiers, monks and four passers-by were wounded, police said. — Reuters.

TURKEY

Diyarbakir, Turkey, Oct 24 — Turkish forces killed three members of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) late yesterday, security officials said, as clashes continue despite a unilateral ceasefire launched this month. Two sergeants were also wounded in the latest clashes since Oct 1, when the PKK's unilateral ceasefire — dismissed by the army and government as a publicity stunt — came into effect. Soldiers came across the PKK members in the province of Batman, near the border with Iraq in the mainly Kurdish south-east, and the rebels opened fire when troops called on them to surrender, the officials said today. The PKK, considered a terrorist organisation by Turkey, the United States and the European Union, has said it will not carry out any attacks as part of the ceasefire but will defend itself if attacked. — Reuters.

Labour Disputes



CREW OF FRANCE FLAGGED VESSEL, DIEPPE, FRANCE

Le Havre, Oct 24 — The strike on board passenger ro/ro *Dieppe* was called because the ship is due to be replaced on the Newhaven-Dieppe route by passenger ro/ro *Seven Sisters*, probably during November. The problem is that the crew from *Dieppe* will not be taken on by the new vessel, and so *Dieppe's* crew members went on strike in order to protect their interests. The strike has now ended. — Lloyd's Agents.

FINLAND

London, Oct 19 — A strike by Finnair flight attendants is to continue tomorrow after fresh talks this afternoon between the carrier and the cabin crew union failed to produce a settlement. A new round of negotiations is scheduled for tomorrow. Finnair said the strike, which got underway at 0400 hrs, will result in most of tomorrow's flights being cancelled, though it plans to lay on more capacity than it has had available today. It plans to run some domestic and European destinations, including new flights to Barcelona and Budapest, but no long-haul routes. Finnair said it would be able to provide the additional capacity despite a decision by the transport workers union today to stop refuelling its aircraft for the duration of the strike.

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A strike by Finnair cabin crews continued for a second day today, grounding most of the airline's international flights, with no end in sight. The strike, by more than 1,500 cabin staff, began yesterday morning in protest against the Finnish carrier's plans to recruit personnel through its Estonian subsidiary, Aero, at lower rates than for Finnair cabin staff. Finnair PLC said it was forced to hire 500 more flight attendants, to meet growing demand on Asian routes, through Aero, because salary levels for Finnair staff were 30% higher. National Conciliator Juhani Salonius, who oversaw talks between the flight attendants' union and representatives of the airline, said the two sides were still too far apart for him to propose a mediation solution after two sessions on Wednesday (Oct 18) and yesterday. Talks were scheduled to continue this afternoon. The government repeated an appeal yesterday to end the strike. Finnair considers the strike to be illegal and said it would continue leisure flights and some scheduled traffic in Europe by using code-share airlines, including British Airways, SN Brussels Airlines, Malev and Czech Airlines. The Finnish carrier said the cancellation of flights causes daily losses of €2.5 million (US\$3 million).

London, Oct 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Finnair said flight operations have returned to normal following a two-day strike by cabin crew last week that grounded a large part of its fleet. The strike ended Friday (Oct 20) evening with Finnair agreeing to shelve plans to hire some 500 new flight attendants under new contractual terms, state broadcaster YLE reported. For its part, the cabin crew union agreed that its members would be more flexible on rest breaks between flights. For now, new recruits will be paid at the normal rate under an existing labour contract at Finnair. That contract runs out next year. The Labour Court is expected to rule today on whether the strike was illegal, YLE said.

London, Oct 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Finnair PLC said

today that last week's strike by cabin crews will hit the company by €10million (US\$12.5million) this year, but that it will still make a profit. The two-day strike, by more than 1,500 cabin personnel, will directly affect the airline's annual result by €7million, and will cost more than €3million in lost ticket reservations, Finnair said.

GREECE

London, Oct 25 — A press report, dated Oct 24, states: Talks between Greece's prime minister and leaders of the country's teachers' unions have failed to end a six-week strike over pay rises. Prime Minister Constantin Karamanlis told union representatives that their demands for a 45% pay increase were unfeasible. Union leaders said they would decide what action to take later this week. Mr Karamanlis told striking teachers that he could not endanger the efforts that Greece has made on economic consolidation and growth by increasing teachers' salaries. However, he did promise future investment in education. The union would meet tomorrow to decide whether to return to the classroom or continue industrial action. Greece's secondary schoolteachers have been supporting their primary colleagues with a solidarity strike.

IVORY COAST

London, Oct 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Disruption to cocoa supplies from the Cote d'Ivoire has ceased following suspension of strikes organised by the cacao growers' trade union Anaproci. The union, which represents 80% of the Cote d'Ivoire's cocoa farmers, said on Friday (Oct 20) it would suspend the strike to allow the government time to meet its demands. The organisation originally called for action at the beginning of last week to demand higher payments and greater financial support for growing co-operatives and began barricading roads to prevent cocoa shipments from reaching warehouses at the main ports of Abidjan and San Pedro where they are stored until being exported. Growers have warned the government that the strike will resume today if demands are not met.

NEW CALEDONIA

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Eramet SA, which operates the world's biggest ferronickel plant in New Caledonia, said workers returned to work at its largest nickel mine in the Pacific island after police cleared strikers. Three of the company's four mines in the French-controlled territory are now operating and Eramet is "hopeful" of resuming normal shipments to customers next week, Pierre Alla, chief executive officer of Eramet's Le Nickel-SLN unit said. A general strike by the New Caledonian Confederated Union of Workers calling for higher mining taxes is in its fourth week. Prices of nickel, used in batteries and

to rust-proof steel, have more than doubled this year, reaching the highest in at least 19 years this month due to the strike. "This will relieve the situation on the ore supplies," Alla said by phone. "Ninety to 95 percent of the workers have come back to work at the mine." Eramet had 10 days of ore reserves left for its smelter, and was operating it at two-thirds capacity, Alla said yesterday. The company received an ore shipment from its mines yesterday, and expects another shipment tomorrow, he said today. One of the company's mines is still blockaded, he said. It increased production at another mine to about 70 percent, up from 60 percent indicated yesterday, and the last mine continued to be operating at 25 percent capacity, he said today. Eramet declared force majeure on nickel deliveries to its Asian customers earlier this month, and was considering doing the same for its European customers last week.

PAY DISPUTE ON LIBERIAN FLAGGED VESSEL

Adelaide, Oct 23 — According to the Barwell Traffic Manager in Port Lincoln the issue with bulker *Boreal* has been resolved and the vessel sailed for Port Sudan on Oct 14. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Oct 13.)

VENEZUELA

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated Oct 19, states: Venezuelan police fired plastic bullets at protesting fishermen, injuring eight of them, after the rowdy group blocked access to an eastern seaport today and vandalized the mayor's office, the state governor said. Police arrested two of the protesters after fishermen used their boats to block access to Guiria Port, located about 450 km east of Caracas, Sucre state Gov. Ramon Martinez said. "There are eight people with injuries from plastic bullets, and two people detained." Fishermen are upset about a decision by port authorities to stop offering refrigeration and fuel services. He said oil companies have begun using certain docks, preventing the anglers from using them. Martinez said one group of protesters attempted to burn down the mayor's office and police seized guns belonging to government opponents who allegedly planned to join the protest. Calm returned to the port town after the clash but that fishermen still had their boats lined up blocking access to the port.

Awards & Settlements



MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated Oct 19, states: A judge has ruled that the federal government must pay \$16.5 million to the family of a San

Antonio baby who suffered brain damage in a Hawaiian hospital. The verdict in the case of Izzy Peterson is believed to be the largest for a single person in a personal injury case in Hawaii. The boy was born healthy at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, but a doctor accidentally gave the baby carbon dioxide when she thought she was giving the infant oxygen. The one year old is now silent with severe brain damage. He breathes through a tube in his neck and eats through another connected to his stomach. He requires around-the-clock nursing care at his home in San Antonio and is expected to die before he turns 30.

PIPELINE ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 20 — The family of a welder killed in a 2004 gasoline pipeline explosion in Walnut Creek and three survivors of the blast will receive more than \$6 million under settlements reached with a contractor for the East Bay Municipal Utility District, officials said yesterday. Miguel Reyes, 43, of Yuba City was among five men killed when a backhoe struck a 10-inch buried line on Nov 9, 2004, igniting a fireball that also injured welders Jeremy Knox and Roger Paasch and crane operator Patrick Farley. Reyes' family will receive \$3 million, Knox \$2 million, Paasch \$1.1 million and Farley \$75,000, under agreements reached this month, attorneys in the case said. The money will be paid from an insurance policy bought by the utility's contractor, Mountain Cascade Inc. of Livermore. Peter McNulty, an attorney representing Knox and Farley, said the settlements were fair in terms of EBMUD's and the contractor's responsibility but that many plaintiffs are still pursuing legal action against Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, the nation's largest underground fuel shipper. The Houston company is a defendant in lawsuits consolidated into a single case in Contra Costa County Superior Court. The explosion occurred when a Mountain Cascade backhoe operator was installing a water-district main and punctured a high-pressure Kinder Morgan pipeline. Kinder Morgan failed to mark a bend in the line, according to state workplace safety regulator Cal/OSHA, which found the Houston company primarily at fault and fined it \$140,000. The state fire marshal fined Kinder Morgan \$500,000.

SEXUAL ABUSE, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 22 — A press report, dated Oct 21, states: A Central Kentucky jury awarded \$16 million to a girl who was sexually abused three years ago, but she might collect only a fraction of that amount. The girl's mother filed the civil suit on behalf of her daughter against James T. Evans, 72, a Vietnam veteran whose only income is Social Security and disability benefits. The Jessamine Circuit Court jury issued its unanimous verdict after a one-day

trial on Oct 11. It awarded \$7.5 million for past and future mental and physical suffering, future medical and counseling expenses and expenses for medicines. Another \$8.5 million was awarded in punitive damages. The girl's sexual abuse occurred in December 2003 when she was nine years old, according to court records. Evans was convicted on one count of first-degree sexual abuse and sentenced to five years in prison. He served six months before being granted shock probation in September 2005.

WRONGFUL DEATH, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A jury has awarded \$4.3 million to the family of a Port St. Lucie man who died in 2003 after a doctor at St. Lucie Medical Center's emergency room released him without running a test that could have revealed the heart condition that eventually killed him. Named as defendants in the wrongful death lawsuit were Dr. John Mastalski and Treasure Coast Emergency Associates. The verdict on Tuesday (Oct 17) was the culmination of a 30-day circuit court trial in Fort Pierce. George Rowell, a 60-year-old electrician for the Martin County School District, was taken by EMTs to the emergency room Jan 23, 2003, after suffering from chest pains. According to the lawsuit, Rowell was under Mastalski's care in the emergency room and the doctor failed to run a test for an enzyme present in blood during cardiac malfunction. The four-woman, two-man jury found Mastalski was 73% responsible for Rowell's death, and that Rowell himself was 27% responsible because he didn't return to the hospital when he had chest pain the day after being released. Rowell died Jan 28, 2003. To arrive at the \$4.3 million judgment, the jury put a \$4 million price tag on wife Sandra Rowell's mental pain and suffering, valued the widow's actual losses at \$301,496 and put medical and funeral expenses at \$1,649.50. Charlie Robinson, an investigator and paralegal at the West Palm Beach law firm of Larmoyeux and Bone, which represented Sarah Rowell, said Senior Circuit Judge James Midelis has not ruled whether the judgment amount would stand.

Railway Accidents



FRANKLIN, MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A train heading to Boston slammed into a flatbed truck carrying construction equipment on the MBTA commuter rail line at a crossing at Franklin, Mass, just before 0800 today and derailed, shutting

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down rail services beyond Dean College indefinitely, according to MBTA and Franklin officials. As of 1300 hrs, 19 victims have been sent to the hospital with minor injuries and MBTA officials are saying it is a miracle no one was seriously hurt or killed. MBTA Police Sgt Paul Carroll said T police and Franklin Police were on scene, along with the Franklin Fire Department. At least 11 ambulances responded to aid the "walking wounded." Nearby Milford Regional Medical Centre has taken in 19 patients and is in "disaster mode" anticipating an influx of more. "We implement our disaster plan in order to accommodate greater numbers of individuals that might come into the emergency department," said Terri McDonald, spokeswoman for the hospital. However, all injuries had been minor "bumps and bruises" so far, McDonald added. The truck was operated by Walsh Contracting Company and a company spokesman said officials were heading to the accident site to determine what happened.

GOVINDPURI STATION AREA, INDIA

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Train traffic on Kanpur-Delhi route was resumed after tracks were cleared of three derailed wagons of a goods train. Ahmedabad-bound Gorakhpur-Ahmedabad Express train had rammed into an empty goods train near Govindpuri station at around 1240 hrs, leading to the derailment, Deputy Chief Traffic Manager of Kanpur Central railway station, J R Meena said here today. The express train driver received minor injuries and was admitted in railway hospital for treatment. No passenger was injured. The Gorakhpur-Ahmedabad Express was flagged off for its onward journey at around 1600 hrs official sources said. Nearly a dozen up and down trains on Delhi-Howrah routes were affected due to the derailment. Normal movement of trains was expected by this evening, sources said.

KARACHI, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Oct 21 — Pakistan Railway said eight bogies of Karachi-Peshawar Eid Special train derailed today near Kalapul in Karachi, Sindh Province of Pakistan.. However, nobody was injured or killed but track and bogies were damaged. It said Peshawar-bound second Eid Special train left Karachi at 1500 hrs. When the train approached Kalapul, its eight bogies were all of a sudden derailed. Owing to the slow speed, the train escaped any casualty. After the sudden derailment, the front six bogies were sent to Drigh Road Station, while alternative arrangements are being made for the derailed bogies. According to Mir Mohammed Khaskheli, Divisional Superintendent Railways Karachi, the Eid Special train had to be run on the old railway track owing to the traffic rush. He added that the alternative coaches

would soon get the train back on the way to Peshawar. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

MOTHERGONJ, BANGLADESH

Karachi, Oct 23 — Bangladesh Railway said six bogies of a Dinajpur-bound goods train derailed at Mothergonj in Northern Bangladesh soon after its departure from Thakurgaon railway station yesterday morning. As a result, at least 10 people were injured and train communication between Dinajpur-Thakurgaon and Dinajpur-Panchagarh remained suspended for quite some time. A rescue team later reached accident site. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

NEW BRIGHTON, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 22 — A press report, dated Oct 21 , states: Federal investigators arrived today at the scene of a fiery train accident caused when ethanol tanker cars derailed and exploded on a southwestern Pennsylvania bridge the night before. The tanker cars continued to burn as National Transportation Safety Board officials announced they planned to gather maintenance records and interview witnesses, including crew members of the Norfolk Southern train, who were not injured. Twenty-four cars derailed and nine caught fire on the bridge over the Beaver River in New Brighton, about 25 miles northwest of Pittsburgh. Officials with the state Department of Environmental Protection, Norfolk Southern and Beaver County were determining whether to let the fire burn itself out or extinguish it, said Robert Sumwalt, vice chairman of the safety board. The eastbound train's midsection derailed around 2250 yesterday while crossing the railroad bridge, which is about 100 feet high and a half-mile long. None of the cars on land were burning and the fire was not expected to spread beyond the derailed tankers. State environmental officials were monitoring the air and water in the area, Sumwalt said. Downstream water users were notified of the incident as a precaution, said DEP spokeswoman Betsy Mallison. Officials evacuated nearby residents out of concern for further possible explosions, and about 50 people spent the night at a local school. There were no immediate reports of injuries. Residents were being escorted to their homes today to retrieve necessities and pets, and were then to arrange to stay with friends or relatives, Morley said. The train, 83 tanker cars pulled by three locomotives, was travelling from Chicago to New Jersey when it derailed. About 10 federal safety board experts were on the scene, but they did not expect to inspect the crash site until the fire was out. The investigation would cover mechanical, track and engineering issues, human factors, and the emergency response to the crash, Sumwalt said. Officials had no preliminary theories about what caused the accident, he said. Norfolk

Southern spokesman Rudy Husband did not comment on the crash, but said the company is responsible for track maintenance. He declined to comment on the condition of the tracks before the accident. About 50 to 70 trains use the affected tracks daily, and Norfolk Southern was working to detour as many of them as possible, he added.

London, Oct 23 — A press report, dated today, states: All four lanes of the Beaver Falls New Brighton Bridge have reopened after a train derailment. Big tanker trucks were brought in over the weekend to help with the clean-up. Emergency crews will remove fuel from rail tankers that remain in the Beaver River. The derailment happened Friday (Oct 20) night leaving rail cars off the tracks and a massive fire burning. Ten families are still out of their homes, but should be allowed back in sometime today. A spokesperson from the Department of Environmental Protection said getting the rails cars out of the river is important. The Beaver County Transit Authority is detouring buses because of the train derailment. (See issue of Oct 24.)

London, Oct 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Salvage crews at the scene of Friday night's (Oct 20) train derailment in New Brighton pulled the last remaining burned-out tanker car from the trestle yesterday afternoon and continued hauling other cars out of the Beaver River. Residents were allowed back into their houses, although those living on Second Avenue nearest the crash were asked to park their cars a few blocks away and walk to their houses to keep the area clear for emergency vehicles. An 80-car Norfolk Southern train hauling 100,000 gallons of ethanol from Chicago to New Jersey derailed at about 2230 on Friday, sending tanker cars plunging into the river. The National Transportation Safety Board still is trying to determine the cause. New Brighton Fire Chief Jeff Bolland said firefighters extinguished the last fire at about midnight on Sunday. Chief Bolland said the railroad was trying to restore full rail service as quickly as possible, although no one could say yesterday if the trestle was damaged. Rudy Husband, spokesman for the railroad, said main tracks like the ones on the trestle are inspected regularly. Dented and burned tanker cars were being recovered yesterday and stacked in Big Rock Park, where crews had to cut an access road to reach the scene. Larry Morley, borough manager, said the railroad would pay for any damage to the park. At a nearby church, Norfolk Southern was offering financial compensation to residents displaced by the accident, and will continue to do so all week. The railroad is also meeting with any business owners whose operations were disrupted by the wreck. Firefighters and other personnel moved close to the blaze early yesterday morning to siphon the remaining fuel from the tanker cars and make sure the last fire was out. One lower rail line had been reopened

for freight traffic, but the track was closed again yesterday morning for repairs. Passenger trains that normally use that track were detoured about 2.5 miles around the site. Betsy Mallison, spokeswoman for the state Department of Environmental Protection, said workers were flushing the embankment next to the trestle with water to wash away any remaining ethanol. She said the spill had minimal environmental impact.

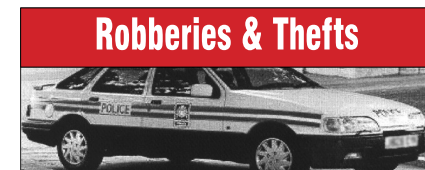
London, Oct 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Authorities lifted emergency restrictions for residents near a railway bridge where several derailed tanker cars burned for two days, and rail traffic temporarily resumed yesterday, officials said. The last fire from Friday (Oct 20) night's accident was extinguished late Sunday night, and freight trains began using one of two tracks spanning the Beaver River in New Brighton shortly before 0100 yesterday. The train pulling 86 tanker cars carrying ethanol was travelling from Chicago to New Jersey when 23 of the cars tumbled off the tracks. At least nine caught fire, and some fell into the river. No one was injured. About 50 nearby residents were evacuated for fear of possible explosions. Most were allowed to return home Sunday and the rest were cleared to return yesterday, said Wes Hill, Beaver County's director of emergency services. Workers removed the last two tanker cars from the river yesterday, and previously closed vehicular traffic lanes nearby were reopened, the state Department of Environmental Protection said. Rudy Husband, a spokesman for Norfolk Southern, which owns the rail line, said about 14 trains used the track before it was temporarily closed for repairs yesterday morning. Husband declined to comment on the financial impact of the derailment, saying it would take several weeks to determine that figure. The derailment also affected Amtrak's Capitol Limited, which makes one round trip daily between Washington, D.C., and Chicago. Amtrak trains were expected to travel through the area as scheduled yesterday, but those that departed Sunday and were detoured face delays of three to four hours, said Amtrak spokeswoman Tracy Connell. Norfolk Southern representatives have offered to compensate residents for hotels and for meals away from home. Company representatives also planned to meet with business owners who may have lost income and "come up with a mutually agreeable solution," Husband said. Federal investigators removed data recorders from the train on Saturday. Agents from the National Transportation Safety Board also removed a section of track that was broken in two when the 23 cars from the train's midsection derailed. Robert Sumwalt, vice chairman of the NTSB, said late Sunday the train's crew told investigators the train was running well until it automatically applied emergency brakes because pneumatic brake lines between cars had been severed. It was unclear what role the

brake lines played in the accident, or how they became severed. It was unclear when the NTSB probe would be completed. Preliminary indications from the train's data recorders showed that the train was traveling 36 mph to 39 mph when it crashed, Sumwalt said. The speed limit is 45 mph. DEP spokeswoman Betsy Mallison said workers planned to flush the embankment near the bridge with water yesterday to wash away any remaining ethanol. Husband would not comment on the condition of the half-mile long bridge before the accident, but said company officials inspect mainline tracks like the ones on the bridge at least twice a week.

London, Oct 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Amtrak says travellers may continue to experience one- to two-hour delays on a train that makes one daily round trip through northern Ohio. The Capitol Limited, which travels between Washington, DC, and Chicago, goes through an area north-west of Pittsburgh where 23 tanker cars derailed Friday night (Oct 20), sparking an explosion and fires. Rail traffic is moving through the region again but Amtrak says its trains may be held up, partly because only one side of the tracks is open near the accident site. The Capitol Limited's Ohio stops include Alliance, Cleveland, Elyria, Sandusky and Toledo.

PALAPYE AREA, BOTSWANA

London, Oct 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Damages caused by a train accident yesterday, at Madiuela lands near Palapye, have been estimated at over P3million (£247,700). The train that was heading to Gaborone from Francistown with over 400 passengers derailed, injuring nine people. Assistant Superintendent Ellias Malope of the Palapye Police said that all the injured passengers were treated and discharged from the hospital. Botswana Railways Chief Executive Officer, Mr Andrew Lunga, said that the initial assessment is that the derailment must have been caused by someone who had interfered with the level crossing because a piece of log had been found at the spot. Mr Lunga said the estimated cost of the accident ran into millions of Pula, as it would involve re-railing the track, adding that it would take a minimum of two days to repair the damages, as the line was completely blocked.



CASH, TAMWORTH, STAFFORDSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Police will return to a cash processing centre where robbers stole nearly £2m exactly one

week after the raid in a bid to find out more information. A gang drove a skip lorry into the NatWest cash processing centre in Tamworth, Staffordshire, last Wednesday (Oct 18) night, injuring a worker driving a car. The lorry hit at least three parked cars before it smashed the wall of the building at an industrial estate. The offenders are still on the run after the incident in Amington. The skip lorry, which was abandoned at the scene, had been stolen from a landscape and civil engineering contractors in Lichfield Road, Coleshill, Warwickshire.

Miscellaneous



COLLAPSE OF BUILDINGS, TORONTO, CANADA

London, Oct 25 — A report from LaSalle, Quebec, dated Oct 24, states: The demolition company responsible for the collapse of the Uptown Theatre has pleaded guilty to failing to properly inspect the roof before it fell, leading to the death of one man and injuries to 17 other people. Justice Geraldine Sparrow fined Priestly Demolition Inc \$200,000 yesterday after its lawyer, Roy Filion, pleaded guilty on its behalf to one violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. "The results of this breach of the act were wide-ranging and tragic," Sparrow said. Augusto Mejia Solis, a 27-year-old Costa Rican learning English at Yorkville English Academy, next door to the Balmuto Street movie theatre, was killed by falling debris on the morning of Dec 8, 2003. The theatre's masonry walls, pressured by the collapsing roof, crashed through the roof of the school where Solis was studying. Eleven other students and staff at the school were trapped, and later rushed to hospital. Five workers at a Scotiabank branch next door to the theatre, close to Yonge and Bloor Streets, were also injured. The \$200,000 fine is well within the proper range for similar violations, labour ministry prosecutor Brian Blumenthal told the judge. None of the victims nor their families were in the Old City Hall courtroom yesterday. Several have launched lawsuits. Ryan and Vic Priestly, officials of the private demolition company, were in court. The fine is partly based on the size of the Aurora-based company, which has up to 120 workers and annual revenues of \$26.7 million, Blumenthal told the judge. On the day of the demolition a worker using a machine equipped with a high-reaching mechanical arm tipped with hydraulic shears cut the top steel beam of the truss, or roof-support framework, causing the collapse, according to an agreed statement of facts read into the record by Blumenthal. Priestly failed to take "the reasonable precaution" of

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ensuring that a competent worker had inspected the structure, Blumenthal said. Priestly never asked the engineer it had hired to visit the site, Blumenthal said. However, Priestly's lawyer told the judge the accident occurred because the beams supporting the roof, instead of being separate as is usual, were unexpectedly connected. "I don't want the impression left with the court that nobody considered what the roof structure was," Filion said. It seemed to be of a type familiar to the company, he said. After the guilty plea, Blumenthal dropped three related charges, as well as two counts against Antonio Vieira, who was the site's demolition supervisor.

DANIA (Germany)

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Ferry *Dania* (829 gt, built 1980) in Polish waters fled back to Germany this week, ignoring a "warning shot" from a signalling pistol, Poland's legal affairs officer in Berlin confirmed today. Both Germany and Poland were at pains today to avoid recriminations about the incident. Germany's Foreign Office said it and German interior officials were trying to settle the matter quickly "in the spirit of good-neighbourly relations." Three Polish customs officers who were investigating possible smuggling on the vessel, a floating shop, were taken to Germany against their will, Marek Wieruszewski, consul for legal affairs at the Polish embassy in Berlin, said. They returned home by land. The *Dania* is operated by a German ferry company Alder. It was taking 45 passengers on an "international" voyage to buy cigarettes and alcohol at cheaper prices. Since the incident, just before it docked in Swinoujscie, it has been declared undesirable in Poland. Wieruszewski said the Polish customs office in Szczecin told him the signal flare had been fired as a warning shot. The vessel's captain, Heinz Arendt, said three to four shots had been fired, using some kind of handgun, from the pursuing Polish patrol vessel while it was about 10 metres abeam of the vessel. Rainer Hingst, a German customs official in Stralsund, said the elaborate arrangements on the boat to avoid taxes included operating two separate bonded shops, one for German and the other for Polish territory. Germany had approved the German shop. Hingst said it might well be that from the Polish point of view, the *Dania* had been selling goods without paying sales tax. The Sven Paulsen shipping company said it refused the order to stop because the Polish agents lacked European Union identity cards. Alwin Mueller, the company's manager in the tiny German port of Heringsdorf, said, "The captain turned back because he had to protect his cargo, passengers and crew." The trips to Poland would resume Friday with another vessel. "We won't give up," said Mueller. The vessel had plied a

route between Heringsdorf and Swinoujscie, 12 kilometres away, for the past three weeks. (Note — *Dania*, according to Lloyd's MIU AIS in lat 54 8 12.36N, long 13 45 55.14E, 0.9 nautical miles from Kroslin, at 1959, today.)

DRUGS FOUND ON ANTIGUA & BARBUDA FLAGGED VESSEL, BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

London, Oct 24 — Container Carrier *CFS Palamedes* arrived Curacao on Oct 12 and sailed later the same day bound for Aruba.

DRUGS FOUND ON NORWEGIAN INTERNATIONAL REGISTER VESSELS, AUSTRALIA

London, Oct 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Drug smugglers appear to be trying a new way of getting drugs into Australia, in metal boxes attached to the hulls of ships. The alleged new method came to light as a father and son appeared in court accused of smuggling a multi-million dollar haul of cocaine using vehicle carrier *Tampa* (66532 gt, built 1984). International customs officials will fly to Australia to inspect purpose-built metal pods allegedly used to import 27kg of cocaine worth \$AU6.75 million on *Tampa* and its sistership vehicle carrier *Taronga* (72708 gt, built 1996). The method involves attaching pods measuring 50cm by 50cm to the hulls of ships with chains, below the water line. Australian Customs Service (ACS) deputy chief executive John Drury said the sophisticated method was believed to be an Australian first. It was more common to find attachments on ships overseas, but those operations were more amateurish and less successful, he said. Justice Minister Chris Ellison said the alleged smugglers had gone to "extraordinary lengths" to bring the cocaine from South America. "They were using a method we have not seen before," Senator Ellison said, adding that neither the shipping line nor its crew were under suspicion. The arrests were the result of a five-month investigation that followed a tip-off from the New Zealand Customs Service (NZCS). Police began tracking the alleged plot in June after 18.3kg of the drug was found in a metal box attached to the hull of *Tampa* after it arrived in Auckland Harbour from South America, an ACS spokesman said outside court. *Tampa* was monitored by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and ACS as it continued to Australia in July, where New South Wales police allegedly identified the two men. It is also alleged that another 8.7kg of cocaine was found in a metal box under *Taronga* when it berthed in Auckland in late September, ACS said. The ship was monitored as it sailed onto Brisbane and when it arrived in Sydney's Darling Harbour on Oct 5. Authorities allege the same people were linked to the drugs on the *Tampa* and *Taronga*, and that the drugs were destined for New South Wales. Drury said it had

been several years since drugs had been detected underneath a ship in Australia. It would be impossible for divers to inspect all ships, because more than 200 vessels entered Australian ports every week, he said. There is no suggestion the ships' owners, Norwegian shipping line Wilh Wilhelmsen, or its employees, were involved in the alleged importation racket. Michael Anderson, 28, of Mona Vale in Sydney's north, and his father John Anderson, 66, of The Entrance on the NSW Central Coast, were today refused bail after appearing in separate courts. Both are charged with attempting to import a commercial quantity of a border-controlled drug and conspiracy to import a commercial quantity of a border-controlled drug. Michael Anderson will reappear in Central Local Court on Dec 20, while his father will face the same court on Nov 11.

Fires & Explosions



FOREST, INDONESIA

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated Oct 20, states: Indonesia signed a contract with Russia today to rent two amphibious aircraft to fight forest fires blazing in two of the south-east Asian country's islands, a Russian emergencies ministry official said. Yevgeny Filatov, leading a delegation to Indonesia, said the contract for two Be-200 aircraft was signed by Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry and Indonesia's National Coordinating Agency for Natural Disaster and Refugees Relief. Filatov said he expected the lease to last one and a half months, and the aircraft will arrive in Indonesia before Nov 1. Fires are raging on the islands of Kalimantan and Sumatra, and have engulfed hundreds of thousands of hectares of their territory, while smoke has covered part of neighboring Malaysia and all of Singapore, posing a major health threat to the population. The multipurpose turbofan Be-200 can be used as a firefighter, a cargo plane, a flying ambulance, and a passenger airliner. In its firefighting configuration, it can pick up 12 tons of water by skimming over the water's surface, making it an effective weapon in extinguishing forest fires, a role in which it is used by Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry. The Indonesian president's spokesman said the aircraft currently in use in the country can only carry up to 4,000 liters of water and have to return to an airport for more water, and suggested that more contracts could be signed with Russia.

REFINERY, JAMNAGAR, GUJARAT, INDIA

London, Oct 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A major fire,

which broke out in a section of the Reliance Industries refinery at Jamnagar in Gujarat, has been brought under control. According to reports, one person has been pulled out with 60% burns but no casualties have been reported. Firefighters from within the refinery campus and the district administration are now trying to douse the flames completely. Reliance officials have confirmed that the fire hasn't spread to other units and is under control. Parimal Nathwani, group president of Reliance, said it is too early to assess damages, and efforts are now on to ensure that production is not affected in other units. "It is a continuous unit, and can not be totally shut down immediately," he added. The fire was reported from a section of the Vacuum Gas Oil hydro treater plant at around 1040, IST. The diesel hydro treating unit has been shut as a precaution but all other units are operating normally. Reliance officials maintain production is expected to re-start shortly. Workers are being moved to a safe zone and the entire Reliance campus has been cordoned off. The Jamnagar police said emergency teams have also rushed to the spot and prima facie the fire appears to have been caused by a spark. The 660,000 barrel per day refinery in Jamnagar is Asia's largest oil refinery.

London, Oct 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Reliance Industries Ltd has said that the fire that destroyed one of its oil processing facilities will not impact its financial performance and production from the Jamnagar refinery. "All the 40 units but for the one destroyed yesterday are operating as normal. We see no impact on the refinery operations and performance," RIL President (Refinery) P K Kapil said. He also refuted reports that the fire would create LPG shortage in the country, saying there would be no shortfall in product availability and the refinery would meet all its commitments. "The refinery's financial performance and operations would not be affected by the fire," he said. The fire-damaged vacuum gasoil hydrotreater unit No2 and the company also shut down the adjacent diesel hydrotreater unit No2 as a precaution. Hydrotreaters remove sulphur from petrol and diesel. Sources said Reliance has constituted two task forces, one to put in operation the destroyed unit and the other to investigate the cause of the fire and suggest preventive measures so that such incidents are not repeated.

WILDFIRES, AUSTRALIA

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Emergency services are door knocking homes near Bathurst in central New South Wales to warn people about an approaching bushfire. The blaze has burnt out about 500 hectares, north-west of Bathurst. About 100 firefighters are

on the ground trying to control the Mt Rankin blaze, with reinforcements from Lithgow, the Blue Mountains and Orange on the way. A predicted south-westerly wind could bring the blaze close to hobby farms. Incident controller Tom Shirt says all property will be protected. Eight aircraft and four helicopters are on stand-by to begin water bombing operations at first light.

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Heavy rain has come to the rescue of 50 properties threatened by an out of control bushfire in central west New South Wales. The threat to homes near Mt Rankin, 15 km north-west of Bathurst, had "eased dramatically" following the arrival of a storm front from the west, Rural Fire Services spokesman Cameron Wade said. "The issue is that all this rain may slow the fire down and knock it down in a lot of places, but we really need to make sure it's contained and that's not what we have at the moment," Mr Wade said. The fire has burnt out more than 700 hectares and 12 aircraft and 100 firefighters are still working to protect properties. Mr Wade said the fire had the potential to again threaten properties if crews were unable to build containment lines by backburning overnight.

London, Oct 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A massive bushfire that has been burning since Wednesday (Oct 18) near Bathurst, in central-west New South Wales, is almost under control. A lightning strike sparked the blaze that has blackened more than 1,000 hectares of bushland 15 km north-west of Bathurst, a NSW Rural Fire Service spokesman said. Scores of volunteer firefighters, aided by water bombing aircraft, were forced to contain a number of spot fires late yesterday as conditions deteriorated. Extra firefighting crews have been called in to work through the night and complete a back burn of the entire perimeter of the fire. Back burning and mopping up operations are likely to continue into most of tomorrow. There is no property directly under threat from the fire.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 23 — A press report, dated Oct 22, states: Three rural Nevada counties ravaged by wildfires this year have been declared disaster areas by the US Department of Agriculture. USDA Secretary Mike Johanns said there were sufficient agriculture production losses to warrant the designation in Elko, Humboldt and Lincoln counties. The action came on Friday (Oct 20) at the request of Governor Kenny Guinn, who said seven other counties would effectively be included in the designation because they were located next to the declared disaster areas. The designation makes ranchers and farmers who meet certain criteria in

the 10 counties eligible for assistance, including low-interest emergency loans, officials said. Wildfires burned more than 1.5 million acres in Nevada this year, much of it in the north-eastern part of the state. Of that, about 300,000 acres are privately owned.



5RMGV

London, Oct 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Six people died when their light aircraft crashed shortly after take-off in the south-west of Madagascar, the transport minister said today. Both Madagascan pilots and all four foreign passengers died, he said. "A small aircraft belonging to a private airline, la SociCtC de Transport ACrien, crashed at about 0415 hours in Toliara ... killing six people," Roland Randriamampionona, minister of transport and public works, said on national radio. Francis Ramanantsoa, director of the regional tourism office who was on the scene after the accident, said the crash happened about 1-kilometre from the runway. "The aircraft caught fire and the six bodies were all burnt to ashes," he told said. The transport minister said an inquest had been set up to determine the cause of the crash.

Antananarivo, Oct 26 — At 0414 hrs, Oct 25, a Cessna 425, registration number 5RMGV, belonging to the Airline company "Service & Transport AErien (STA)", crashed two minutes after take off from Toliara, killing all six people on board. — Lloyd's Agents.

9N-AHJ

Kathmandu, Oct 21 — Human error and bad weather were responsible for last month's crash of a helicopter chartered by world conservation group WWF in which 24 people were killed, the chief investigator said today. Junior forest minister Gopal Rai and diplomats were among those on board the Russian-made helicopter that crashed on September 23 near Ghunsa village in Taplejung district, 300 km east of Kathmandu. There were no survivors. Keshari Raj Pandit, chief of the seven-member government-appointed investigation commission, said the pilot had failed to inform the nearest control tower before and after taking off from Ghunsa. "The pilot does not appear to have fulfilled the mandatory flight rules," Pandit, who has already submitted his preliminary findings to the government, told Reuters. "The helicopter crashed in foggy weather into the hills, caught fire and then had a final stop at 4,033 metres," Pandit said, referring to the place where its wreckage was found. "The flight data recorder shows that the machine was functioning until the last moment." The aircraft was

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carrying 17 Nepalis, two Russians, a Finnish diplomat, two Americans, a Canadian and a Swiss-Australian. They had attended a ceremony to mark the handover of a conservation project supported by the WWF to a local community and were returning to Kathmandu. — Reuters.

AIRCRAFT DIVERTS TO BORDEAUX, FRANCE

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated Oct 19, states: A pilot had to make an emergency landing when the windscreens of his plane cracked during a flight. The Thomsonfly Boeing 737 300 flight, which had taken off from Newcastle to Palma, was diverted to Bordeaux, France, early yesterday. The 110 passengers on board were taken to a hotel and then on to Palma once the plane had been repaired, landing 15 hours later than scheduled. A Thomsonfly spokeswoman said no-one was injured in the incident. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is investigating the incident.

C-FASO

London, Oct 20 — Cessna 206, C-FASO, operated by Mauricie Aviation, one French pilot and five tourists crashed when it struck the top of a hill at Lac Caron, Quebec, Oct 19. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. Minor injuries to occupants.

C-GDVS

London, Oct 18 — Piper PA 28, C-GDVS, operated by YKA Flight Discovery, search for an ELT signal in the Vernon area resulted in the discovery of wreckage at 0040, Oct 18. One body was found in the wreckage. The origin and destination of the flight are unknown. No active flight plan was on file. The aircraft was substantially damaged but there was no fire.

CRASH INTO SEA OFF SOUTHERN SWEDEN

Gothenburg, Oct 20 — The salvage of a Diamond DA-40 aircraft, to be performed by an independent company, commenced at approximate noon today south of Trelleborg searched by ROV and found the aircraft at bottom, also as per info the crew was found inside. Coast Guard divers only diving on maximum 40 meters whereas the aircraft found at 42 meters and extra security since sharp edges and parts all over, and considered generally as "risky." It is also a sensitive matter since all three bodies inside the aircraft, but ref to images and ROV camera they could prepare the lifting prior to the diving, knowing what it looks like down there, all dark and cold at this time of the year. The engine was found separated from the body of the aircraft and to be brought up later, and Police Medical will investigate the bodies separately. The schedule is yet not set but if all goes according to expectations, possibly the main parts/body will be brought ashore later tonight. The reason for the crash still unknown,

and no "black box" on board. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Oct 21 — Salvage of crashed aircraft off Trelleborg: Work was resumed this morning after some problems to connect the wire to bring up the net containing parts. Bottom and residuals difficult and every slight move stirs up sediment and makes things impossible to see. They confirm there is actually a small "black box" but minor type and containing less info than ordinary, but quite possible to get a clue what actually took place and could give some answers. When the wreck comes up to the surface, the bodies will be transported to the Police and the aircraft parts taken to a hangar at Sturup airport for investigation by the Commission — Westax Marine Services AB.

CRASH, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated Oct 19, states: A single-engine aircraft registered in suburban Chicago crashed this afternoon on the grounds of Tipton Airport, killing both people aboard, Anne Arundel County fire officials said. The crash was reported about 1545, EDT, and firefighters arrived to find the aircraft in flames in a wooded area at the end of a runway, according to Lt. Russ Davies, a fire department spokesman. Firefighters found the bodies of the two people aboard after the flames were extinguished. Managers at the airport reported that the aircraft crashed just after take-off, Davies said. The aircraft is a Piper PA46, an FAA spokeswoman said. It is registered to Eberhardt Air Inc. in Downers Grove, Ill., according to FAA records. Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration also were called to the scene.

CRASH, PETRUSBURG AREA, ORANGE FREE STATE, SOUTH AFRICA

See ZS-EXM.

CRASH, PRESCOTT, ARIZONA, UNITED STATES

See N121CS.

CRASH, SOUSA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

See HI-803CT.

CRASH, TASHKENT AREA, UZBEKISTAN

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 15 people, most of them soldiers, have been killed when an aircraft crashed in Uzbekistan. The single-engined Antonov An-2 crashed as it was trying to land at an airport near the capital, Tashkent. The Uzbek emergencies ministry said the aircraft "lost control and carried out an emergency landing outside the grounds of the airport". Thirteen soldiers and two crewmen

died, the ministry said. Bad weather was suspected to have caused the crash. The Antonov is reported to have been a civilian aircraft hired by the military for a training flight. The ministry had appointed a government commission to investigate the cause of the incident, the AFP news agency reported.

D-EHFC

London, Oct 26 — Piper PA-28-140, D-EHFC, owned by Luftsportverein Rietberg e.V., was destroyed when it crashed during a "simulated" instrument approach near Dolsenhain, Germany, at 1810, UTC, Oct 13. The pilot and one passenger were fatally injured. The flight originated from Paderborn, and was en route to Altenburg.

D-EJTF

London, Oct 21 — Piper PA-32 (Saratoga), D-EJTF, owned and operated by the pilot, was destroyed when it crashed in mountainous terrain while manoeuvring near Alava, Spain, at 1250, UTC, Oct 17. The pilot and the two passengers were fatally injured.

EMERGENCY LANDING, CHICAGO, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A Southwest Airlines jet bound for Houston made a safe emergency landing in Chicago this morning after engine trouble, aviation officials said. Flight 305 carrying 68 passengers took off from Chicago Midway Airport at 0650 hrs, headed for Houston's Hobby Airport, officials said. The aircraft landed safely with no injuries.

EMERGENCY LANDING, CHINO AIRPORT AREA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

See N1022J.

EMERGENCY LANDING, JFK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: American Airlines jet from Dallas landed safely at Kennedy Airport today after experiencing mechanical problems, the Port Authority said. The American Airlines Flight 704 departed from the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and was due to land at LaGuardia Airport, the agency said. The mechanical problems forced it to land at JFK instead, just before noon.

EMERGENCY LANDING, KEFLAVIK, ICELAND

New York, Oct 25 — A Continental Airlines aircraft flying to the United States from Britain safely made an emergency landing in Iceland today, an airline official said. A faulty gauge caused Continental Flight 29 to land as a precautionary measure, Continental spokeswoman Julie King said. "There was a gauge that indicated there was an issue with one of the engines and we landed as a precautionary measure," she said.

“Maintenance checked it out and we are in the process of refueling the aircraft.” The Boeing 757-200 departed from Gatwick Airport and was scheduled to land at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey before being diverted to Keflavik Airport in Iceland. All 166 passengers and eight crew members were safe, King said. — Reuters.

EMERGENCY LANDING, PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 23 — A press report, dated Oct 21, states: A World War II-era a Boeing Stearman PT-17 biplane made an emergency landing in the desert after suffering apparent engine troubles, according to Palm Springs police. The aircraft departed for a scenic flight after 1100 hrs when the pilot noticed engine troubles, according to Sgt. Mitch Spike. The pilot safely landed the aircraft in a desert area west of Farrell Drive near Tachevah Drive in Palm Springs. He told police everything seemed normal when he did routine checks on the aircraft before takeoff. After departure he realized the engine was not producing enough power to continue climbing, he said. No injuries were reported and no apparent aircraft damage was noted, Spike said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, PULKOVO AIRPORT, RUSSIA

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: An A-319 Lufthansa airliner with 66 passengers onboard made an emergency landing at Pulkovo Airport at 1810, Moscow time, today. No one was hurt. The aircraft bound for Munich took off from Pulkovo airport at 1719, Moscow time. An hour later the pilots radioed a message that something had gone wrong with the navigation equipment. They safely returned the aircraft to the airport of departure.

EMERGENCY LANDING, STANSTED, ESSEX, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Holidaymakers onboard a Boeing 757 flight were led to safety after the plane made an emergency landing at Stansted Airport. The 154 passengers and seven crew had been travelling with Thomson Holidays, from Newcastle to Larnaca in Cyprus, when the captain raised the alarm. He said there was a misty haze inside the cockpit. The plane was evacuated at the airport using an emergency chute. Investigations are now under way into what caused the problem. Kimberley Kay, from Thomson Holidays, told the BBC a couple of people suffered minor friction burns from using the chute, but no major injuries. She said passengers would resume their holiday on a different plane. Assistant divisional officer Mark Samuels, of the Essex Fire Service, said: “There is no sign of fire on the aircraft and we have been unable to find the source of the smoke. Fortunately the incident

turned out to be a false alarm.” A spokesperson for Stansted Airport told BBC Essex there had been no disruption at the terminal and everything is running as normal.

EMERGENCY LANDING, VADODARA, INDIA

London, Oct 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A New Delhi-bound Indian Airlines flight with 83 passengers and two crew members on board made an emergency landing at Vadodara airport after being hit by a bird this morning, an airport official said. However, all the passengers were safe, he said, adding that the aircraft had been grounded. The bird hit occurred soon after the flight took off. The flight was grounded and a routine inspection was carried out, the official said. Later, another Mumbai-New Delhi flight was diverted to Vadodara to pick up the stranded passengers, the official said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, YAKUTSK, RUSSIA

London, Oct 20 — A Tu-154 aircraft, flying from Yakutsk to Irkutsk, made an emergency landing in Yakutsk today, sources from the regional centre of the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations said. There were 114 people on board. Nobody was injured. According to the centre, after the takeoff from Yakutsk, a display showed that the flaps had not been retracted. Traffic controllers ordered the pilots to return to the airport. After two hours of burning out fuel, the aircraft landed safely in Yakutsk.

EXPLOSION AFTER TAKE-OFF FROM BESANCON AIRPORT, FRANCE

See F-GVPD.

F-BNPS

London, Oct 21— Agusta-Bell AB206A, F-BNPS, operated by Touraine Helicoptere, struck high voltage power lines and subsequently crashed while in cruise flight near Villamblard, France, at 1412,UTC, Oct 5. The helicopter was destroyed. The pilot and two passengers on board the helicopter were seriously injured.

F-GVPD

London, Oct 24 — Beechcraft 90, F-GVPD, was destroyed after crashing during take-off at La Veze Airport, Besancon, France, at 2242, UTC, Oct 18. The pilot, co-pilot, and two passengers on board the aircraft were fatally injured.

G-ACDJ

London, Oct 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A woman who was killed when the Tiger Moth aircraft (G-ACDJ) she was in crashed, was on a work fun day, an inquest heard. Witnesses described hearing the engine cut out shortly before the aircraft came down at Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, in August last year. A verdict of accidental death was recorded at the inquest in Berkshire. The court heard yesterday how the

aircraft banked into a turn and spun before it nose-dived into a field. Miss Bonner and Mr Teather died of multiple injuries. Coroner Peter Bedford said it was impossible to say why the aircraft crashed. The inquest heard the 72-year-old aircraft, serviced the day before the accident, was in good working order and Mr Teather had recently passed a skills check-up.

G-BTHA

London, Oct 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A Cessna (G-BTHA) aircraft crashed near the runway at John Lennon Airport, Liverpool, yesterday, ambulance workers said. Merseyside Ambulance Service said the Cessna came down in a field just outside the airport boundary at about 1750 hrs. Two people were taken to hospital with injuries that were not life threatening. “They are very lucky to be alive because the aircraft is a write-off,” said senior paramedic Mike Jackson, who attended the scene. Flights into the airport were delayed after the accident.

London, Oct 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Six ambulances were sent to the scene of the crash of Cessna (G-BTHA) yesterday. Two men were injured after a light aircraft crashed in fields near John Lennon Airport, Liverpool. An investigation is now under way into how the Cessna came down just short of the runway yesterday evening. The men are being treated at Whiston Hospital for non life-threatening head, face and back injuries and were conscious when paramedics arrived. The Air Accidents Investigation Branch is carrying out an investigation into the crash. Fire crews also attended at the scene in Baileys Lane at about 1750, BST, and sprayed a blanket of foam over the aircraft, although the aircraft did not appear to catch fire. Roads around the airport were closed, including Speke Road as far as Speke Boulevard and Hale Road to Speke Hall Avenue. Merseyside Police said they had since reopened. Incoming flights from Dublin and Madrid were diverted to East Midlands airport, but flights are now believed to be landing as normal.

HI-803CT

London, Oct 21 — Robinson R44 helicopter, HI-803CT, owned and operated by HELIDOSA, Santo Domingo, was destroyed after crashing following a loss of control while manoeuvring near Mano Negra, Province of Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, at 1400, EDT, Oct 11. The two pilots and their two passengers were fatally injured. The helicopter was en route to the Puerto Plata International Airport from the Playa Grande golf resort.

INCIDENT, BANGKOK AIRPORT, THAILAND

London, Oct 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Thai Airways said it evacuated several passengers who had just boarded an aircraft today at

the new Bangkok airport after a hydraulic pipe leaked and the resulting odor seeped into the cabin. Hydraulic oil leaked in the cargo section of flight TG106, an Airbus 300/600 scheduled to carry 203 passengers from Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok to the northern city of Chiang Mai, a statement from the airline said. The incident delayed the flight by about 80 minutes, and no injuries were reported, it said.

INCIDENT, HOUSTON BUSH INTERCONTINENTAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 24 — A press report, dated Oct 23, states: A Continental flight headed from Houston Bush Intercontinental Airport to West Palm Beach was temporarily delayed this evening when the wing of the moving aircraft smashed into an adjacent parked aircraft that already had unloaded its passengers. "The aircraft that was moving backed up and the right wing came into contact with the stabilizer" of the stationary aircraft, said Continental spokesman David Messing. The stabilizer is the horizontal surface of the aircrafts tail. Passengers on Flight 1830 left the aircraft once it returned to the gate. They waited for nearly two hours to switch to another aircraft. The aircraft had been scheduled to depart at 1910 hrs. Messing said no one was hurt and that the reason for the incident was undetermined. The damaged aircraft, both Boeing 737s, are going to require repairs, Messing said.

INCIDENT, WILWAUKEE AIRPORT, WISCONSIN, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A tyre popped as a Briggs and Stratton aircraft was landing at a Milwaukee airport today but officials say no one was injured. Airport officials said that the tyre blew on a Briggs and Stratton aircraft at Mitchell International Airport. The tyre was replaced and the aircraft is safely back in its hangar.

N1022J

London, Oct 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Two men were critically injured when their small aircraft made an emergency landing near Chino Airport yesterday, authorities said. The aircraft came down in a field about a mile west of the airport, said Michelle Van Der Linden, a city spokeswoman. The pilot and a passenger were injured during the landing, which damaged the front of the aircraft. The pilot was airlifted to Loma Linda University Medical Center, and the passenger was taken to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center. The reason for the emergency landing is under investigation.

London, Oct 24 — Rockwell Commander 112 N1022J crashed near Chino Airport, California, at 2210, Oct 23, following take-off from Chino. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board were seriously injured.

N121CS

London, Oct 19 — Piper PA-42 (Cheyenne) N121CS crashed near Prescott, Arizona, at 2100, Oct 18, following take-off from Prescott. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The five persons on board were killed.

N121LD

London, Oct 26 — Cirrus SR22 N121LD crashed 53 miles from Boulder City, Nevada, at 1911, Oct 25, after reporting an emergency due to icing. The aircraft was destroyed. The three persons on board were killed.

N2135L

London, Oct 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people have died when a Cessna Skylane aircraft crashed near Rocky Mount, North Carolina. The Federal Aviation Administration says the flight originated in Beaufort (South Carolina) yesterday. Officials say the aircraft was registered to an owner in Wilson, North Carolina. Officials at the Rocky Mount-Wilson Regional Airport say the pilot of the Cessna Skylane made two unsuccessful landing attempts. The airport lost contact with the aircraft after the second attempt. It crashed on train tracks in the C-S-X rail yard at about 1530 hrs. The aircraft was on fire when firefighters arrived. A man and woman were on the aircraft. The crash prompted the rerouting of some trains.

London, Oct 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Two Wilson, NC, residents have been identified as the victims of the fatal aircraft crash just south of downtown Rocky Mount. Rocky Mount police say Jenny Lyndon and Thomas Lyndon died when the Cessna Skylane single-engine aircraft crashed just south of a railway.

London, Oct 23 — The aircraft which crashed on approach to Rocky Mount-Wilson airport, NC, was Cessna Skylane N2135L.

N22342

London, Oct 24 — A press report, dated Oct 23, states: PHI, Inc. reported the loss of a Sikorsky S-76 helicopter in the Gulf of Mexico at approximately 0740 yesterday. The 28 year veteran PHI Captain and his First Officer were the only occupants. Their injuries were minor. They were transported by another PHI aircraft to a nearby hospital for observation and treatment. The National Transportation Safety Board, as in all such cases, will lead an investigation into the circumstances surrounding this incident.

London, Oct 24 — Sikorsky S-76A helicopter, N22342, while on a repositioning flight to an offshore platform, crashed into the water and sank, near Eugene Island, La. Oct 22. The two persons on board sustained minor injuries.

N470

London, Oct 24 — North American T-28C N470 crashed near Packton, Louisiana, at 0027, Oct 21, while on a

flight from Cahokia, Illinois, to Alexandria, LA. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N600XL

See PR-GTD.

N64GK

London, Oct 24 — Piper PA-32R-300 (Lance) N64GK made a forced landing near Alexandria, Louisiana, at 2143, Oct 22, following engine problems while on a flight from Point Lookout, Missouri, to Alexandria. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. One of the six persons on board was killed and three were injured.

N9130N

London, Oct 23 — Piper PA-46-310P N9130N crashed near Fort Meade, Maryland, at 1945, Oct 19, while on a flight from Fort Meade. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

PR-GTD

London, Oct 20 — A press report, dated Oct 19, states: Early analysis of the flight data recorders from two planes that collided in Brazil's deadliest air disaster indicated the smaller jet's transponder was not signaling its location at the time of the accident, Brazil's defense minister said today. All 154 people aboard Gol Airlines flight 1907 were killed on September 29 when the Boeing 737 crashed into Brazil's dense jungle after clipping an executive jet. Defense Minister Waldir Pires told reporters that initial analysis by the International Organization of Civil Aviation in Canada showed the transponder aboard the Embraer Legacy 600 executive jet was not broadcasting the aircraft's location. "There is still no confirmation if the transponder was turned off or if there was an interruption because of equipment failure," Pires said. "That we don't know." Pires also said the Legacy's data recorder showed the pilots told air traffic controllers in the nation's capital Brasilia they were flying at 37,000 feet as they approached the city. "The position of 37,000 feet until Brasilia was the normal position," Pires said. "After Brasilia (the plane) should have dropped to 36,000 feet." The Legacy apparently collided with the Boeing at 37,000 feet, an altitude reserved for planes traveling in the opposite direction. Investigators were trying to determine how the smaller jet came to return to the higher altitude, and were considering possible error by the pilots or air traffic controllers. Earlier this week, Pires said the Legacy appeared to be following its flight plan after it passed Brasilia, the first time since the accident that a Brazilian official acknowledged that radar had tracked the Legacy's altitude. Controllers previously said they were unable to track the plane's altitude because its transponder stopped transmitting shortly before the crash. The two American Legacy pilots, Joseph

Lepore, of Bay Shore, New York, and Jan Paladino, of Westhampton Beach, New York, have had their passports seized to prevent them from leaving the country. While they have not been arrested, they remain “holed up” in a Rio de Janeiro hotel as the investigation proceeds.

London, Oct 25 — A press report, dated Oct 24, states: Rescue workers using metal detectors today found the flight recorder of the Boeing 737 that collided with an executive jet nearly a month ago in Brazil’s deadliest air disaster, the Defense Ministry said. The Defense Ministry said in a statement that the “apparently undamaged” voice recorder would be sent on Saturday to the International Organization of Civil Aviation in Canada for analysis. The flight data recorders of both aircraft have also been analyzed in Canada but the cause or causes of the accident have still not been announced.

ZS-EXM

London, Oct 26 — Piper PA-28-140 ZS-EXM crashed near Petrusburg, South Africa, at approximately 0630, UTC, Oct 19. The aircraft was circling at low altitude during an aerial survey. The pilot and passenger were fatally injured. The aircraft was destroyed. The local flight originated at Kimberly.



COFFEE BREWERS, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 20 — The following press release was issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, on Oct 17: The U.S. Consumer Product

Safety Commission, in co-operation with Starbucks Coffee Company, of Seattle, Wash., today announced voluntary recalls of approximately 73,000 Starbucks Barista Aroma Stainless Steel 8-Cup Coffee Brewers. The coffee brewer has defective electrical wiring that can result in overheating, smoking, burning and melting, posing a possible fire hazard. Starbucks has received 23 reports of melting in the plastic housing of the brewers. No injuries have been reported. This recall includes the Starbucks Barista Aroma 8-Cup Coffee Brewer only. “Starbucks Barista Aroma” is embossed on the front of the brewer and the brewer has silver control panel buttons and a chrome finish. The Starbucks Barista Grande 12-Cup Coffee Brewer and Starbucks Barista Solo Coffee Brewers are not included in this recall. Manufactured in China, the recalled items were sold at Starbucks company-owned and operated stores nationwide between March 2005 and September 2006 for about \$100 each.

HOLDEN MOTOR VEHICLES, AUSTRALIA

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Holden has recalled more than 1300 of its new V8 Commodore, Statesman and Caprice cars to fix a fuel-line problem. The company said today there was a chance of a misalignment occurring during the hose-assembly process at one of its supplier plants that could result in a fuel leak. “This could potentially result in a tear in the fuel hose of the V8 VE Commodores and WM Statesman and Caprice vehicles,” said Holden spokeswoman Maya Donevska. “There have been no customer reports of this happening. The issue was picked up during routine internal checks. “As a preventive measure and to guarantee the safety of our customers, Holden has issued a recall on these vehicles.”

Holden said the recall would affect 1379 vehicles in Australia, built in July and August this year. Commodore V6 models were not affected.

NISSAN MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE

London, Oct 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Nissan Motor Co. has begun recalling more than 130,000 vehicles globally, including 80,000 in North America, because of an ignition key defect, a company official said today. There have been no reports of injuries related to the defect, the Transport Ministry said. Nissan is recalling in Japan of 50,962 X-Trail and Murano sport utility vehicles, or SUVs, produced from August 2004 to July 2006, Nissan spokeswoman Madoka Soma said. Overseas, the Tokyo-based manufacturer is recalling about 70,000 Muranos in North America, 300 in Taiwan and 800 in Singapore, she said. No X-Trails have been sold overseas. Also being recalled for the same defect are 10,000 Maxima sedans in North America, Nissan said. Some of the rods connecting the ignition part with parts that start the engine are too long, so the cars sometimes don’t start properly, Nissan said. Occasionally, the engines start even when the ignition is turned off and the driver moves the steering wheel, it said. The recalls involve only models using Nissan’s “intelligent keys” with integrated circuit chips inside, which allows drivers to open their car doors with their keys still inside their pockets by just pressing on the handle. Drivers don’t need to insert the intelligent key to get the car to start, and can keep the key anywhere nearby. The defect involved in today’s recall is not related to the integrated circuit chip features, but with the regular ignition part of the key.

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	01-Nov-2006	Coal: 13 vessels due by 20/11.
Brisbane	01-Nov-2006	Oct 30: Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 3 vessels due by 12/1. Nov 1: Grain: 1 vessel due 8/11 to load wheat; no delays expected.
Dalrymple Bay	30-Oct-2006	Oct 30: Coal: DBCT berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading; berth no. 1 closed for maintenance for 12 days from 27/10; DBCT berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; DBCT berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; other vessels not scheduled: 6 vessels waiting; 17 vessels due by 25/11.
Dampier	30-Oct-2006	Oct 30: Iron ore: Parker Point berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 8 vessels due by 13/11; Parker Point berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 5 vessels due by 7/11; Parker Point berth 3: 1 vessel waiting; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 8 vessels due by 12/11.
Esperance	01-Nov-2006	Grain: 1 vessel due 15/11 to load unknown grain; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Geraldton	01-Nov-2006	Oct 30: Iron ore: 3 vessels due by 3/11; regular maintenance shutdowns are expected at berth No. 4 from January to February 2007 during construction of a new iron ore berth No. 5. Nov 1: Grain: 4 vessels due by 15/11, 1 to load lupins, 3 wheat; up to 5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Gladstone	01-Nov-2006	Oct 30: Coal: R.G. Tanna (Clinton) coal terminal: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 35 vessels due by 19/12; shiploader 2: plant shut down for maintenance for 4 days from 6-10/11; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 8 vessels due by 15/12. Nov 1: Grain: 2 vessels due by 31/10, 1 to load chick peas, 1 wheat; up to 4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Hay Point	30-Oct-2006	Oct 30: Coal: Berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 3 vessels due by 4/11; Berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 5 vessels due by 7/11; 2 other vessels due by 11/11, not yet scheduled.
Newcastle	01-Nov-2006	Oct 30: Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 20 waiting; 52 vessels due by 17/11; 8-15 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; approx. 20 vessels off port awaiting berths; Dykes 4+5: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 9 waiting; 21 vessels due by 16/11; 8-14 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 9 vessels off port awaiting coal. Nov 1: Three vessels due by 24/11, all to load wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Hedland	30-Oct-2006	OCT 30: Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loaded, 3 waiting; 4 vessels due by 4/11; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 4 vessels due by 6/11; 8 other vessels due by 27/11, no e.t.a. received; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: berth undergoing refurbishment and closed until further notice; Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 10 vessels due by 11/11. Cockatoo Island: 2 vessels due by 13/11.
Port Kembla	01-Nov-2006	Oct 30: Coal: 1 vessel anchored; 13 vessels due by 22/11. Nov 1: Grain: 1 vessel due 10/11 to load wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Walcott	30-Oct-2006	Oct 30: Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 7 waiting; 11 vessels due by 6/12.
Whyalla	30-Oct-2006	Oct 30: Iron ore: 8 vessels due by 2/12.
Azerbaijan		
Apsheron	30-Oct-2006	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 1 vessels berthed, 1 completed discharging fuel oil, 1 discharging fuel oil; 1 vessel due 31/10 to discharge crude oil.
Baku	30-Oct-2006	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; AzerTrans terminal - Nobel avenue: 1 vessels berthed, completed discharging crude oil; Sangachal district: no vessels.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	30-Oct-2006	Six vessels in port operating, of which 3 loading (1 coils, 1 lead, 1 sunflower), 3 discharging (1 salt, 1 manganese ore, 1 coals); 4 vessels in roads, of which 1 to load coils, 3 to discharge (1 pellets, 1 iron ore, 1 gasoil); 6 vessels due, of which 2 to load (1 steel billets, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate), 4 to discharge (1 iron ore, 1 steel billets, 1 copper concentrate, 1 kaolin).

Port Conditions

Varna	30-Oct-2006	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 23-29 October: Thirty-five vessels in port operating of which 20 loading (1 sunflower seeds, 1 bulk wheat, 1 packed hardboard, 1 equipment in packing cases, 1 bulk sulphuric acid, 2 bulk clinker, 1 bulk lead concentrate, 8 soda, 2 scrap, 1 silica sand, 1 chamotte/kaolin), 6 discharging (2 bulk coal, 1 raw phosphate, 1 petcoke, 1 pipes, 1 bulk sugar), 9 discharging/loading (8 containers, 1 equipment in packing cases); no vessels waiting in roads.
Cyprus		
Larnaca	31-Oct-2006	Two conventional vessels discharging at berth; 2 conventional vessels due 1/11; no delays expected.
Limassol	31-Oct-2006	Three container vessels discharging/loading at berth, 4 conventional vessel discharging at berth, 2 Ro/Ros discharging/loading at berth; 4 container vessels, 2 conventional vessels, 1 Ro/Ro, 3 passenger vessels due 1/11; no delays expected.
Egypt		
Adabiya	30-Oct-2006	Five vessels berthed (loading/discharging), all general cargo
Alexandria	30-Oct-2006	Forty-five vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 26 general cargo, 13 bulk carriers, 2 tankers, 4 containers; 7 vessels at inner anchorage, 11 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	30-Oct-2006	Eighteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 10 general cargo, 5 bulk carriers, 3 container vessels; 7 vessel at outer anchorage, none at inner anchorage.
Dekheila	30-Oct-2006	Ten vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 6 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 container vessel; 7 vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	30-Oct-2006	Four vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 2 container vessels.
Suez	30-Oct-2006	Six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 3 passenger vessels; 2 tugs, 1 vessel dry-docked..
Suez Canal	30-Oct-2006	Twenty-two vessels transiting Northbound, 25 Southbound..
Georgia		
Batumi	30-Oct-2006	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed loading LPG; 2 vessels in roads, both to load crude oil; 4 vessels due by 1/11, all to load, of which 1 fuel oil, 1 crude oil, 1 gasoil, 1 gasoline.
Poti	30-Oct-2006	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed loading gasoil; 1 vessel due 4/11 to load gasoil.
India		
Kolkata	30-Oct-2006	5 vessels operating at berth and discharging (Edible Oil-2, Containers, Pulses, General Cargo), 1 vessel waiting to discharge Edible Oil; 2 vessels working at midstream discharging (Pulses, Crude), 1 vessels waiting to discharge Crude; 4 vessels waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 2 to load and discharge); 5 vessels under repair; 2 vessels under arrest.
Haldia	30-Oct-2006	15 vessels operating at berth of which 6 vessels loading (Iron Ore-5, POL), 8 vessels discharging (Crude-2, CTPH-2, Palm, Met Coke, Sulphur, Steel), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 8 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (5 to load, 3 to discharge), 3 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 2 to load); 5 vessels due (POL, Crude, Buta, Iron Ore, Containers).
Paradip	30-Oct-2006	10 vessels operating at berth of which 6 vessels loading (Iron Ore-3, Ch. Con, Ch. Ore, Fe. Ch), 4 vessels discharging (Rock Phosphate, Sulphur, N.C. Coal); 3 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (2 to discharge, 1 to load); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 to load, 1 to discharge); 21 vessels due.
Visakhapatnam	30-Oct-2006	15 vessels operating at berth of which 7 vessels loading (Iron Ore-2, Steel Cargo, Product Tanker, Thermal Coal, General Cargo, B.F. Slag), 10 vessels discharging (Wheat-2, Urea, Sulphur, A. Nitrate, Pet Coke, Coking Coal, Limestone, Crude & Product Tanker-2), 1 vessel loading and discharging Timber & R. Sand; 7 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (6 to discharge, 1 to load); 36 vessels due (Iron Ore-7, Feld Spar, Food Grains, Project Tankers-2, Urea,-3, L. Ammonia, DAP, Rock Phosphate, Coking Coal-7, General Cargo, Containers-4, Caustic Soda, Alumina, A. Coal, Crude & Product Tankers-3).
Chennai	30-Oct-2006	19 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (Feldspar, Furnace Oil), 10 vessels discharging (Steel Coil, wheat, Steam Coal, Urea, MOP, Vegetable Oil, SB Oil, Coking Oil, General Cargo, Steel Plate), 7 vessels loading and discharging (Project, Granite Blocks, Steel Plates, Steel Pipes, Steel, Containers); 3 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge, 6 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (3 to load, 2 to discharge, 1 to load and discharge); 5 vessels due (Thermal Coal, Barytes, Foil, Steel Coils, /Granite Block & Molasses).
Tuticorin	30-Oct-2006	12 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Cement, General Cargo-3), 8 vessels discharging (Logs-2, Thermal Coal-2, MOP, R. Cashew, Urea, Rock Phosphate), 1 vessel repair works (bunkering); 11 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (7 to discharge, 4 to load); 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load, 1 vessel awaiting order at anchorage to discharge; 3 vessels due (Supply, Containers, Thermal Coal).

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Port Conditions

Cochin	30-Oct-2006	7 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Rice, General Cargo), 3 vessels discharging (Coal, Wheat, Rice), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge; 4 vessels under other reasons.
New Mangalore	30-Oct-2006	4 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading POL Product, 3 vessels discharging (Fertiliser, LPG, POL Crude); 6 vessels waiting at anchorage (5 to load, 1 to discharge); 18 vessels due (Iron Ore Fines-3, Coal, Granite Stone-2, POL Crude-2, LPG, Wheat, Timber-2, Cr. S.B. Oil, Fertiliser, Methanol, POL Product, Container).
Mormugao	30-Oct-2006	1 vessel operating at berth loading Iron Ore; 3 vessels working at midstream loading Iron Ore; 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 4 vessels under dry docked; 8 vessels due (Coking Coal-2, Containers, Iron Ore-5).
Mumbai	30-Oct-2006	12 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Bulk SBM, Steel & General Cargo, Vehicles, Steel Cargo, POL), 5 vessels discharging (Rock Phosphate Baged Pulses/Wooden Logs, Steel Pipes, POL-2); 2 vessels loading and discharging (Steel/ Project / General Cargo , Containers/ Pipes/ General Cargo); 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage load; 12 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 6 vessels under arrest; 3 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 34 vessels due (Contaners-11, Oil, General Cargo-22).
J.N.P.T.	30-Oct-2006	8 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Naptha, 1 vessel discharging Super Kerosene Oil, 6 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to load & discharge, 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to discharge; 1 vessel due Containers.
Kandla	30-Oct-2006	16 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Agriculture Product-2, Rice, Cement), 10 vessels discharging (Acid-4, Cement-2, Steel Slabs-2, Rice), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 3 vessels working at midstream and loading Timber Logs; 10 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (7 to load, 3 to discharge), 5 vessels not ready to work at anchorage (4 to load, 5 to discharge).
Ennore	30-Oct-2006	1 vessel operating at berth discharging Thermal Coal; 1 vessel (MV Jasmine Halo) awaiting berth at anchorage to load; 1 vessel working at inner anchorage loading Iron Ore; 2 vessels due (MV Tamil Anna (Coal), MV Apj Sri Devi (Coal)).
Israel		
Ashdod	30-Oct-2006	No labour problems. Nine vessels loading at berth (3 general cargo, 6 bulkers), 11 vessels discharging at berth (4 general cargo, 7 bulkers), 7 vessels loading/discharging at berth (6 containers, 1 car carrier); 9 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (3 general cargo, 4 bulkers, 2 containers), 12 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (5 general cargo, 4 bulkers, 3 containers); 15 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected..
Eilat	30-Oct-2006	No labour problems. One general cargo vessel loading at berth, 1 container vessel loading/discharging at berth; 4 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 1 vessel due, with no delays expected.
Haifa	30-Oct-2006	No labour problems. Six vessels loading at berth (1 general cargo, 4 bulkers, 1 tanker), 9 vessels discharging at berth (3 general cargo, 5 bulkers, 1 tanker), 6 loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 1 car carrier, 1 passenger vessel); 3 bulkers waiting at anchorage to load, 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 10 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 17 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Kazakhstan		
Aktau	30-Oct-2006	Oil products: 4 vessels berthed, all loading crude oil; 9 vessels in roads, all to load unknown cargoes; 2 vessels due by 30/10, both to load unknown cargoes.
Pakistan		
Karachi	30-Oct-2006	Two vessels loading at berth (1 ethanol, 1 rice), 5 discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 1 palm oil, 2 general cargo, 1 coal), 3 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (1 cement, 1 chemicals), 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 1 vessel under repairs/dry-docked; 5 vessels due (4 containers, 1 general cargo), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	30-Oct-2006	One rice vessel loading at berth, 3 vessels discharging at berth (1 yellow peas, 1 iron ore, 1 fuel oil); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (1 rice, 2 containers), 7 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 wheat, 2 sunflower seeds, 1 fuel oil, 2 containers).
Poland		
Gdansk	30-Oct-2006	Three vessels loading at berth (1 coal, 1 bulker, 1 general cargo), 4 discharging at berth (1 bulker, 3 tankers); 9 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 18 vessels due.

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Port Conditions

Gdynia	30-Oct-2006	Seven vessels loading at berth (1 coal, 2 general cargo, 3 grain, 1 bulker), 1 tanker discharging at berth; 20 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 55 vessels due.
Russia		
Novorossiysk	30-Oct-2006	Ten vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading, (1 bulk cement, 1 DRI, 1 scrap, 1 steel billets, 1 slabs, 1 copper WRIC, 1 aluminium, 1 wheat), 2 discharging (1 debars/WRIC, 1 meat products); 6 vessels waiting in roads, of which 5 to load (1 DRI, 1 lead, 1 coils/WRIC, 1 cellulose, 1 coils), 1 to discharge bulk sugar; 60 vessels due, of which 50 to load (1 cellulose, 3 pipes, 1 HBI, 2 vegetable oil, 4 slabs, 3 copper, 1 steel sheets/coils, 1 UAN solution, 4 aluminium, 4 steel billets, 5 wheat, 1 bulk urea/bulk NPK, 4 bulk ammonium nitrate, 3 soda ash, 1 scrap, 1 pig-iron, 1 WRIC, 1 barley, 2 bulk cement, 1 DRI, 4 diesel oil, 1 vehicles, 1 bulk NPK), 7 to discharge (1 equipment, 1 livestock, 1 equipment/containers, 1 zinc concentrate, 2 bulk sugar, 1 vegetable oil), 3 to discharge/load containers; Oil terminal: 2 tankers berthed, both loading, of which 1 crude oil, 1 fuel oil; 7 tankers in roads, all to load, of which 4 crude oil, 2 diesel oil, 1 fuel oil; 6 tankers due, all to load crude oil.
Slovenia		
Koper	30-Oct-2006	Port working normally. Nine vessels berthed of which 2 discharging/loading containers, 2 loading general cargo, 3 discharging bulk cargo, 2 loading bulk cargo; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 15 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 4 to discharge/load containers, 3 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 4 vessels to load sawn timber/general cargo, 2 to load bulk cargo, 2 tankers to discharge liquid cargo, discharge/load vehicles, 3 tankers to discharge mineral oils/liquid chemicals, 1 vessel to load livestock.
Spain		
Bilbao	30-Oct-2006	Twenty-nine vessels operating (8 tankers, 21 other vessels), of which 6 loading, 17 discharging, 6 loading/discharging.
Sagunto	30-Oct-2006	Twenty-two vessels in port operating, of which 2 loading (1 fruit, 1 cement), 20 discharging (14 steel products, 3 gas, 1 fruit, 2 vehicles); no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.
Sri Lanka		
Colombo	30-Oct-2006	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Seven container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 20 vessels discharging at berth (12 containers/feeders, 1 bagged maize, 1 steel cargo, 1 timber cargo, 1 Ro/Ro, 1 bulk fertiliser, 1 bagged maize/soya beans, 2 bulk cement); 8 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (6 containers/feeders, 1 bulk palm oil, 1 bulk cement); 5 vessels dry-docked; 6 vessels due, of which 5 containers/feeders, 1 bulk fertiliser, with no delays expected.
Turkmenistan		
Turkmenbashi	30-Oct-2006	Oil products: 14 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 2 gasoil, 7 fuel oil, 3 HPGO, 2 unknown cargo; 1 vessel due 30/10 to load unknown cargo.
Ukraine		
Illichevsk	30-Oct-2006	Seven vessels in port operating, of which 4 loading (2 steel products, 1 wheat, 1 project cargo), 1 discharging manganese ore, 2 loading/discharging containers; 7 vessel in roads, of which 5 to load (2 grain, 1 steel products, 2 sunflower oil), 2 to discharge/load containers; 20 vessels due, of which 12 to load (5 steel products, 2 sulphur, 1 project cargo, 3 iron ore concentrate, 1 ferro nickel), 1 to discharge palm oil, 7 to load/discharge containers..
Mariupol	30-Oct-2006	Seventeen vessels in port operating, of which 15 loading (8 steel, 3 fire-clay, 2 coal, 1 coke, 1 bran), 2 discharging (1 equipment, 1 magnetite); 18 vessels in roads, of which 16 to load (9 steel, 1 barley, 4 fire-clay, 1 equipment, 1 ammonium nitrate), 1 to discharge equipment/containers, 1 to load/discharge containers/fire-clay; 45 vessels due, of which 44 to load (27 steel, 6 coal, 6 fire-clay, 2 pitch, 1 kaolin, 1 sunflower beans/husks, 1 equipment), 1 to discharge profiles.
Odessa	30-Oct-2006	Eighteen vessels in port operating, of which 11 loading (9 metal, 1 coal, 1 grain), 5 discharging (2 luggage, 1 general cargo, 1 meat, 1 bananas), 1 discharging/loading containers, 1 passenger vessel; 8 vessels in roads, of which 5 to load (1 wheat, 1 barley, 1 peas, 1 metal, 1 ferro alloy), 2 to discharge (1 grain, 1 citrus), 1 to load/discharge containers; 63 vessels due, of which 30 to load (20 metal, 2 scrap, 4 pig-iron, 2 ferro alloy, 1 barley, 1 general cargo), 6 to discharge (1 metal, 1 grain, 1 equipment, 2 general cargo, 1 ore), 27 to discharge/load containers.

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United States

Beaumont Galveston New Orleans	31-Oct-2006 31-Oct-2006 31-Oct-2006	Louis Dreyfus terminal: no delays. ADM-Farmland terminal: 2-3 days delay. . Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 1-2 days delay expected; Cargill-Westwego: 2 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 4-5 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 2 days delay; ADM/Destrehan: 4-5 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 4-5 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 2 days delay expected; ADM/Paulina: 4-5 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: 2 days delay; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 2 days delay. . Columbia Grain terminal: 2 days delay; CLD Irving terminal: no delays; CLD, O Dock terminals: 1 day's delay.
Portland, Oreg	31-Oct-2006	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 1 day's delay.
Seattle Tacoma	31-Oct-2006 31-Oct-2006	Temco terminal: 1 day's delay.

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