

US gets tough over alcohol testing kits

Burden of providing specialist equipment to fall on shipowners and operators, writes Rajesh Joshi in New York — Wednesday December 06 2006

SHIPS calling at US harbours face a civil fine of up to \$5,500 a day if they are involved in marine casualties and do not have federally approved alcohol testing kits onboard, the US Coast Guard has reminded the industry.

The civil fine is prescribed in a new US law that took effect in June this year that makes it mandatory for shipowners and operators to ensure that any person on board involved in "serious marine incidents" be tested for alcohol within two hours of the episode, and for drugs within 32 hours.

The rule, which replaced the earlier system with no specified deadline, requires that most commercial vessels have alcohol testing devices on board and authorises the use of saliva as an acceptable specimen.

The old law allowed only blood and breath results as acceptable data.

Robert Schoening, the USCG's drug and alcohol programme manager, said failure to abide by this law would make shipowners liable for civil fines as prescribed in US statutes, which currently amounts to \$5,500 a day. The federal rule estimates that it would affect a total population of 181,000 commercial vessels, including foreign-flag ships obliged to trade into the US.

The first-year implementation cost of this rule for marine employers is projected at \$37m, based on an average cost of \$113 for the saliva-testing device plus \$93 for training cost.

Subsequently, annual costs would range from \$10m-\$31m for continuing compliance.

Although the new rule was enshrined into law by an act of Congress, it appears to be influenced by various marine casualties in the US through the 1990s where alcohol was one of the bones of contention.

Legislative wheels were set in motion as far back as 1998, when Congress passed the Coast Guard Appropriations Act of 1998. A new section was added in this statute to govern post-casualty alcohol testing no later than two hours after an incident occurs.

Through public comment periods that followed, the USCG considered several arguments, including rewarding 'good faith' efforts, the possibility that some ships might be able to return to shore within a few hours, and liability issues in case of a false positive test.

Some industry comments noted that Congress intended the Coast Guard to conduct alcohol testing after an SMI and that it is wrong to shift the testing requirement, and its costs, onto marine employers. But the USCG stuck to the letter of the 1998 law in formulating the final rule. It states: "The marine employer has the responsibility to

ensure that the alcohol testing occurs."

Coast Guard personnel cannot reach the scene of all serious marine incidents within two hours and the agency is often unaware of incidents until after they are reported. Requiring USCG action in all cases would "impermissibly burden limited Coast Guard resources", the rule states.

However, the fact that employers can now choose from a federally approved list of kits and avail of saliva kits as an option would mitigate the burden, the rule notes.

The rule also provides a limit of eight hours after the incident if the testing cannot be completed within two hours due to "safety concerns directly related to the casualty".

Dennis Bryant, senior counsel at Holland & Knight, said this provision, read along with the civil penalty prescribed, would effectively mean that the total fine leviable in any violation is tolled, or capped, at \$5,500.

South Korean crew members face jail

By Mike Grinter in Hong Kong - Friday December 08 2006

THE chief engineer and second engineer of a South Korean cargo vessel have pleaded guilty to environmental crimes and obstruction of justice for covering up illegal dumping of oil residue at sea, the US Department of Justice announced.

The owner and operator of the vessel, South Korean Sun Ace Shipping Co, pleaded guilty in September this year and agreed to pay a \$400,000 fine and \$100,000 to New Jersey environmental organisations.

US Coast Guard inspectors boarded the bulker Sun New on January 3 and found that members of the engine room crew had used bypass hoses to discharge oily waste into the ocean without using their oil-water separator.

Chief engineer Chang-Sig O pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice for maintaining a false oil record book and lying to the Coast Guard about his knowledge of hoses used to bypass shipboard pollution control equipment. Second engineer Mun Sig Wang pleaded guilty to violating the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships for presenting a false oil record book to Coast Guard inspectors who boarded the ship in Camden, New Jersey. Chang-Sig O could serve up to five years in prison and be served a \$250,000 fine. When sentenced, Mun Sig Wang could get six years and be served a \$250,000 fine. No sentencing date has been passed down yet.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>ARCTICA HAV</i>	general	BHS	GL	1,532	1,890	1984	Reported Nov 29 arrived Bidston for emergency bow repairs after striking quay at Silloth.
<i>BOHUS</i>	tug/ icebreaker	SWE	LR	357	—	1974	Sustained hydraulic problems with steering in rough weather at entrance of Oslo Fjord Nov 26. Repairs carried out and awaiting better weather. Under way as of Nov 28.
<i>CURRENT</i>	general	COM	—	1,598	3,055	1977	Arrived Piraeus Nov 26, in tow of tug Lore, for repairs.
<i>DON NATALIO</i>	trawler	ARG	—	211	210	1979	Adrift in lat 42 00S, long 60 17W, Nov 24. Under tow same day, bound Mar del Plata.
<i>EMMA JANE</i>	fishing	GBR	—	122	—	1989	Towed to Salcombe Nov 26 after fouling propeller 26 miles south of Prawle Point. Subsequently towed on to Dartmouth.
<i>FRIGGA</i>	tug	DIS	LR	453	229	1999	Had fire in engine-room while transitting Kiel Canal Nov 25 after hydraulic hose burst, sending oil into engine-room. Towed to Fredericia shipyard Nov 27. Severe damage.
<i>GOLDEN SHINE NO. 1</i>	general	KHM	CS	1,233	1,599	1982	Had fire on board while loading at Osaka Nov 24. Fire brought under control same day.
<i>LIBERTY V</i>	general	PAN	—	1,393	2,252	1975	Reported Nov 27 aground in the Cristobal area due bad weather.
<i>MISSISSAGI</i>	bulker	CAN	ABS	9,706	17,252	1943	Had engine failure due crankcase explosion in lat 42 37N, long 82 31W, Nov 27. Towed to Sarnia Nov 28.
<i>OTRADA</i>	general	MDA	RS	2,406	3,118	1965	In collision with mv <i>Tairova</i> at Yeisk Nov 24.
<i>PHOENIX</i>	general	BGR	—	—	—	—	Grounded at Bogen, River Danube, Nov 18. Bottom damage, water ingress. Lying near Deggendorf, provisionally sealed.
<i>SETE CIDADES</i>	general	PRT	BV	3,978	4,969	1999	Reported Nov 29 sustained main engine damage about 4 miles S of St. Michael's. Assistance requested due rough seas. Tug proceeded to secure vessel & tow to Ponta Delgada. Alongside Nov 30 for repairs.
<i>SHOSEI MARU</i>	tanker	JPN	—	153	—	—	In collision with mv <i>Trust Busan</i> , in lat 34 31N, long 134 03E, Nov 28. Seriously damaged, adrift. Crew off. Leakage of fuel.
<i>SOLANDER VII</i>	fishing	FJI	—	111	—	—	Sank after engine-room fire off Rotuma Island Nov 22. Eleven crew members rescued after 24 hours on liferafts.
<i>SUN LAKE</i>	general	TUV	—	498	—	1998	Strong winds caused cargo to shift, vessel tilted & about to capsize near the Yangtze River estuary in lat 30 56N, long 122 22E, Nov 24. All crew rescued.
<i>VOLGO-DON 213</i>	general	RUS	RS	4,000	—	1977	Struck pontoon in Bosphorus, in lat 41 01.3N, long 28 59.8E, Nov 28. Damage to main deck and hull plating. Towed clear and anchored at Salacak Nov 29.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



ADI WAITUI (Fiji)

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Adi Waitui*, which sank in waters off Bua almost a month ago, has been salvaged and will be taken to Suva next week for investigations. Islander Shipping Services was allowed to salvage the vessel after village elders and the chiefs were approached traditionally last week. Provincial administrator for the Bua Provincial Council Ratu Orisi Baleitavea said because of the death of the late Tui Bua, Ratu Isikeli Nagagavoka on Oct 13, a ban was put on entering seas near Bua.

ALVENA (Cyprus)

London, Nov 29 — Refrigerated general cargo *Alvena* sailed Falmouth Nov 22 and arrived Santa Cruz de Tenerife Nov 27.

AMAZING D. (Antigua & Barbuda)

Yokohama, Nov 29 — Container carrier *Amazing D.* (7171 gt, built 1998), Shanghai for Kobe, struck light beacon No 30 in the Kanmon Passage, in lat 33 56.3N, long 130 56.5E, at 1105, Nov 25, due to tidal currents. The vessel sustained scratches to the starboard quarter. The light beacon sustained a bent ladder and denting to its copper plating. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Amazing D.* arrived Osaka Nov 26.)

ANTHI MARINA (Greece)

London, Nov 24 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: At 1625 hrs, Nov 23, passenger ro/ro *Anthi Marina* (20446 gt, built 1979) while moored stern fast, at Dock 3, Vasilliadis area of Piraeus, broke a mooring line and lightly collided with the bow of passenger ro/ro *Diagoras* (6939 gt, built 1990) which was moored nearby. At the time of the incident *Anthi Marina* was loading for the 1700 hrs departure to Kos-Rhodes and *Diagoras* was preparing for the 1800 hrs departure to Kalymos-Kos-Rhodes. There were no injuries to any passengers. Following inspections the *Anthi Marina* was permitted to sail at 1815 hrs and *Diagoras* at 1845 hrs.

AQUILA (Netherlands)

Maassluis, Nov 28 — General cargo *Aquila* is still under repair at Niestern Sander shipyard. The main engine is removed and has to be renewed. The vessel will be in Delfzijl for a few weeks because of the main engine. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

ARCTICA HAV (Bahamas)

London, Nov 29 — Understand general cargo *Arctica Hav* (1532 gt, built 1984) has arrived at Bidston for attention by Scott Lithgow Ltd for emergency bow repairs sustained after

the vessel struck the quay at Silloth. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Arctica Hav* was stationary in lat 53 24 32N, long 03 03 11W, at 2211, UTC, today.)

AREDELTA 1 (Argentina)

Buenos Aires, Nov 23 — Lloyd's Sub-agents in La Plata report: General cargo *Aredelta 1*'s cargo of 108 rolls was discharged Nov 21. Currently, the vessel is still lying in the same position and there are no tugs or barges around it. The Argentine Coast Guard has not been able to confirm yet whether the vessel will be refloated or not. — Lloyd's Agents.

AS SALAAM (Panama)

London, Nov 29 — General cargo *As Salaam* sailed Durban Nov 4.

ATLANTIC PROWLER II (Canada)

London, Nov 24 — Wooden fishing *Atlantic Prowler II* (51 gt, built 1980), with two persons on board, was reported taking on water six nautical miles east of Cape Broyle, Newfoundland, in lat 47 03.48N, long 52 42.12W, at 1552, UTC, Nov 24. The crew abandoned into a small boat and steamed to port. Vessel was subsequently dewatered and towed to Fermeuse by the CCGS *George R. Pearkes*.

BBC NORDLAND (Gibraltar)

Ponta Delgada, Nov 27 — General cargo *BBC Nordland*: Cargo restowing has been already completed and the vessel left Ponta Delgada bound for its next destination Port Beaumont. — Lloyd's Agents.

BOHUS (Norway)

Gothenburg, Nov 26 — Passenger ro/ro *Bohus* (9149 gt, built 1971) sustained hydraulic problems with steering and drifted in rough and windy weather today, but at present dropped anchor in lee and assistance required. "We don't know yet how long the vessel have to stay there" says Color Line's H-O Mathiesen. "At present the ferry at anchor in the entrance of Oslo Fjord, started from Norwegian Sandefjord and heading for Stoemstad on the Swedish west coast while the ferry sustained problems in the steering gear." The 123 metre long vessel could not navigate properly and drifted, with seas said to be around eight to nine metres, and very windy. The Coast Guard vessel *Nornen* assisted. Color Line stating the hydraulic problems repaired but at anchor waiting for better weather before proceeding. A total of 15 passengers left with the *Nornen*, and vessel to proceed to berth in due time pending the weather situation. — Westax Marine Services AB. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Bohus* was in lat 59 10 36.02N, long 10 38 12.67E, 9 nautical miles from Larkollen, Norway, speed 14.3 knots, course 169 deg, at 1804, UTC, today.)

London, Nov 28 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, passenger ro/ro *Bohus* was located in lat 59 00 57.9N,

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long 10 34 44.2E, at 1018, UTC, course 262 deg, speed 16.6 knots, nearest port Magero, Norway, at a distance of 11.9 nautical miles.

BRAE ALPHA

London, Nov 22 — U.S. company Marathon Oil Corp. has restarted production at a UK North Sea oil platform that was shut down earlier this week due to a minor gas leak, a spokeswoman said today. The Brae Alpha platform, 155 miles north-east of Aberdeen in Scotland, resumed output at a reduced level late yesterday, a day after production was halted because of a gas alert. No personnel were injured or evacuated in the incident. "We have identified the source of a very minor gas leak," said Sheena Wallace, Marathon's spokeswoman. "Production could be back to normal later today." Brae Alpha is one of a handful of Marathon platforms in the region, which in total produces around 30,000 barrels of oil per day. — Reuters.

C.DUKE (South Korea)

London, Nov 24 — Bulker *C.Duke* sailed Vancouver (Can) Nov 24.

CEMENTINA (Comoros)

London, Nov 26 — Bulk cement carrier *Cementina* arrived Bremen Nov 25, from Harlingen, and sailed same day for Ridham Dock.

CHIQUITA BREMEN (Bermuda)

London, Nov 28 — A press report, dated Nov 27, states: Croatian authorities have begun an investigation after a vessel ran into the Sjeverna Luka port in Split and caused damage worth an estimated \$1.3m. The 14-year-old refrigerated general cargo *Chiquita Bremen* (10842 gt, built 1992), sailing under the flag of Bermuda, damaged 15 metres of stone blocks as well as a seven-ton crane in the incident. The port director, Dragan Zanetic, said: "The total damage will be without doubt at least \$1.3m." *Chiquita Bremen* was transporting bananas when the incident occurred, port authorities said. Authorities have not commented on the investigation or the cause of the accident, but local media claim that investigators believe the vessel's master was to blame. *Chiquita Bremen*, which also sustained unspecified damage in the incident, was held in Sjeverna Luka until an agreement was reached on payment for the damage caused to the area, port captain Boris Matosic said. (Note — *Chiquita Bremen* arrived at Rijeka on Nov 22.)

Rijeka, Nov 28 — *Chiquita Bremen* sailed from Split at 1600, Nov 24, after UK P&I Club gave a guarantee for eventual damages. The port of Split requested EUR 1,060,00. According to P&I representatives the damage to the vessel is minimal. — Lloyd's Agents.

CHRISTOS (Greece)

London, Nov 29 — Product tanker *Christos* arrived Rhodes Nov 23 and sailed the same day.

CLONMORE (Republic of Ireland)

London, Nov 28 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Container carrier *Clonmore* (5299 gt, built 1993) was towed upstream on River Schelde by the tugs *Smit Japan* and *Smit Denemarken*. (Note — *Clonmore* according to Lloyd's MIU AIS, stationary in lat 51 52 47.39N, long 4 23 58.14E, 1.2 nautical miles from Schiedam.)

London, Nov 29 — Container carrier *Clonmore* arrived Rotterdam at 0205, Nov 29. Vessel was subsequently reported by Lloyd's MIU AIS in lat 51 42 14.83N, long 02 17 31.38E, at 1115, UTC, course 225 deg, speed 13.1 knots, nearest port Dunkirk, at a distance of 39.4 nautical miles.

CURRENT (Comoros)

Piraeus, Nov 28 — General cargo *Current* (1598 gt, built 1977) arrived Piraeus in tow of tug *Lore* on Nov 26 for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

DIAGORAS (Greece)

See *Anthi Marina*.

DON NATALIO (Argentina)

London, Nov 24 — Following navigation warning issued Nov 23: Trawler *Don Natalio* (211 gt, built 1979) adrift in lat 42 00S, long 60 17W.

London, Nov 24 — Following navigation warning issued today: Fishing *Victoria II* towing trawler *Don Natalio* in lat 42 00S, long 60 05W, line length 450 metres, speed six knots, course 029 degrees bound Mar del Plata.

DONG FANG YONG SHI 3 (Panama)

Yokohama, Nov 24 — Anchor handling fire fighting *Dong Fang Yong Shi 3*, which had an oil drilling rig in tow, had fire break out in its engine-room in lat 31 05.6N, long 128 50.3E, at 0620, Nov 17. The engine-room was closed up for the fire-fighting operation. Both the oil drilling rig and the *Dong Fang Yong Shi 3* are sailing to Shanghai with the assistance of tugs. No personal injuries have been reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 30 — Anchor handling fire fighting *Dong Fang Yong Shi 3* arrived Shanghai Nov 25.

ELEFThERIA (Panama)

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated Nov 24, states: The excessive speed of a bulk carrier in a close-quarter situation was enough for an English court to rule earlier this month that it had to take more of the blame for a collision even though both vessels committed a string of navigational errors. The incident, involving the bulk carriers *Eleftheria* and *Hakki Deval*, occurred in restricted visibility in June 2004 in the Mediterranean Sea about 15 miles off the Algerian Coast. Neither vessel saw the other until moments before the impact. The stem of *Hakki Deval* struck the starboard side of *Eleftheria* at an angle of about 80 degrees leaning forward on *Eleftheria*.

Eleftheria, which eventually took two-thirds of the blame, claimed it was steering a true course of 082 degrees and was making about 13 knots, when it saw the echo of *Hakki Deval* on its radar at a range of eight nautical miles about five to 10 degrees on its starboard bow. This was 23 minutes before the collision. It claimed that shortly afterwards, it altered course to 070 degrees to increase the passing distance between the vessels, but attempts to contact *Hakki Deval* by VHF radio were unsuccessful. According to *Eleftheria*, shortly before the collision, *Hakki Deval* was seen to be turning to starboard towards it at which point it reduced its speed and put its wheel 15 degrees to port to come to a true heading of 030 degrees at the point of collision. *Hakki Deval's* case was that it had been steering a course of 252 degrees and was making about eight knots through the water when it picked up *Eleftheria's* echo on its radar at a distance of just over eight miles and bearing two degrees on its port bow. It claimed that shortly afterwards it altered its course to 266 degrees and made contact by VHF radio with *Eleftheria* and an oral agreement was reached to pass port-to-port. *Hakki Deval* said it made two further course alterations to starboard by 15 and 10 degrees but later stopped and put its engines to full astern just before the collision. The claimed speeds of the vessels and collision angle were not disputed. This left the court, which was assisted by two nautical assessors, with questions of the truthfulness of the witnesses and appropriateness of the collision avoidance actions. Several of the claims made by officers and crew of both vessels were rejected by the court. Even the alleged agreement on VHF radio could not have taken place, said the court, which concluded that it was a fabrication by the second officer of *Hakki Deval*. Although the court's reconstruction of the vessels' approaches to each other differed from the vessels' claims, it was clear that both vessels were on track for a close-quarter situation from the time they first detected each other. It was also not disputed that the vessels were navigating in restricted visibility, as by the time each vessel identified the echo of the other, visibility was less than four miles and had reduced to a few hundred metres by the time of the impact. The court found that *Eleftheria* made a basic error in assessing *Hakki Deval* as being on its starboard bow when it actually was on its port bow. It then compounded this error with course alterations to port when it should have made a single bold alteration to starboard. But, it was *Eleftheria's* "excessive" speed that eventually led to it taking more of the blame. Under the International Regulations for the Prevention of Collision at Sea, *Eleftheria* had an obligation to proceed at a speed which is safe in all the circumstances, and especially so in a well-used traffic lane off the northern coast of Africa, said the court. The court accepted its

nautical assessors' conclusion that *Eleftheria* should have cut its speed to no more than 10 knots within eight minutes after detecting *Hakki Deval* when the vessels were just five miles apart and on a collision course. *Hakki Deval's* lookout was also found to be as "dismal" as *Eleftheria's* as it had initially recorded the echo of *Eleftheria* as being fine on its port bow when *Eleftheria* was actually broad on its starboard bow. *Hakki Deval* also showed poor seamanship when it continued to turn to starboard even after realising that *Eleftheria* was turning to port, but at least it had maintained a safe speed at eight knots, said the court, which ruled that *Hakki Deval* need only bear one-third of the blame for the collision.

EMMA JANE (U.K.)

London, Nov 27 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 1805, UTC: At 2255, UTC, Nov 26 fishing *Peader Elaine* towed fishing (general) *Emma Jane*, MLNG4, (122 gt, built 1989), with six persons on board, to Salcombe after the vessel has a fouled propeller 26 miles south of Prawle Point. On arrival at the bar, Salcombe, they were hindered by adverse weather conditions. Salcombe RNLI lifeboat was launched to assist in the operation of towing the vessel to Dartmouth. Rescue helicopter 193 and Torbay lifeboat stood by. Torbay lifeboat subsequently towed the vessel to Dartmouth.

EVVA (North Korea)

Piraeus, Nov 28 — General cargo *Evva* remains under arrest at Katakolon port. Prospects of release are unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

FLYINGCAT 6 (Greece)

Piraeus, Nov 28 — Ferry *Flyingcat 6* remains in Piraeus port undergoing repairs. Estimated time of departure unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

FPSO MYSTRAS (Madeira)

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

FRANK DIETER (Germany)

Portsmouth, UK, Nov 25 — General cargo *Frank Dieter* (1607 gt, built 1961), Heilbronn for Straubing with 1,000 tons of thawing salt, completely blocked navigation on the River Danube yesterday evening at Straubing. The vessel became unmanoeuvrable after a technical fault occurred and is firmly aground crosswise on the Danube, completely blocking navigation. — Correspondent.

London, Nov 28 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Frank Dieter* was refloated Nov 25 by means of releasing water from a nearby lock. The vessel was then taken to Straubing for inspection.

FRI STREAM (Bahamas)

London, Nov 24 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS general cargo *Fri Stream* was still at Kirkwall at 1103, UTC, today.

FRIGGA (DIS)

London, Nov 27 — Understand SvitzerWijmuller tug *Frigga*, OXCU2 (453 gt, built 1999), had a fire in the engine-room while on a voyage from Esbjerg to Fredericia via the Kiel Canal at 0300, local time, Nov 25. A hydraulic hose burst and sent oil under high pressure out in the engine-room, where it landed on cylinder tops of the port side engine and immediately caught fire and gave a fire alarm to the bridge. The tug was just outside Middelfart in the Little Belt and the master decided to head for Middelfart. After five minutes he managed to reach the quayside and sent two men down the engine-room to extinguish fire. However the fire had died out as the spreading oil stopped as the level became low in the tank. Hours later the tug was taken in tow by tug *Svitzer Menja* bound for Fredericia Shipyard, where a repair and restoration process began at 0630 the same morning. The engine-room sustained severe damage during the short blaze.

G.L.OSTRANDER (U.S.A.)

Chicago, Nov 28 — Tug *G.L.Ostrander* is (still) at Fraser Shipyard, Superior, for repairs. Vessel entered Fraser Shipyard around 1130, Nov 8. Vessel may complete repairs today or later. — Lloyd's Agents.

GAMMAGAS (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Nov 26 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0446, UTC: Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Gammagas* under way at 0431, UTC.

GOLDEN SHINE NO.1 (Cambodia)

Yokohama, Nov 29 — General cargo *Golden Shine No.1* (1233 gt, built 1982) had a fire on board at 1610, Nov 24, while loading scrap at G8 Berth, Nanko, Osaka. The fire was brought under control at 1801 same day. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Golden Shine No.1* sailed Osaka Nov 25.)

GOLDENEYE (Greece)

See *Spar Opal*.

GRANDE SCANDINAVIA (Italy)

London, Nov 24 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS vehicle carrier *Grande Scandinavia* was in lat 55 19 11.1N, long 07 57 47.44E, at 2021, UTC, Nov 23, speed 15.8 knots, course 235 degrees.

London, Nov 26 — Vehicle carrier *Grande Scandinavia* arrived Antwerp Nov 25.

GUO FENG (China)

See *Katsuragi*.

GUO TONG (Cambodia)

Yokohama, Nov 24 — A collision occurred between general cargo *Guo Tong*, Komatsushima for Haimen, China, and fishing (general) *Taikei Maru No.68*, China for Shimonoseki, in lat 33 55.9N, long 130 56.0E (Kanmon Strait) at 2045 hrs, Nov 17. *Guo Tong* sank immediately after the collision. This resulted in the death of

three crewmembers and an oil spill. No fatal injuries, water ingressions and/or oil spill have been reported in respect of *Taikei Maru No.68*. The vessel sustained denting damage to its bow, but proceeded safely to Shimonoseki under its own power. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 28 — Following Moji Coast Guard navigation warning issued at 1205, JST, today: Kanmon passage navigation restricted due to sunken wreck (general cargo *Guo Tong*) until further notice. Area bounded by lat 33 56 17.9N, long 130 56 08.7E, lat 33 56 17.9N, long 130 56 34.1E, lat 33 55 33.8N, long 130 56 11.2E, lat 33 55 39.1N, long 130 55 52.5E, details should be inquired of Captain of the Port, Kanmon.

HAKKI DEVAL (Turkey)

See *Eleftheria*.

HAVRIM (NIS)

London, Nov 25 — Liquid petroleum gas carrier *Havrim* passed through the Dardanelles on Nov 24.

HERTHA O. (Antigua & Barbuda)

Maassluis, Nov 28 — Bulker *Hertha O.* is still at Flushing under repair. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Nov 29 — Bulker *Hertha O.* sailed Flushing 0739 today for Thessaloniki.

HIBA-B (Georgia)

London, Nov 28 — General cargo *Hiba-B* arrived Tartous Nov 8.

HOLBERG (Uruguay)

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The owners of fishing (general) *Holberg*, wrecked in Port Purvis, are in negotiations with salvage companies. Government officials met the marine surveyor late last week after he had spent two days examining the vessel, together with *Holberg's* master and Chief Engineer. Director of Fisheries, John Barton reported, "Their view was that the vessel was quite stable in its current position. They confirmed that there was very little fuel leaking from the vessel during the time of their inspection, and they expressed the view that further leaks were unlikely. There was some oil leaking from an oil drum, and they thought that some fuel (marine gas oil) may have leaked from the small service tank." He added that *Holberg's* owners hope to be able to reveal their plans for fuel and vessel removal soon. Councillor Richard Davies said it is a "frustratingly slow" process but the government is putting pressure on the company to get the fuel and vessel removal started. Criticism has been levelled at the government's apparent lack of action to contain any spill around the vessel. Cllr Davies said it is most urgent to get the fuel off before it leaks and that the use of local resources was considered by councillors; however they have decided not to do this, "as to send the coastal shipping vessel *Tamar* into Port Purvis, an area that has not been surveyed in 100 years,

could create a bigger disaster." Cllr Davies added that he was sad to hear there had been reports of looting from the trawler; a spokesman for the police confirmed the theft of items from *Holberg* had been reported.

HYUNDAI NO.107 (Liberia)

Portsmouth, UK, Nov 27 — Vehicle carrier *Hyundai No.107* (41720 gt, built 1987) collided with the lock gates at Brunsbüttel at 0830, Nov 27. Damage amounts to at least 30,000 Euros. — Correspondent.

London, Nov 27 — Vehicle carrier *Hyundai No.107* arrived Antwerp 1346, Nov 27, from Bremerhaven.

ICE RIVER (Cayman Islands)

London, Nov 28 — Following notice to mariners issued at 1548, UTC, Nov 27: Refrigerated general cargo *Ice River* (12408 gt, built 1985) adrift vicinity of lat 19 24S, long 78 31W, at 1410, UTC, Nov 27.

London, Nov 28 — Following received from Chile MRCC, timed 1835, UTC: Refrigerated general cargo *Ice River* has carried out some main engine repairs and is proceeding slowly to Valparaiso, where ETA Dec 1. Vessel reports it will require further repairs at Valparaiso.

JESSE JAMES (U.S.A.)

London, Nov 24 — A Coast Guard New York, press release, dated Nov 23, states: Coast Guard cutter *Dependable* is battling heavy rain, 15-foot seas and 35-knot winds to assist Point Judith, RI, based fishing (general) *Jesse James* (119 gt, built 1976) disabled 50 miles south-southwest of Shinnecock, NY, today. Joshua Spearman, the owner and operator of the *Jesse James*, notified the Coast Guard just before 1700 yesterday that they were disabled and requested Coast Guard assistance. *Dependable* has been fighting these weather conditions for more than 200 miles since they were diverted from their patrol area 35 miles east of Nantucket at 1700 yesterday to assist the vessel. *Dependable's* estimated time of arrival to *Jesse James* is 1700 today. Once on scene *Dependable* will assess the situation and determine a plan of action. Due to weather conditions *Jesse James* will likely be towed to the New York harbour.

London, Nov 24 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 0825, UTC: Fishing *Jesse James* is still adrift, with crew still on board, and as of 23 minutes ago was in lat 39N, long 73 08W, in very bad weather. Cutter *Dependable* is on scene monitoring the situation. *Dependable* will assess the situation later today as to whether it can take the *Jesse James* in tow or if commercial assistance will be required.

London, Nov 24 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1515, UTC: Fishing (general) *Jesse James* was taken in tow by Coast Guard cutter *Dependable* at 0900, local time, today and the vessels are proceeding for New York.

London, Nov 25 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, VA, timed 1404, UTC: Fishing (general) *Jesse James* restarted its engines and is currently moored Manasquan, New Jersey.

KANG NAM 5 (North Korea)

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

KANTXOPE (Argentina)

Buenos Aires, Nov 28 — According to Mar del Plata sub-agents fishing *Kantxope* arrived Mar del Plata Nov 22 in tow of fishing *Feixa*. Once moored at the port, it was assisted by tug *Doblegador*. On Nov 25 the vessel sailed to the Comodoro Rivadavia area, where it is currently resuming its fishing operations. — Lloyd's Agents.

KARINA DANICA (DIS)

London, Nov 24 — Information received, timed Kiel 1043 today, states: General cargo *Karina Danica* (1352 gt, built 1991) just ran aground in the Brunsbüttel-region of the Kiel-Canal. It tried to get free with own power, without success. Shipping is able to pass the grounding site. (Note — *Karina Danica* sailed Rotterdam 0900, Nov 23 for Lulea, and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was stationary in lat 54 01 46.98N, long 09 18 04.86E, at 1016, UTC, today.)

London, Nov 24 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS general cargo *Karina Danica* in lat 54 02 39N, long 09 18 14.88E, at 1209, UTC, today, speed 1.9 knots, course 23.9 degrees.

London, Nov 24 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Karina Danica* refloated at about 1400. As the grounding was caused by a technical fault, the vessel had to berth in the passing point Duekerswisch until investigations are completed.

London, Nov 28 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, general cargo *Karina Danica* was located in lat 58 06 02.1N, long 18 21 54.24E, at 1945, UTC, Nov 26, course 32.6 deg, speed 12 knots, nearest port Visby, at a distance of 27.5 nautical miles.

KATSURAGI (Panama)

London, Nov 24 — According to NYK press releases Container Carrier *Katsuragi* (50437 gt, built 1990) was in contact with Chinese bulker *Guo Feng* while *Katsuragi* was stationary waiting the at pilot station off Qingdao, in lat 36N, long 120 27.8E, at 1108, May 3. As a result *Guo Feng* sank with a crew of 15 on board. *Katsuragi* was involved in the rescue of 10 of *Guo Feng's* crew. There were no injuries on board *Katsuragi*, or serious damage to the vessel. *Katsuragi* subsequently berthed at the container terminal at Tsingtao port. *Katsuragi* then underwent an investigation by the Chinese authorities at the port of Qingdao and departed from the port at 0245, May 7 after completing container unloading/loading as scheduled. The

vessel arrived at its next stop, Shanghai, at 0930, May 8 and left 2000 same day.

KENANGAN 6 (Malaysia)

Portsmouth, UK, Nov 25 — A three-year-old boy died late last night, seven hours after the ferry he was travelling on — ferry *Sejahtera 15* — collided head-on with ferry *Kenangan 6* (170 gt, built 2001) near Lankawi Island yesterday. Mohamad Danial from Tanjung Bendahara, Alor Star, who was taken to Langkawi Hospital, succumbed to a serious head injury a few minutes before midnight. His eight-year-old sister had to undergo surgery for a torn scalp. According to hospital sources, they were with their parents on board *Sejahtera 15*, the smaller of the two ferries when the incident occurred yesterday evening. A teacher, her husband and their nine-year-old daughter were also seriously injured in the accident. Hanizah Mohamad, from Kajang, Selangor, broke her left hand while her businessman husband Mohd Zawawi Mahmud, suffered abdominal and head injuries. The couple's daughter, Nor Kamaliah Husna, broke her left leg. They were on their way to Kuala Kedah when *Sejahtera 15* collided with the Langkawi-bound *Kenangan 6* at 1715 hrs in drizzly conditions. They were among 30 passengers on board *Sejahtera 15*, who were injured in the accident. The vessel left Kuah jetty at 1600 hrs. Another passenger suffered cuts on the head and face. None of the 100-plus holidaymakers on board *Kenangan 6*, which left the Kuala Kedah jetty at 1630 hrs, were injured. The Marine Department and the owners of the two ferries did not release any details of the mishap. A passenger on board *Kenangan 6*, Dr Jasvinder Singh, said everyone, including the crew members, panicked when the vessels collided. "It was drizzling and visibility was poor. Nobody knew what to do when everyone started to scream, thinking that the ferry had hit something," he said. The passengers from *Sejahtera 15* were transferred to the bigger vessel while waiting for rescue efforts. The two ferries were later towed to Kuah jetty. — Correspondent.

Manila, Nov 26 — A three year old boy died and 33 others were injured when two Malaysian registered aluminum-hulled fast ferries collided near Kuala Kedah in north-west peninsular Malaysia on Friday afternoon (Nov 24). The child was among the 60 passengers onboard the Kuala Kedah-bound *Express Sejahtera 15* also reported as ferry *Sejahtera 15* which collided with the *Express Kenangan 6* also reported as ferry *Kenangan 6*, travelling from Kuala Kedah to Langkawi during heavy rain. Authorities said that poor visibility brought about by poor weather conditions could have caused the two passenger ferries to collide. A radar malfunction could also have contributed to the mishap. The captain of *Express Sejahtera 15* told the police that the ferry's radar did

not pick up the *Express Kenangan 6*. The smaller *Express Sejahtera 15* accounted for all the injured. It was also the most heavily damaged, sustaining a large hole in the forward section. The vessel had to be towed back to the Kuah jetty in Langkawi. The *Express Kenangan* sustained damage to its bow but was able to make it to Langkawi on its own power. Following the accident, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Chan Kong Choy said that the Peninsular Malaysia Marine Department would lead an investigation into the cause of the collision. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

KRITON (Malta)

London, Nov 27 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, bulker *Kriton* was reported in lat 08 03 08.53N, long 79 10 06.41W, at 1000, UTC, course 163 deg, speed 13.5 knots, nearest port Taboga Island, Panama, at a distance of 49.5 nautical miles.

LAMPUNG (Indonesia)

See "Indonesia" under "Port State Control".

LEONIDA II (Philippines)

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A small ferry capsized in rough waters in the southern Philippines today, leaving 14 passengers dead while 58 were rescued, a civil defence official said. The vessel, *Leonida II*, capsized and sank in the waters off Surigao, about 444 miles south-east of Manila, said Blanche Gobenciong of the regional Office of the Civil Defence. It was not immediately clear how many passengers were onboard, she said. Gobenciong said the ferry was headed to Del Carmen town on Siargao Island from Surigao city when it ran into rough seas and capsized around 1420, local time, off the island of Hinatuan.

Manila, Nov 27 — Philippine authorities have discovered that the passenger manifest of sunken ferry *Leonida II* was grossly understated. The passenger manifest submitted by the vessel's operator to the Philippine Coast Guard prior to its departure showed the vessel carrying 40 passengers and six crew members. Since the ferry sank off Hinatuan island in southern Philippines on Nov 25, the Office of Civil Defence reported that 66 people had been rescued, 19 were missing and 14 bodies had been recovered as of this morning, making a total of 99 passengers who actually boarded the vessel. It is fairly common for people to climb on board passenger ferries after Coast Guard personnel have finished their safety inspection and signed off on the vessel's passenger manifest. Many vessels thus leave port overloaded with either passengers or cargo. In the case of *Leonida II*, the ferry was not overloaded as it was licenced to carry 155 passengers. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Nov 28 — A press report, dated today, states: The local Maritime Industry Authority (Marina)

office in Surgao City ordered the suspension of operations of two sister vessels of sunken ferry *Leonida II*, operated by Leonida Shipping Lines, *Leonida III* and *Leonida 5*. Marina Officer-In-Charge Maria Roselyn CastaOo said she ordered a temporary suspension of the two vessels pending investigation of the sinking of the *Leonida II*, which claimed more than 10 lives. As of yesterday, search and rescue operations were still ongoing, with more than 19 passengers still missing off Punta Cili and Hallan Island. Among those missing is a former town mayor and a town councilor. Surigao del Norte Governor Robert Lyndon Barbers said he may call an investigation into the incident.

Manila, Nov 28 — The death toll in the sinking of ferry *Leonida II* (32 gt) climbed to 33, after authorities gave up the search for 19 missing passengers this afternoon. The Philippine Coast Guard said that the 19 are presumed dead after three days of search and rescue operations yielded no results. So far 66 passengers of the ferry which sank Saturday have been rescued and 14 bodies recovered. Efforts by Philippine Coast Guard divers to reach the vessel, lying in 200 feet of water, also had to be called off because of strong currents which made diving operations extremely dangerous. It is believed that bodies of the missing passengers were still trapped inside the vessel. The Coast Guard said that search and retrieval operations would be temporarily suspended because of the arrival of typhoon "Durian". — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Nov 29 — A Special Board of Marine Inquiry was convened today in Butuan City, in southern Philippines, to investigate the sinking of ferry *Leonida II*. In its first hearing, the board, which is the official body tasked with investigating marine casualties in the country, issued subpoenas to *Leonida II* owner Domingo Paredes and master Ruel del Rosario. The board will ask the two officials to explain the discrepancy between the vessels passenger manifest and the actual number of passengers which boarded the ferry. The master will also be asked to describe the circumstances leading to the sinking of the vessel. The board will also investigate the Philippine Coast Guard for allowing the vessel to leave port despite bad weather conditions and for failing to properly document all passengers on the ferry. *Leonida II* capsized Saturday afternoon off Bilisan Point in Hinatuan Island in the shark-infested Surigao Strait in Mindanao. Thirty-three persons lost their lives in the mishap. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

LIBERTY V (Panama)

See "Panama" under "Weather & Navigation".

MAERSK PALERMO (Netherlands)

London, Nov 24 — Container Carrier *Maersk Palermo* (31333 gt, built 1998) lost the port anchor while crossing the

Atlantic Ocean in approximately lat 45 00N, long 40 00W at 1200, Nov 20. (Note — *Maersk Palermo* sailed Rotterdam 0745, UTC, Nov 19, for Montreal, where ETA Nov 26.)

MARINA ACE (Panama)

London, Nov 25 — Vehicle carrier *Marina Ace* sailed Yokkaichi Nov 23.

MAROULA (Greece)

London, Nov 29 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report : Product tanker *Maroula* (495 gt, built 1964) sustained engine damage while sailing from Karpathos to Santorini during the evening of Nov 28. On board were eight Greek crew members who are good in health. The vessel which was loaded with 150 cubic metres of heating oil anchored safely between Kassos and the rocky islets of Makronissos awaiting a tug. The port authority of Kassos prohibited departure of the vessel pending inspection.

London, Nov 30 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1015, UTC: Product tanker *Maroula* had machinery failure in lat 35 26.8N, long 26 54.2E, about 2200, Nov 28. Vessel is now under tow.

MASTER K. (Tuvalu)

Piraeus, Nov 29 — General cargo *Master K.* remains at Drapetzona, Piraeus port, undergoing repairs. Reportedly the vessel will remain in port for at least two more weeks. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAVERICK 2 (Panama)

Maassluis, Nov 24 — Container Carrier *Maverick 2* arrived in Amsterdam at 0110 hrs, Nov 21 and sailed at 2230 hrs, Nov 23, bound for Ghent, where she is expected to arrive at 1500 hrs, today. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

MAYSORA (Bahamas)

See "Suspension Of Sheep Imports From Australia" under "Miscellaneous".

MIKE 1 (Philippines)

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Mike 1*, loaded with logs, capsized off the coast of Baganga, Davao Oriental, about 1500, Nov 22, the Coast Guard reported yesterday. Rear Adm. Damian Carlos, the Coast Guard commandant, said *Mike 1* was en route to deliver its cargo of logs in Zamboanga City. Carlos said none of the vessel's 20 crew members was hurt but the Coast Guard is still investigating the possibility that she sank because of overloading. He said he has already sent a team to the area to determine if the vessel spilled oil.

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated Nov 25, states: After general cargo *Mike 1* sank off 100 metres from the coastline of Baganga, Davao Oriental, personnel of the Baganga Ply have now retrieved 300 pieces of logs of the total 1,100 cubic metres of mixed species on board the vessel. The vessel sank off early dawn of

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Wednesday (Nov 22) as it headed Zamboanga to deliver the logs to a sister company of Baganga Ply in the said city. City Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) of Baganga Melchor Osaraga said that the Philippine Coast Guard is still conducting an investigation on the incident. Initial reports said that the accident was brought about by big waves and some mechanical defects of *Mike 1*. CENRO Osaraga denied speculations that the major cause of the incident is the overloading of logs that were cut from Baganga and its neighbouring towns. "It couldn't be overloading because records showed that it did not exceed the load line which was checked before the ship sailed off," he said. Some civilians and members of the church alliance claimed that the incident is not just an accident but a clear proof of a massive logging operation in the said town. Fought for years, the said alliance campaigned against the tolerated illegal logging activities in Baganga and Cateel. The group also pushed for the Total Log Ban to be implemented in Davao Oriental to prevent further catastrophes caused by environmental degradation. However, Osaraga clarified that logs transported to Zamboanga have been permitted by the authorities and the shipment made was also legal. "It was plainly an accident," he said. But he cited other sinking incidents that previously happened in Cateel and in the capital town, Mati. Meanwhile, residents within the place of the incident are worried about the oil spill caused by the sinking. "There's no need to worry about the oil spill since the area has no mangroves and it's far from the coastline," Osaraga stressed. Nevertheless, environmental advocates took the accident as a wake up call for the authorities to be more aware of illegal operations and strictly implement policies that would protect the Philippine forests.

Manila, Nov 25 — An initial investigation by the Philippine Coast Guard indicates that general cargo *Mike 1* sank due to flooding in its internal compartments. The Coast Guard said that the vessel had originated from Baganga Plywood Co in Davao Oriental, loaded with 1,084 cubic metres of assorted round logs for delivery to Zamboanga city. While navigating in the area of Baculin Point Baganga, Davao City, the vessel's duty watch observed that the vessel was listing. The vessel's master immediately decided to take shelter at Baculin Anchorage and conducted ballasting operations to balance the vessel, however the vessel continued to sink. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

MISSISSAGI (Canada)

London, Nov 28 — Bulker *Mississagi* (9706 gt, built 1943), downbound in ballast for Windsor Ont, reported an engine failure, crankcase explosion, in lat 42 37N, long 82 31W, at 2332, UTC, Nov 27. After anchoring off Algoma, Michigan, the vessel will be towed to Sarnia, Ont, with the use of two tugs for repairs.

Troy, Mich., Nov 28 — Bulker *Mississagi* was disabled near Algonac MI, yesterday evening. It is believed she delivered a load of stone to Harsens Island in the North Channel and was upbound when engine or other mechanical problems occurred. She was towed upstream to Sarnia, this morning at 0745 hrs, by the Gaelic Towing tugs *Shannon* and *Patricia Hoey*. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

MISSISSIPPI QUEEN (U.S.A.)

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated Nov 27, states: The Coast Guard gave passenger (cruise) *Mississippi Queen* clearance to resume its schedule after an eight-inch crack in the steamboat's hull plating was repaired. The excursion boat stopped in St. Louis for repairs after discovering the crack on Nov 14 during a cruise. "The crew discovered a small crack along the seams of the hull plating and they made the necessary repairs," said Dan Miller, a spokesman for the Delta Queen Steamboat Company, which owns the boat. Capt. Sharon Richey, commander of the Coast Guard's Sector Upper Mississippi River in St. Louis, said it appeared the boat struck something either on the river or while pulling in to dock.

MSC PATRICIA (Panama)

London, Nov 25 — General cargo *MSC Patricia* passed Skaw Nov 23.

London, Nov 30 — General cargo *MSC Patricia* arrived Rauma Nov 27.

NAVION HISPANIA (Norway)

Trondheim, Nov 24 — It has been reported in the local press that oil production at Njord A, Haltenbanken, was temporary closed down, after crude oil tanker *Navion Hispania* ran into the Hydro-operated floating storage tanker, at approximately 1950 hrs, Nov 13. The incident took place during preparation for a loading operation at the Njord-field, under normal weather conditions. No pollution was reported and there were no injuries, but according to the newspapers a lifeboat and a winch on *Njord B.FSU* were damaged and the vessel also sustained minor hull damage. *Njord B.FSU* arrived Kristiansund during the evening of Nov 22, assisted by four tugs. Scheduled maintenance work and repair of the contact damage will be carried out at Sterkoder yard, Kristiansund. ETS approximately Dec 17. — Lloyd's Agents.

Kristiansand, Nov 24 — Crude oil tanker *Navion Hispania* is still under repair at Stavanger. The repairs are expected to be completed in about a week. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 27 — Following received from Teekay Marine Services AS., Grimstad, dated Nov 26: The Owners and Managers of the crude oil tanker *Navion Hispania*, which made contact with floating storage tanker *Njord B.FSU* during crude loading operations on Nov 14, report that the vessel arrived at the Rocenberg

Shipyard, Stavanger on Nov 16, for inspection and repair. Repairs to the bow section are scheduled for completion on Nov 28, when the vessel will resume service. There was no pollution and no injuries sustained in this incident. Teekay Marine Services is co-operating fully with the relevant authorities on this investigation.

NJORD B.FSU (Norway)

See *Navion Hispania*.

NORDFJELL (Norway)

London, Nov 23 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 1530, UTC: Roll On Roll Off *Nordfjell* refloated with the aid of salvage tug *Bison* at 1100, local time, today. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, *Nordfjell* was located stationary in lat 59 20 14.76N, long 05 18 24.78E, at 1548, UTC, today, nearest port Haavik, at a distance of 1.4 nautical miles.) (See issue of Nov 23.)

London, Nov 27 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, roll on roll off *Nordfjell* was located in lat 57 53 30.9N, long 07 58 28.44E, at 1027, UTC, today, course 103 deg, speed 7.3 knots, nearest port Kristiansand at a distance of 15.6 nautical miles.

NORSUND (DIS)

London, Nov 29 — Tug *Norsund* arrived Hirtshals Nov 24 and sailed Nov 27.

NORWEGIAN DAWN (Bahamas)

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger (cruise) *Norwegian Dawn* finally pulled out of port in Norfolk this morning. The cruise ship left New York last weekend but had to detour to Norfolk because of engine problems. Then they were delayed because of the bad weather. The crew planned to pull out yesterday afternoon but the weather was too severe. Many of the 2,600 passengers were furious that they paid for a Caribbean vacation but wound up in the middle of the storm instead. Norwegian officials offered all the passengers a free cruise sometime next year.

London, Nov 25 — Passenger (cruise) *Norwegian Dawn* arrived New York Nov 24.

London, Nov 27 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS passenger (cruise) *Norwegian Dawn* was in lat 36 04 31.02N, long 74 42 02.68W, at 1027, UTC, course 190.2 deg, speed 23.7 knots, nearest port Manteo, at a distance of 54 nautical miles.

NOVA FRANCIJA (Netherlands Antilles)

See "Gandia, Spain" under "Pollution".

NUEVA FORTUNA (Greece)

Buenos Aires, Nov 28 — According to our sub-agents at port of San Nicolas, bulker *Nueva Fortuna* (28718 gt, built 2003), bound Cape Town, cargo 46,691 tons of sub-products, remains aground at Km. 390 on the right side of the River Parana as from 0421, local time, today. It is out of the main navigation

channel, not obstructing navigation of other vessels. Vessel's draught being 10.72 metres. At the moment, the vessel is attempting to refloat by its own means. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 29 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report : During the early hours of yesterday, bulker *Nueva Fortuna* grounded in shallow waters of the Parana River, Argentina. On board were 23 crewmembers, 13 are Greeks. From the grounding there were no injuries or pollution caused. Following the incident, the vessel which is loaded with grain remained waiting for tugs.

Buenos Aires, Nov 29 — Understand from Sub-agents at San Nicolas that bulker *Nueva Fortuna* remains grounded in the same position. As informed by the Argentine Coast Guard from Arroyo Seco, Tugs *Ciclon* and *Ona Temple* are expected to be arriving at the area at around 1700, local time, to start the corresponding operations. — Lloyd's Agents.

Buenos Aires, Nov 29 — San Nicolas sub-agents report that the attempts to refloat bulker *Nueva Fortuna* started at 1605, local time. The vessel is being assisted by tugs *Ciclon* and *Ona Temple* and it is not obstructing the navigation channel. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 30 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1010, UTC: Bulker *Nueva Fortuna* remains aground in the River Parana, with two tugs carrying out refloating efforts.

NUSA DHARMA (Indonesia)

See "Indonesia" under "Port State Control".

NYK LYNX (Panama)

London, Nov 24 — Understand Container Carrier *NYK Lynx* (75201 gt, built 2002) was in contacted the berth while carrying out berthing manoeuvres at Amsterdam on Oct 9 and that repairs were deferred. (Note — *NYK Lynx* arrived Amsterdam 1135, Oct 9, sailed 0042, Oct 13, arrived Hamburg 1752 same day and sailed 0710, Oct 21 for Far East.)

Hamburg, Nov 24 — Container carrier *NYK Lynx* underwent repairs at Hamburg between Oct 13 and Oct 21 after striking a quay at Amsterdam and sustaining a crack of several metres in its hull. — Lloyd's Agents.

ORIONIS (Hong Kong)

See under "Pollution".

OTILIA (Denmark)

London, Nov 25 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Product tanker *Otilia* (5525 gt, built 1989) sustained machine problems in the Maas estuary and was lying stopped, then required tug assistance on Nov 24. (Note — *Otilia* arrived Rotterdam Nov 20 and sailed 0950, UTC, Nov 24. Vessel subsequently arrived back at Rotterdam 0955, Nov 24, and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was in lat 53 22.23N, long 04 41.28E, 14.8 nautical miles from Texel, speed 12.5 knots, course 28.4 deg.)

Maassluis, Nov 26 — Product tanker *Otilia* sailed Rotterdam 0520, local time, Nov 25, for Stockholm — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Maassluis, Nov 28 — Product tanker *Otilia* left Rotterdam at 0530 hrs, Nov 25 and is now in Stockholm. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

OTRADA (Moldova)

London, Nov 28 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Otrada* (2406 gt, built 1965) in collision with general cargo *Tairova* (3952 gt, built 1993) Nov 24 on departure at entrance of Yeisk Harbour. *Otrada* holed 2.7x0.7 metres above waterline. No flooding, no injures, no spill.

PAUL R.TREGURTHA (U.S.A.)

London, Nov 25 — Bulker *Paul R.Tregurtha* sailed Duluth Nov 22.

PEACH MOUNTAIN (Hong Kong)

Jakarta, Nov 27 — Bulker *Peach Mountain* arrived at Batam on Nov 21. She anchored at Tanjung Pinggir Sekupang anchorage, Batam, waiting to dock at a shipyard of PT. ASL, Batam. — Lloyd's Agents.

PERSEUS V

See "Panama" under "Weather & Navigation".

PERTH (U.K.)

London, Nov 27 — Understand Container Carrier *Perth*, Ambarli for Antwerp, ran aground on the Izmir Pelikan Bank Nov 8. Efforts to refloat the vessel using its main engines were unsuccessful and the shipowners engaged local salvors, Uzmar Denizcilik San Ve Tic Limited, who successfully refloated the vessel Nov 9 with the assistance of two tugs. As a result of the incident, the shipowners have declared general average.

PETRA EXPRESS (Jordan)

London, Nov 24 — Accoding to LMIU AIS, container carrier *Petra Express* was in lat 29 09 48.28N, long 34 49 31.51E, at 0648, UTC, Nov 24, proceeding on a course of 196 deg at eight knots.

PHOENIX

Munich, Nov 24 — Vessel *Phoenix* grounded in the River Danube, near Bogen, on Nov 18. The vessel sustained bottom damage and water ingress. The vessel is currently lying near Deggendorf and has been sealed provisionally. The water has been pumped off, but the vessel is not yet fully watertight. — Lloyd's Agents.

PHOENIX (Bulgaria)

Munich, Nov 24 — Vessel *Phoenix* is registered in Bulgaria and is owned by Danub Private Shipping Ltd, Sofia. Vessel was on voyage from Regensburg to Linz with a cargo of iron ore. — Lloyd's Agents.

PIETARI FLAME (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Nov 25 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1940,

UTC: Refrigerated general cargo *Pietari Flame* (10853 gt, built 1978), 34 persons on board, reported not under command and drifting in lat 52 10N, long 03 07 E about one hour ago. Vessel attempting to effect repairs but unable to drop anchor because of underwater pipelines. (Note — *Pietari Flame* sailed Turbo Nov 4, arrived St. Michael's Nov 20 and sailed Nov 21, and ETA St. Petersburg Nov 29.)

London, Nov 25 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 2145, UTC: Refrigerated general cargo *Pietari Flame* is still adrift and attempting to effect repairs in lat 52 13N, long 03 11E.

London, Nov 26 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0630, UTC: Refrigerated general cargo *Pietari Flame* has effected repairs and proceeded to an anchorage.

London, Nov 27 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, refrigerated general cargo *Pietari Flame* was stationary in lat 52 10 56.17N, long 04 13 59.49E, at 1037, UTC, nearest port Scheveningen, at a distance of 5.3 nautical miles.

PIQUETE (Brazil)

London, Nov 24 — Product tanker *Piquete* arrived Sao Sebastio Nov 8 and sailed Nov 9.

PORT ALICE (Panama)

London, Nov 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Police are investigating a collision between bulker *Port Alice* (19791 gt, built 2005) and a trawler near Moreton Island today. Police said the bulk carrier and the trawler were about three kilometres off Moreton Island, near Brisbane, when they collided at about 0645, AEST. One fisherman on board the trawler jumped overboard to stop its propellers becoming tangled with fishing lines but no one was injured and only minor damage was caused to the vessels. None of the fishermen on board the trawler were thrown overboard. Police said the *Port Alice* was en route to the Port of Brisbane. Brisbane Water Police are investigating.

London, Nov 28 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 1520, UTC: *Port Alice* in collision with trawler ? *Jackie II* in Brisbane port approaches Nov 28. No injuries.

POTOMAC (U.S.A.)

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated Nov 29, states: For the second time in less than four months, and before the previous damage had been repaired, a barge has inflicted damage to a navigation lock at Wilson Dam, this time the Auxiliary Chamber, effectively shutting down the Tennessee River to commercial traffic. The main lock was damaged Aug 3 by a barge (pushed by tug *Potomac*) operated by Maryland Marine, Inc., out of Houston, Texas. Officials have been repairing the damage since that time, passing traffic through the Auxiliary Chamber around the clock, and through the Main Chamber when feasible using a floating caisson as a

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temporary upper gate. The Wilson Auxiliary Lock will now be closed until repairs are completed. Repairs have been made to the gate damaged in August and installation of the repaired structure is presently in progress. Officials expect to reopen the Main Lock Chamber on Dec 6. Navigation traffic in the queue to pass through Wilson currently stands at 53 lockings, with 28 more lockings in the system. This may increase, since some shippers have product enroute, anticipating the Dec 6 reopening of the main lock. No injuries were reported. The accident is under investigation. The Corps is working with the US Coast Guard and the Tennessee Valley Authority, the agency which owns the structure.

PRINCESS AVIV

See "Panama" under "Weather & Navigation".

PROBO KOALA (Panama)

See under "Miscellaneous."

QUEEN OF CAPILANO (Canada)

London, Nov 28 — A BC Ferries press release, dated today, states: Roll On Roll Off *Queen of Capilano* (2855 gt, built 1991) has resumed service on the Horseshoe Bay to Bowen Island route this morning with the 0535 hrs scheduled sailing from Snug Cove. The last two round trips were cancelled yesterday evening due to an electrical problem with one of the Right Angle Drive units. Due to high winds it was not possible to sail the vessel with three Right Angle Drives. Engineers worked overnight to fix the electrical problem. The vessel is operating with four Right Angle Drives this morning.

REMO (Norway (Int. Register))

London, Nov 28 — General cargo *Remo* arrived Velsen Nov 27.

RIROIL 3 (Russia)

London, Nov 28 — Product tanker *Riroil 3* arrived Amsterdam Nov 26.

RMS KIEL (Antigua & Barbuda)

Bremen, Nov 28 — Part containerised general car *RMS Kiel* will stay at Wilhelmshaven at least until the end of the year, if not until February 2007. — Lloyd's Agents.

ROERBORG (Netherlands)

London, Nov 30 — Container carrier *Roerborg* arrived Lisbon Nov 21 and sailed Nov 29.

ROKIA DELMAS (Panama)

Nantes, Nov 27 — Roll On Roll Off Container Car *Rokia Delmas* aground at La Pallice: One hundred and ninety-four containers have been discharged and they are looking at the possibility of discharging the remaining containers and cargo underdeck. Understand all bunkers remaining on board have been pumped out. — Lloyd's Agents.

ROSELLA (Panama)

Buenos Aires, Nov 24 — Bulker *Rosella* is currently anchored at

Escobar roads waiting to commence with lightening operations in order to allow the vessel to perform permanent repairs. Temporary repairs in way of engine-room have been carried out afloat at Km. 222.5 of the River Parana in order to authorize the vessel to sail towards Escobar roads. — Lloyd's Agents.

RUTH FIRST (South Africa)

Cape Town, Nov 27 — The managers of patrol ship *Ruth First* advise that repairs will be completed Nov 28-29, after which the vessel will return to service. — Lloyd's Agents.

SANHOPE (Panama)

See "Italy" under "Port State Control".

SEA FALCON (Bahamas)

St. Vincent, CV, Nov 23 — General cargo *Sea Falcon* sailed Sal Rei at 1300, Nov 23, for Porto Grande, St. Vincent Island, where ETA 0900, Nov 24. — Lloyd's Agents.

St. Vincent, CV, Nov 24 — General cargo *Sea Falcon* arrived at Porto Grande at 0900 hrs, today. — Lloyd's Agents.

St. Vincent, CV, Nov 27 — General cargo *Sea Falcon* is waiting at a local dry-dock for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEA VETERAN (Panama)

London, Nov 28 — Bulker *Sea Veteran* arrived Thunder Bay Nov 24.

SEGOVIA CARRIER (Bahamas)

Maassluis, Nov 24 — Refrigerated general cargo *Segovia Carrier* arrived Antwerp at 0400, Nov 10, and is still in dock. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Maassluis, Nov 27 — Refrigerated general cargo *Segovia Carrier* sailed Antwerp at 0030, Nov 26, for the UK. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

SEJAHTERA 15

See *Kenangan 6*.

SEREZ (Turkey)

London, Nov 25 — General cargo *Serez* sailed Piraeus Nov 22.

SETE CIDADES (Portugal)

Ponta Delgada, Nov 29 — General cargo *Sete Cidades* (3978 gt, built 1999) during her current voyage from the Continent to Ponta Delgada experienced main engine damage in a reported position about four miles from the south coast of St. Michael's Island and required immediate assistance due to the prevailing rough seas. The local tug *Pero de Teive* proceeded from Ponta Delgada to the scene in order to secure the vessel at sea, during the passage of the bad weather and then to proceed with the tow towards the port. — Lloyd's Agents.

Ponta Delgada, Nov 30 — General cargo *Sete Cidades*, towed by tug *Pero de Teive*, was safely put alongside the quay in the port this morning for the necessary repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

SHAH BADAR-I

Chittagong, Nov 29 — The owner/manager of lighter vessel *Shah*

Badar-I has reported that they managed to lift/salvage the vessel on Nov 28. Presently the subject vessel is being towed to "shore side". — Lloyd's Agents.

SHOSEI MARU (Japan)

See *Trust Busan*.

SKIPJACK (U.S.A.)

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated Nov 29, states: Vessel traffic between Wilson and Pickwick lakes is at a standstill after a barge struck a gate yesterday on the auxiliary lock at Wilson Dam. The 1320 hrs, accident came just a few days shy of the four-month anniversary of a barge damaging the upstream gate on the main lock at the dam. Both accidents involved barges being pushed by towboats owned by Maryland Marine Inc., of Texas, said Jim Davis, area manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which operates the lock. "He was coming into the lock on the lower side and was misaligned. He hit the lower gate, causing some damage," Davis said. Yesterday's damage forced the U.S. Coast Guard to close the Tennessee River to all boat traffic at Wilson Dam until further notice, said Petty Officer Thomas Blue, a Coast Guard spokesman. The barge, which was carrying xylene, a highly flammable chemical, was not damaged, Davis said. George Grabyran, director of the Florence-Lauderdale County Emergency Management Agency, said none of the chemical leaked from the barge, and there was no danger to the public. The barge, which was being pushed by the tug *Skipjack* (232 gt, built 2003), was using the auxiliary lock because the main lock had been closed on Monday (Nov 27) to allow a gate damaged in an August 3, accident to be reinstalled. The Corps of Engineers used a temporary gate on the main lock during the weekend to reduce a backlog of towboats and barges waiting to pass through Wilson Dam before closing the lock for about 10 days. The temporary gate on the main lock had been used intermittently since the August accident to supplement the smaller lock in an effort to keep river traffic moving. Corps of Engineers employees were preparing to install the repaired gate when yesterday's accident occurred. The main lock was scheduled to reopen on Dec 7. In the wake yesterday's accident, Davis said Corps of Engineers employees would work through the night in an effort to reopen the main lock ahead of schedule. Rather than move equipment being used on the large lock to the smaller one to repair yesterday's damage, Davis said the work would focus on reopening the main lock as quickly as possible. He said reopening the main lock is the best way to get Tennessee River boat traffic moving again. The main lock can move a group of nine barges between Wilson and Pickwick lakes in about 45 minutes. The smaller lock requires an hour to move a single barge.

SNOW WHITE (Panama)

See under "Miscellaneous."

SOCOL 2 (Malta)

London, Nov 24 — Following received from Etel MRCC, timed 0935, UTC: General cargo *Socol 2* (6030 gt, built 1991), Norrköping for Casablanca, cargo timber, lost some timber from its deck overboard in lat 47 35.8N, long 06 55.7W, at 1352, UTC, Nov 23. Vessel proceeded into Brest at 2100, UTC, same day.

Brest, Nov 27 — General cargo *Socol 2*: The restowing and relashing of the cargo of timber is now completed. Vessel expected to depart from Brest tomorrow. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOLANDER VII (Fiji)

Suva, Nov 26 — Fibreglass fishing *Solander VII* (111 gt, built 1981) sank in waters off Rotuma Island on Wednesday (Nov 22). No casualties has been reported. Eleven crew members were on life rafts for more than 24 hours before they were rescued by another company vessel, *Solander Kariqa*. It is believed the vessel caught fire in engine-room and also the fuel leak contaminated the auxiliary generator on board. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOLAR 1 (Philippines)

Manila, Nov 25 — Plans to raise sunken non specific tanker *Solar 1* have hit a snag after the Philippine Coast Guard opposed plans by the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund to use the services of Italian underwater engineering and operations company Sonsub. The Philippine Coast Guard noted that legal complications may arise if the Italian salvage company undertakes the retrieval of the remaining oil in the vessel's storage tanks because of a Philippine law which restricts salvage operations in Philippine waters to locally-owned salvage companies. "Even if the Philippine government approves the operation, there is a strong possibility that local salvage companies could bring the government and Sonsub to court for violating local salvage laws," Coast Guard spokesperson Armand Balilo said. The Venice-based company was recently awarded the contract to recover the remaining oil in the vessel by the IOPC in a public bid held in London. Sonsub plans to begin the recovery operation by February next year. This could be delayed, however, unless the Philippines and the IOPC can resolve the issue. One solution is for Sonsub to undertake the project as a joint-venture with a Philippine salvor. While no Philippine salvor has the capability to undertake an operation in such depths — the vessel is lying 620 metres of water — it could handle oil spill containment and dispersal if an oil spill occurs during the recovery operation. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Nov 25 — A total of 13,034 claims have so far been received by the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund from families and

businesses in Guimaras island affected by the oil spill resulting from the sinking of non specific tanker *Solar 1* on Aug 11. This was announced by IOPCF deputy director Joe Nichols who said that the majority of the claims were from fishermen, while 34 were from resort owners. Nichols said that they would be paying the fishermen an amount equivalent to their lost income for 12 weeks. If the affected individuals agreed to their proposal then they would fast track the processing of claims and probably have them released before Christmas, he said. However, if the fishermen rejected the proposal, they would have to think up other options, Nichols explained. "We are waiting for them to tell us whether they accept the offer so we can start making payments. If they don't accept, then we may have to have more discussions to find out why the offer is unacceptable," he said. He also noted that claims varied from Pesos 6,000 (US\$120) to Pesos 30,000 per claimant. The IOPC, has earmarked up to US\$300 million for claims payments and oil spill clean-up and rehabilitation reimbursements and expenses in Guimaras island. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SPAR OPAL (NIS)

Montreal, Nov 28 — At 2300, Nov 27, there was an incident at the Iroquois lock. Bulker *Algosoo* was in the lock west bound. Bulker *Spar Opal* (16861 gt, built 1984) ran aground approaching the lock, west bound. Then bulker *Goldeneye* (16344 gt, built 1986) also west bound, loaded with steel, ran aground trying to avoid *Spar Opal*. No pollution and no flooding to either vessel. No collision between vessels. This could be minor but understand that Seaway traffic blocked. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 29 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1340, UTC: Bulker *Spar Opal* and bulker *Goldeneye* remain aground at Iroquois Lock. An attempt was made to refloat the *Goldeneye* using one tug last night but this was unsuccessful. Two tugs are now on scene to make further attempts.

Rotterdam, Nov 29 — At 1535, local time, today SMIT Salvage safely refloated bulker *Spar Opal*. The vessel is now moored alongside Iroquois Lock upper wall. A diving survey will be conducted prior to letting *Spar Opal* proceed through the lock. — SMIT Salvage BV.

London, Nov 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulker *Spar Opal* was freed from grounding by tugs at 1532 today. The ship is being moved to the Upper Wall of Iroquois Lock where it will await a final dive inspection before resuming its voyage. St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation spokesperson Vicky Garcia said that the final inspection is merely a formality and that there was no damage to the ship. Meanwhile shipping on the St. Lawrence Seaway will remain confined to one lane for at least another 24 hours, possibly

longer, near the Iroquois Lock. Attempts to refloat bulker *Goldeneye* aground near the lock were unsuccessful today. Two tugs working to free *Goldeneye* were not able to move the ship. Seaway officials and the ship owners are planning to off-load some of the ships cargo of steel to lighten the vessel. According to Vicki Garcia, spokesperson for the St. Lawrence Seaway Develop Corporation, off-loading some of the steel will not begin until at least tomorrow, possibly later, since a detailed plan for the operation is not yet in place.

London, Nov 30 — Following received from the technical managers of bulker *Spar Opal*, dated today: The report that bulker *Goldeneye* ran aground as a direct result of trying to avoid the *Spar Opal* has been investigated by our superintendent and he advised that this was incorrect. The two vessels were on different side of the lock gate.

London, Nov 30 — Following received from Seastar Chartering Ltd, dated today: On behalf of the owners of bulker *Goldeneye* we would like to inform you of the facts which led to its grounding while navigating in the St. Lawrence Seaway in laden condition with steel products, en route to its discharging port of Oshawa. On Nov 27 the *Goldeneye* was upbound in the Seaway under pilotage, heading to Oshawa and following the upbound bulker *Algosoo*. At 2030 hrs, after the *Algosoo* had already entered Iroquois Lock, it was reported by the Seaway that the downbound bulker *Spar Opal* had run aground on the west approach of Iroquois Lock due to main engine failure, blocking the upbound/downbound traffic. In view of the above, the *Goldeneye* was instructed by the Seaway to approach and tie-up to the east wall of the Lock, until the traffic was restored. As the *Goldeneye* was approaching the tie-up wall, the Seaway noticed that tug *Commodore Strait* behind the *Goldeneye* was on its way to assist the stranded *Spar Opal*. It was assessed by the Seaway since the traffic was blocked, that if the *Goldeneye* would be tied up as initially instructed, then there would not be enough space for the *Algosoo* to back out of the lock and give way to the tug running in assistance of the *Spar Opal*. Therefore, at 2110 hrs, the Seaway requested the pilot/master of the *Goldeneye* to come and anchor at an emergency anchorage about one mile backwards. The *Goldeneye* carried out a hard turn to port but, due to insufficient width of channel, vessel's deep draught and Seaway Authority late request arising from the confusion created in the area by the *Spar Opal* grounding, the vessel was unable to successfully complete its turn and ran aground at 2120 hrs in lat 45 00.37N, long 75 17.77W. The *Goldeneye* was inspected by United States Coast Guard and Seaway Authorities immediately after the incident and its steering gear and main engine were found to be in good operational condition. No water ingress or pollution incident were reported.

London, Nov 30 — Following report issued by the St. Lawrence Seaway System authority, dated Nov 29: Bulker *Goldeneye*, aground Iroquois Lock area: The vessel's propulsion and steering are all operating in good condition. No pollution or ingress of water.

SPRING AUSTER (Panama)

Yokohama, Nov 29 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Spring Auster*, Nagoya for Ningbo, and submarine *Asashio* were in collision in lat 31 36.5N, long 131 55.7E, at 0950, Nov 21. *Asashio* sustained dents and *Spring Auster* sustained a crack in the bottom, resulting in water ingress in No 4 ballast tank. Both vessels were able to proceed under their own power. — Lloyd's Agents.

SULEYMAN KURSUN (Turkey)

See "Drugs Found On Turkish Vessel, Varna, Bulgaria" under "Miscellaneous".

SUN LAKE (Tuvalu)

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Ten sailors on a Tuvalu general cargo *Sun Lake* (498 gt, built 1998) were rescued early today when the vessel seriously tilted and was about to capsize, said Ministry of Communications' Donghai (East China Sea) Rescue Bureau. The bureau said it received an alarm at 2350, yesterday that the cargo vessel was in danger on the sea near the Yangtze River estuary, or lat 30.565N, long 122.22E. The bureau immediately sent two rescue vessels and saved all the sailors on the 54.9 metre long vessel by 0300, this morning. All the sailors are Chinese nationals with nine from Shandong Province and one from Hubei Province. The vessel, loaded with 770 tons of steel, left Shanghai Harbour yesterday afternoon for the Republic of Korea but encountered strong wind in the evening. The wind displaced the cargoes and then caused a tilt, said the bureau.

TAIKEI MARU NO.68 (Japan)

See *Guo Tong*.

TAIROVA (Ukraine)

See *Otrada*.

TERRA NOVA FPSO (Canada)

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Crew on board the floating production tanker *Terra Nova FPSO* (81455 gt, built 1999) responded to a small fire last night. The Coast Guard says it was alerted to the fire, but there was no need for an evacuation or rescue effort. The fire was reported in the floating production, storage and offloading (FPSO) platform's generator room at about 2230 hrs. The crew was able to put out the fire quickly. No one was injured. The *Terra Nova FPSO* was removed from service in May for repairs and refurbishment, and was returned to production less than two weeks ago. The platform is pumping oil about 350 kilometres south-east of St. John's.

TORM BALTIC (Singapore)

London, Nov 24 — Information received, dated Kiel today, states: Bulker *Torm Baltic* (36592 gt, built 1997), from Odessa, cargo 51,500 tons rape seed, had a fire on board in Koehlbrand harbour, Hamburg, Nov 22 evening. In Odessa small sacks filled with magnesium phosphide and phosphin pellets had been placed in the seven cargo holds for eliminating beetles and bacteria. These pellets should have diminished during the voyage leaving only an untoxic powder which normally can usually be simply removed in port. But when in Hamburg these sacks were taken out of the cargo holds and placed on deck, they caught fire under the influence of air. Obviously parts of the pellets were still in the sacks. Toxic fumes were inhaled by two harbour workers who had to be treated in hospital. *Torm Baltic* was evacuated and its crew also received medical treatment, only an emergency crew remained on board. Fire fighters then extinguished the fire and stowed the sacks in a special barrel for the transport of chemicals. Also the water which had been used to extinguish the fire had to be separated in special barrels. The police started investigations. (Note — *Torm Baltic* sailed Odessa Nov 5, arrived Hamburg 1657, Nov 22 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was still in port at 0901, UTC, today.)

London, Nov 29 — Information received, dated Kiel today, states: Bulker *Torm Baltic* could be unloaded as planned in the port of Hamburg after the removal of contaminated materials and water. As the fire was only on deck, the ship itself was not damaged. The crew needed no further medical treatment.

London, Nov 29 — Bulker *Torm Baltic*, which arrived Hamburg 1657, Nov 22, sailed 1725, Nov 28 for New Orleans and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was in lat 52 17 16N, long 03 06 16E, at 1634 today, speed 14 knots, course 226 degrees.

TRADER (Jamaica)

London, Nov 28 — Product tanker *Trader* passed Brunsbittel Nov 24.

TRONES (Malta)

London, Nov 29 — Bulker *Trones* arrived Haugesund Nov 22 and sailed the same day.

TRUST BUSAN (South Korea)

London, Nov 28 — Following received from Japan MRCC, timed 1256, UTC: General cargo *Trust Busan* (4690 gt, built 1997) and tanker *Shosei Maru* (153 gt) were in collision in lat 34 31N, long 134 03E, at about 1800, local time, Nov 29. *Shosei Maru* was seriously damaged and is now drifting. *Trust Busan* is anchored in the area.

London, Nov 28 — Following navigation warning issued today: Unmanned waterlogged tanker *Shosei Maru* adrift in vicinity of lat 34 31N, long 134 03E, about 0900, UTC, today.

London, Nov 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Tanker *Shosei Maru*, 153 gt, Kurashiki, Okoayama

Prefecture, for Kobe, cargo 370 kilolitres of crude oil, and general cargo *Trust Busan* collided this afternoon in the Inland Sea off Kagawa Prefecture, causing the tanker to leak fuel into the sea but injuring no one on either vessel, the Japan Coast Guard said. The coast guard received a report about the collision from *Trust Busan*, at around 1750 hrs and said it appeared the vessel's bow and the port side of *Shosei Maru* had collided. The tanker has become unable to move as sea water leaked into its engine-room, but its three crew members were rescued, the coast guard said, adding that an oil boom was deployed in the area to stop the spill from spreading.

VERWACHTING (U.K.)

London, Nov 29 — Following received from Coastguard Liverpool MRSC, timed 0312, UTC: Fishing (general) *Verwaching* (139 gt, built 1969) reported at 2317, UTC, Nov 28, disabled and drifting in lat 54 34.33N, long 03 31.14W, but in no immediate danger. Owner, Saltire Seafoods Ltd., Kirkcudbright, arranged for another fishing vessel to take *Verwaching* under tow. At 0309, UTC, today, *Verwaching* reported to be under tow of fishing vessel *Kingfisher*, proceeding to Holyhead.

London, Nov 29 — Following received from Coastguard Holyhead MRSC, timed 1147, UTC: Fishing (general) *Verwaching* arrived safely at Holyhead at 1145, UTC, in tow of fishing (general) *Kingfisher*.

VILLE DE DUBAI (Antigua & Barbuda)

Istanbul, Nov 28 — Traffic suspended from north to south at 1510, local time, today, due container carrier *Ville de Dubai* (9068 gt, built 1996) with engine problem in the strait and dropped anchor in Bebek Bay. — TurkishStraits.com.

London, Nov 28 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, container carrier *Ville de Dubai*, on voyage from Constantza, was located in lat 41 04 29.74N, long 29 02 57.19E, at 1307, UTC, course 241.1 deg, speed 1.9 knots, nearest port Uskudar, Bosphorus, at a distance of four nautical miles.

London, Nov 28 — Southbound traffic in the Istanbul Strait was suspended between 1500 and 1525 today, due to a vessel's (Container Carrier *Ville de Dubai*) engine problems at Bebek Bay.

London, Nov 28 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, container carrier *Ville de Dubai* was stationary in lat 40 59 15.09N, long 28 57 51.38E, at 1940, UTC.

London, Nov 29 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, container carrier *Ville de Dubai* was located stationary at Istanbul in lat 40 59 14.75N, long 28 57 51.42E, at 1429, UTC, today.

London, Nov 29 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, container carrier *Ville de Dubai* was in lat 40 54 31.25N, long 28 46 01.07E, at 1652, UTC, today, speed 14.6 knots, course 258.3 degrees..

VOLGO-DON 213 (Russia)

London, Nov 29 — Following received from Ankara MSRCC, timed 0749, UTC: General cargo *Volgo-Don 213* (4000 gt, built 1977) struck a buoy in lat 41 01.3N, long 28 59.8E, at 2356, local time, Nov 28. The vessel is currently still in the vicinity of the incident. No pollution is reported but the Bosphorus is presently closed to shipping.

London, Nov 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Shipping traffic in Istanbul's Bosphorus Strait was suspended early this morning after general cargo *Volgo-Don 213* collided with a pontoon being used to construct a tunnel beneath the busy waterway. The vessel rammed the construction pontoon, which was moored off the coast of Istanbul's Kandilli district at the southern end of the strait, in the early hours of the morning, Turkish maritime authorities said. The vessel, which was en route from the Black Sea, was not carrying a pilot at the time of the collision. Coastal Security and Vessel Rescue Administration tugs are working to free the vessel.

London, Nov 29 — Following received from Ankara MSRCC, timed 1530, UTC: General cargo *Volgo-Don 213* is still "aground" in the same position.

London, Nov 29 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Volgo-Don 213*, Azov for Syria, cargo grain, collided with a Turkish dredger in the Bosphorus Strait today, the Transportation Ministry's press service reports. Trying to avoid a head-on collision, the Russian ship hit the dredger's anchor chain and listed against the dredge. As a result its main deck and part of its hull's plating were damaged. Leaks were discovered in several tanks. "Nobody was injured. There was no leak of fuel," it said. By 1500, Moscow time, the ship had been towed to a quay and anchored.

London, Nov 29 — Understand at 2356, Nov 28, in spite of all the Turkish Straits Vessel Traffic Services warnings, general cargo *Volgo-Don 213* was exposed to a sea peril in front of Kizkulesi in Istanbul Strait and due to an erroneous navigation collided with pontoon *Kanyun* which works on the Marmaray Project. In order to provide the safety of navigation, life, property and protect of marine environment search and rescue *Kiyi Emniyeti 1, 2, 4 and 7*, salvage vessel *Gemi Kurtaran* and tugs *Kurtarma 2* and *Kurtarma 4* were sent immediately to the place of incident. No pollution and loss of life was reported. For repairing the cracks, the vessel has towed from *Kanyu* and anchored to an appropriate place in front of Salacak at 1100 today.

VOS REBEL (Liberia)

Maassluis, Nov 28 — Standby safety vessel *VOS Rebel* is currently at Serdijn Ship Repair, Rotterdam. Understand the vessel is expected to sail at about 1500, Nov 29. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

VOUTAKOS (Panama)

London, Nov 24 — Bulker *Voutakos* (95748 gt, built 1987) left Cuxhaven

Nov 23 for Brunsbuttel and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was stationary in lat 53 53 14N, long 09 10 45E, at 0823, UTC, today.

London, Nov 27 — Bulker *Voutakos* arrived Brunsbuttel 1305, Nov 23.

WARBABY FOX (Bermuda)

Bermuda, Nov 23 — Ferry *Warbaby Fox* was back in service by Nov 15. — Lloyd's Agents.

WESTWOOD POMONA (Bahamas)

London, Nov 28 — Roll on roll off *Westwood Pomona* arrived Los Angeles Nov 25.

WESTWOOD RAINIER (Bahamas)

Yokohama, Nov 29 — General cargo *Westwood Rainier* (32551 gt, built 2002) came into contact with Asuka Dock No 90, Nagoya, at 0755, Nov 22, while shifting from Kinjyo Dock No 77 to Asuka Dock No 91. The vessel sustained denting and holing in the bulbous bow. Fenders and car stoppers on the dock were also damaged. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Westwood Rainier* sailed Nagoya Nov 26.)

ZHONGSHUI 606 (China)

Suva, Nov 24 — Fishing (general) *Zhongshui 611* was successfully salvaged at 0830, Nov 22. Fishing (general) *Zhongshui 606*, fishing (general) *Zhongshui 508* and *Zhongshui 611* are all now berthed for repair at Suva Harbour and it is reported by the agents of the vessels that the damages to the vessels are very minor. — Lloyd's Agents.

ZHONGSHUI 611 (China)

See *Zhongshui 606*.

ZHONGSHUI 801 (China)

See *Zhongshui 606*.

ZIM MEXICO III (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated today, states: A German company yesterday pleaded guilty to criminal charges stemming from a fatal accident at the state docks in Mobile involving one of its vessels earlier this year. Chief US District Judge Ginny Granade accepted the plea and fined Rickmers Reederei \$375,000 in accordance with an agreement reached between attorneys for the firm and the US attorney's office. The company paid the fine yesterday, along with a \$400 court fee. A corporate officer for the Hamburg firm told Granade that his company accepted responsibility for the actions of Wolfgang Schroder, who was master of container carrier *Zim Mexico III* when it struck a container crane on Mar 2. A jury in October convicted Schroder of neglect or misconduct of a ship officer in connection with that collision, which killed electrician Shawn Jacobs. "We apologize to the family of Mr Jacobs," said Thies Lau, on behalf of the managing directors of Rickmers, which pleaded guilty to the same charge. The fine will be deposited in the federal treasury.

Granade waived restitution to the family after prosecutors and defence lawyers told her that a civil lawsuit against Rickmers had been resolved. Citing a confidentiality clause, they discussed the terms of that settlement with Granade in private and declined to publicly state how much the company is paying. Michael Chalos, an attorney who represented Rickmers, said a jury had already decided that Schroder's criminal negligence caused the accident. "The issue's been tried," he said. "The company felt that under the law, it was responsible for the acts of its agent." The company admitted that Schroder was at the rudder and engine controls of the vessel on Mar 1. The vessel was equipped with a bow thruster powered by the main engine shaft generator. Prosecutors presented evidence at the trial that Schroder knew that the generator was designed to disengage whenever the RPM deviated by more than 10 degrees. When that happened, the bow thruster shut off and the vessel lost its ability to maneuver in the narrow Mobile River. Other evidence jurors heard in October indicated that vessel had lost use of the bow thruster on previous occasions for the same reason. Schroder is scheduled to be sentenced Feb 7. Although the US Probation Office originally estimated that Schroder faced at least three years and five months in prison under advisory sentencing guidelines, Granade later indicated the true guideline range would be substantially less than that.

ZOSCO ZHOUSHAN (Panama)

London, Nov 25 — Anchor Handling tug/supply *Englishman* sailed Rotterdam 1850, UTC, Nov 24, for Calais, to tow bulker *ZOSCO Zhoushan*, as a dead ship, to Rotterdam. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *ZOSCO Zhoushan* was stationary in lat 51 04 16.5N, long 01 48 45.96E, 6.7 nautical miles from Calais, at 1755, UTC, Nov 25. According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Englishman* was in stationary in lat 51 01 25.65N, long 01 57 13.55E, 7.1 nautical miles from Calais, at 1755, UTC, Nov 25.)

London, Nov 26 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS bulker *ZOSCO Zhoushan*, in tow of anchor handling tug/supply *Englishman*, was 35.8 nautical miles from Ostend, in lat 51 46.34N, long 02 41.2E, speed 3.5 knots, course 67 deg, at 2204, UTC, today.

London, Nov 27 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS bulker *ZOSCO Zhoushan* was in lat 51 57 26.16N, long 04 07 53.5E, at 1730, UTC, today.

London, Nov 28 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Tug *Englishman* reached the Maas with bulker *ZOSCO Zhoushan* which had sustained machine damage off Calais, morning of Nov 27. The vessel was towed to Vlissingen with the additional assistance of *Johan de Witt* and some harbour tugs.

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

Port State Control



HONG KONG

London, Nov 29 — A cash problem has delayed repairs to the North Korean-flagged general cargo *Kang Nam 5* (1135 gt, built 1984), which has been detained in Hong Kong for more than a month following a port state control inspection. The ship's agent, Topping Enterprises, confirmed yesterday that the North Korean owner was having trouble remitting cash for repairs to the 1984-built ship. An executive at the agent said between \$20,000 and \$25,000 was needed. "The owners do not have enough money to settle the repairs," he said. But he was confident repairs would be completed soon. The Marine Department said it had not yet received a request to reinspect the vessel after repair. (Note — *Kang Nam 5* arrived at Hong Kong on Oct 25.)

INDONESIA

Manila, Nov 27 — The Merak Port Administration has suspended the operation of roll on roll off *Nusa Dharma* (1436 gt, built 1973) following a general safety inspection of all ferries calling at the west Indonesian port. "We have halted the operation of *Nusa Dharma* because its operator failed to meet the required safety standards," Dalle Effendi, head of the port administration said on Saturday (Nov 25). "We have ordered the vessel's operator to withdraw it for docking and repair of all safety equipment because its poor condition could endanger passengers," he added. The inspection revealed an almost total disregard of safety standards as 90% of safety equipment on the ferry was not functioning. The vessel was likewise not equipped with lifeboats, lifejackets or fire extinguishers. Communication equipment between the engine room and the bridge was not functioning while two compasses used to navigate at sea were both broken. Besides ignoring safety standards, the port inspection team also found that the vessel was short of crew members. The vessel, which required a complement of 40 crew members, only had a crew of 15. *Nusa Dharma* is one of 25 ferries servicing the Sundra Strait. The general safety inspection at Merak was prompted by a fire which completely destroyed a similar vessel, roll on roll off *Lampung*, on Nov 16 as it was approaching Merak. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

ITALY

La Spezia, Nov 23 — General cargo *Sanhope* (6836 gt, built 1981) was detained by Harbour Master Office Nov 21 due to deficiencies reported during Port State Control visit. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Sanhope* arrived La Spezia Nov 19.)

La Spezia, Nov 29 — General cargo *Sanhope* was released by the Harbour Master's Office of La Spezia on Nov 28 and sailed from La Spezia to Ravenna. — Lloyd's Agents.

Seizures & Arrests



A.P.SUNSHINE (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Zeebrugge, Nov 28 — General cargo *A.P.Sunshine* (2983 gt, built 2006) was arrested at Antwerp on Nov 23. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *A.P.Sunshine* arrived Antwerp Nov 22.)

ADISHAKTI (India)

London, Nov 29 — A press report, dated Nov 25, states: Customs and Excise department personnel at Jamnagar have detained a "Japanese" vessel, which was brought for ship-breaking, after its owners' failed to provide necessary documents, sources at Customs department said today. The vessel has been detained after the Surat-based Steem Company, which had purchased it for breaking, failed to provide custom clearance certificate, sources said. The company had purchased the ship nearly one year back for breaking at Alang ship-breaking yard in Bhavnagar. However, the vessel was not allowed entry due to a lack of documents, sources said.

Mumbai, Nov 29 — The vessel which has been detained is tug *Adishakti* (454 gt, built 1976). — Lloyd's Agents.

ALEXANDER (Georgia)

Beirut, Nov 24 — General cargo *Alexander* is still under arrest, waiting for the Council of Ministers to meet to give their resolution. — Lloyd's Agents.

ARIEL S. (Belize)

Beirut, Nov 24 — General cargo *Ariel S.* is still under arrest. The matter has to be considered in the Council of Ministers. The lawyer, Baroudi, is waiting for documents from the Lebanese Consul in Belize, where the vessel is registered, to produce to the authorities concerned. — Lloyd's Agents.

DODEKANISIAKI ANONYMOS NAFTILIAKI ETAIRIA

London, Nov 24 — Passenger ro/ro *Patmos* now named *Pat* and reportedly sold to Indian breakers, sailed Piraeus Nov 18.

London, Nov 25 — Passenger ro/ro *Diagoras* sailed Piraeus Nov 23.

PATMOS (Greece)

See "Dodekanisiaki Anonymos Naftiliaki Etairia."

RUSTAVI (Georgia)

St. Petersburg, Nov 28 — Fish carrier *Rustavi* sailed Murmansk Sep 19 for the Barents Sea. — Lloyd's Agents.

SKY (Cambodia)

Ashdod, Nov 24 — General cargo *Sky* is still under arrest at Ashdod. Understood the vessel has not yet been sold, as the offers received were below the court's expectations. — Lloyd's Agents.

Pipeline Accidents



ASSAM, INDIA

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated Nov 24, states: An ONGC pipeline burst due to a mechanical defect in upper Assam's Sivasagar district today, sparking rumours that it was destroyed in a bomb blast. District Superintendent of Police S P Saikia said a mechanical defect on the crude oil pipeline at Khotiapar, about nine km from Sivasagar town, caused it to burst with a loud sound at 1900 hrs. The bursting of the pipeline caused an oil spill. As the area where the incident occurred is within a jungle, there were no casualties, Saikia said.

BIHAR STATE, INDIA

London, Nov 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire broke out in the Guwahati-Barauni crude oil pipeline today near Chauki village of Bihar's Begusarai district, about 45 km from the district headquarters, causing panic among villagers. Police said there was report of leakage in the pipeline which caught fire later. Though there was no official confirmation, eyewitnesses said that the fire was caused due to a lighted bidi thrown by somebody. Officials of the Barauni refinery have been informed about the incident, sources in Sahebpur Kalam police station said adding a security cordon has been thrown around the incident site.

MAHMOUDIYA AREA, IRAQ

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

NORTH OSSETIA, RUSSIA

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion has occurred along a trunk pipeline in Russia's North Caucasus republic of North Ossetia supplying Russian natural gas to Georgia and Armenia, the emergencies ministry said today. A spokesman for the ministry said the explosion damaged one of two pipelines in the North Caucasus-Transcaucasus trunk pipeline, and that technicians were working to restore gas deliveries through the undamaged pipe.

SURABAYA AREA, INDONESIA

Sidoarjo, Nov 24 — Three more bodies were found today near the scene of a gas pipeline explosion in Indonesia's East Java province which was linked to a devastating mudflow, pushing the overall death toll to 11.

The blast late on Wednesday (Nov 22), which disrupted gas operations in the region covered by state oil company Pertamina's East Java Gas Pipeline, occurred in the area where hot mud has been gushing unchecked from near the Banjar Panji exploratory gas well since the end of May following a drilling accident. The pipeline was located underneath sand-and-gravel dikes made to contain the mud. The transmission pipe broke after land subsidence hiked the pressure, igniting some of the gas. The mudflow has inundated several villages, dozens of factories and swathes of paddy and sugarcane fields, causing an unfolding environmental disaster in Sidoarjo, an industrial suburb of Surabaya, Indonesia's second largest city and port. Three more bodies were found today, officials said, and rescuers were still searching for one more missing person. The dead and missing due to the blast were soldiers or site workers assigned to help contain the mud. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono yesterday ordered the total closure of the 440-hectare area affected by the mudflow, saying it was considered a dangerous area. Vice President Jusuf Kalla said government experts were convinced they could plug the leak by January. Efforts to stop the mud torrent have been unsuccessful so far and several government contingency plans failed to materialise for various reasons, including moving key roads and railroad tracks affected by the mudflow. More than 10,000 people have been displaced so far by the mud, gushing at a rate of 50,000 cubic metres a day from the well. The Banjar Panji well was operated by Indonesia's Lapindo Brantas, a unit of PT Energi Mega Persada, partly owned by the Bakrie Group, which is controlled by the family of Indonesia's chief social welfare minister Aburizal Bakrie. The firm has denied the mud flow is directly linked to the drilling operation. — Reuters.

Surabaya, Nov 30 — A man died late yesterday after suffering injuries from last week's gas pipeline explosion in the Indonesian area swamped by a devastating mudflow, pushing the incident's death toll to 12, a doctor said. The Nov 22 blast, which disrupted gas operations in the region covered by state oil company Pertamina's East Java Gas Pipeline, occurred in an area where hot mud has been gushing unchecked since the end of May following a drilling accident. "Around 98 percent of his body suffered from burns. A skin transplant had been conducted but his condition deteriorated," Dr. Urip Murtedjo, spokesman of the Soetomo hospital in the East Java capital of Surabaya, told reporters. The pipeline was located underneath sand and gravel dikes made to contain the mud. The transmission pipe broke after land subsidence hiked the pressure, igniting some of the gas. The 12 casualties related to the blast were soldiers or, like the latest victim, site workers. The mudflow has inundated a major toll road, several villages,

dozens of factories and swathes of paddy and sugarcane fields, causing an unfolding environmental disaster in Sidoarjo, an industrial suburb of Indonesia's second largest city Surabaya. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono ordered today the total closure of the 440-ha area affected by the mudflow, saying it was considered a dangerous area. — Reuters.



Pollution

GANDIA, SPAIN

London, Nov 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Authorities said today refrigerated general cargo *Nova Francia* (5476 gt, built 1989) had accidentally leaked oil into the sea off Gandia. The authorities at the Port of Gandia have activated a emergency plan to limit any damage to the sea and wildlife. Sources said a black "stain of 100 square metres by 40sqm" was visible. But boats have been deployed to stop this spreading. The incident happened at about 0600 hrs when *Nova Francia* was taking on oil. Liduvina Gil, port spokesman, said it appeared a pipe slipped into the water without crew members noticing.

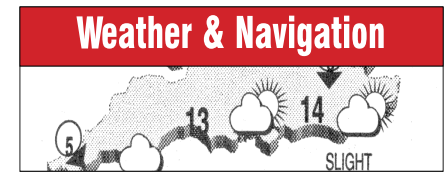
MERCURY (Bahamas)

London, Nov 27 — A press report, Nov 17, states: A cruise ship company that dumped more than 500,000 gallons of untreated wastewater into Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca from passenger (cruise) *Mercury* (76522 gt, built 1997) was fined \$100,000 by the state yesterday. It's the first such fine ever issued in Washington for a violation of this kind, and the maximum allowed. The release of pollution occurred despite a 2004 agreement banning the dumping of waste in Washington waters unless it's been cleaned with a special treatment system. "Celebrity Cruises takes full responsibility for these discharges and has taken corrective actions to prevent them in the future," said Dan Hanrahan, president of Miami-based Celebrity Cruises Inc., in a statement. Those operating the vessel were unaware that they were in state waters when they released the waste, according to a spokesman. "This is an unfortunate issue," said Fred Felleman, a consultant with the non-profit group Bluewater Network and local marine advocate. "Most mariners should be able to read a nautical chart." The waste was discharged 10 times over nine days in September and October of 2005. It was mostly untreated sink, shower and laundry water, which is illegal to dump in state waters. The release also included a small amount of treated sewage waste, according to the state Department of Ecology, which issued the fine. In some cases the violations occurred within a couple of miles of commercial shellfish and geoduck beds

on the Olympic Peninsula. Celebrity Cruises told the Ecology Department in December 2005 that it had not released any untreated waste in Washington waters that year. But in a September inspection of the ship, department investigators reviewing the *Mercury's* wastewater discharge records discovered that wasn't true. "Our old salts knew their stuff," said Ecology spokesman Larry Altose. "That's what led to it." Upgrades of treatment systems are being done on all of the Celebrity Cruises ships, said Michael Sheehan, a spokesman for the cruise line. They should be completed next year and will make the water so clean it's nearly drinkable, he said. The 2004 voluntary agreement to not dump wastewater came after the discharge of 40 tons of raw sewage by a Norwegian Cruise Lines ship near Port Townsend in the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

ORIONIS (Hong Kong)

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A mobile court yesterday fined general cargo *Orionis* (11978 gt, built 1980) Tk 20,000 for polluting environment. Sources said the court led by Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Md Munir Chowdhury in a drive at port channel on Thursday (Nov 23) found the vessel causing serious air pollution by emitting black smoke. The court yesterday summoned the master of the vessel and realised Tk 20,000 as forfeiture under Chittagong Port regulation.



CANADA

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated Nov 24, states: Insurance claims are pushing Cdn\$30 million after a storm that caused a boil-water advisory in the Vancouver area, according to IBC regional officials quoted in the Victoria Times-Colonist. Lindsay Olson, B.C.-Yukon vice-president of IBC, said insurance claims for storm damage had passed the \$20-million mark as of Nov 22. According to the Victoria newspaper, Olsen said these loss totals do not include business revenues lost by restaurants, coffee shops and other businesses that depend on clean water. Those losses are almost certainly not covered by insurance, the paper cites Olsen as saying.

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A snow fall warning remains in effect for parts of B.C. Environment Canada says once the snow storm tapers off tonight, the temperature is expected to drop below freezing. This will turn any water and slush on the roads into ice, leaving them slippery. There have been power outages reported in the communities of Mission, Hope, Coquitlam, Langley,

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

Tsawwassen, Delta and most of Bowen Island. Vancouver International Airport has reported several flight cancellations and delays. They're urging anyone who has a flight leaving Vancouver to check the Air Canada or Vancouver airport websites first. In Vancouver, road crews have been working around the clock to keep the streets clear

CENTRAL AMERICA / MEXICO

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Temperatures dropped sharply as a cold snap swept through Mexico and Central American nations, leaving at least 12 people dead. A great part of Mexico has been affected by the cold spell and the temperature in Mexico City dropped to as low as zero degree Celsius, where the temperature is usually above 17 degrees in autumn. Five people have been killed in cold-related accidents, according to local media. This winter will be the coldest in more than a decade in Mexico with about 100 cold snaps being expected to hit the country, far more than 43 last year, a statement released by Mexico's Interior Ministry predicted, citing meteorologists. At least six cold-related deaths were reported in Guatemala as of Thursday. A man about 60 died from coldness in Santa Tecla, 10 km from San Salvador, capital of El Salvador. El Salvador Coffee Survey Fund warned cold snaps could reduce the Central America state's coffee production by 15 percent in the year of 2006-2007.

INDIA

London, Nov 26 — Owing to poor unfavourable weather conditions, twenty-eight incoming and outgoing flights to and from here were delayed yesterday. The affected airlines were Kingfisher, Jet Air, Air Sahara, Indian and Air Deccan, because of cloudy weather, said the airport sources. Flights to and from Mumbai, New Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram, KOchi, Coimbatore, Goa and Mangalore were delayed. They included Jet Air (12), Kingfisher (9), Indian (3), and Air Deccan and Air Sahara, one each.

ROMANIA

Bucharest, Nov 27 — The port of Constantza was closed at 1900, Nov 26, due to fog and Midia was closed at 1945 hrs for the same reason. — Lloyd's Agents.

RUSSIA

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A cyclone currently affecting Russia's Sakhalin Island and the Kuriles has disrupted electric power supply to the cities Kholmsk, Nevelsk, Tomari and settlements in the Ulegorsk, Kholmsk and Smirnykhov districts. According to the press service of the Sakhalinenergo power utility company, due to overlapping of wires and adhesion of wet snow to them the automatic overload protection system

went off over 40 times switching off 13 electric power transmission lines this morning, which caused electricity supply disruption to settlements. A total of 21 brigades of electricians and 23 machinery units have been engaged in repair efforts. According to meteorologists, the cyclone is gradually moving away from Sakhalin to the Sea of Okhotsk, but there is still strong wind on the islands reaching 27 metres per second. A storm in the Tatar Strait in the north of the Sea of Japan has been for the second day keeping the Vanino-Kholmsk ferry service closed. Four large specialised diesel-electric vessels working on the line are sheltering from the storm under the Khabarovsk territory coast. The air service Sakhalin-Iturup Island of the Kuriles chain is also not working due to bad weather. Aircraft have not been flying from Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk for the second day.

KENYA

Nairobi, Nov 29 — The worst floods in decades have killed 11 more Kenyans in the last two weeks, bringing the death toll to 34 since last month, the Red Cross said today. Torrential rains have battered the Horn of Africa region in recent weeks, killing hundreds, uprooting thousands more and triggering a humanitarian disaster. Somalia and parts of neighbouring Ethiopia and Kenya have been particularly hard hit. "Our assessment is one person died in North-eastern province and 10 in Eastern," a Kenyan Red Cross spokeswoman said. A Kenyan government minister gave a lower overall death toll, saying 20 people had died since the floods began. He said the authorities were working with the United Nations to deliver emergency aid and move affected communities to higher ground. "Our estimation is that 20 people have died so far," said Wario Ali, an assistant minister for special programmes. He said the government had spent \$3 million so far on relief operations. Weather experts expect the rains to continue into January. — Reuters.

MALAWI

Lilongwe, Nov 29 — Flash floods in southern Malawi killed four people and the government urged people living in flood-prone areas to move to higher ground. "Three women and one child have died and we now fear that more may die if they don't move now because more heavy rains are expected," Richard Msowoya, the cabinet official in charge of disaster preparedness, told Reuters on Wednesday. Msowoya said floods destroyed over 915 hectares of crop and 32 houses when the banks of the Mwanza river which flows into the Shire river, the country's biggest, burst following heavy rains in the past several days. — Reuters.

PANAMA

London, Nov 25 — Heavy rains and flooding in Panama have left at least eight people dead and damaged

hundreds of homes, the government said yesterday. The rains, which began Monday (Nov 20) and were predicted to last until today, have caused rivers to overflow and bridges to collapse, cutting off several communities northwest of the capital of Panama City, authorities said. The dead included two men killed in a landslide, two men who drowned, a couple killed when a tree fell on their house, and a pregnant woman who suffered a spike in her blood pressure but failed to receive medical attention because her community had been cut off, said National Civil Protection Director Roberto Velasquez. The eighth fatality occurred in the community of Capira, 50 miles west of the capital, Velasquez said. He did not release any details. A search was also under way for a park guard reported missing in the Colon province, the federal Environment Department said. Yesterday, officials sent first aid, bottled water, dry goods and other domestic items by helicopter to the Cocle, Colon, and Panama provinces, Interior Minister Ileana Golcher said. More than 200 houses have been destroyed and nearly 700 others damaged, the Civil Protection Department said.

Balboa, Nov 27 — General cargo *Perseus V* is undergoing repairs. The aft bilge is pumping and a floating dock between the shore and the vessel has been installed. It is being suggested that the vessel will be taken to Pier 3 on Front Street where they will continue repairs and complete some piping repairs that were being performed prior to going aground. Work is also being undertaken on general cargo *Princess Aviv* and the vessel had a divers' flag on her mast today. — Lloyd's Agents.

Balboa, Nov 27 — General cargo *Liberty V* (1393 gt, built 1975) is currently aground in the Cristobal area due to bad weather. — Lloyd's Agents.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "YANI"

London, Nov 24 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: The centre of tropical cyclone "Yani" was located near lat 14.4S, long 162.9E, at 0600, UTC, Nov 24. The cyclone is moving towards the south at about three knots but is expected to gradually turn towards the south-west. Sustained winds of 65 knots are expected close to the centre, decreasing to 50 knots in the next 12-24 hours. Expect winds over 63 knots within 30 miles of the centre, over 47 knots within 50 miles of the centre and over 33 knots within 120 miles of the centre in the south-eastern semicircle and within 90 miles of the centre in the north-western semicircle. Forecast position for 0600, UTC, Nov 25 is lat 16.2S, long 162.5E.

TYPHOON "DURIAN"

London, Nov 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm "Durian" gained strength in the Pacific Ocean east of the Philippine island of Luzon and is heading in a westerly direction toward the

archipelago, a U.S. Navy weather agency said. "Durian", with maximum sustained winds of 101 kilometers an hour, was located 1,274 kilometres east of the city of Tacloban on Leyte island at 0200 hrs, Philippines time, according to the U.S. Navy Joint Typhoon Warning Centre Web site. Winds are gusting to 129 kilometres an hour as the storm heads west at 18 kilometres per hour. It is forecast to strengthen into a typhoon later today. "Durian" is forecast to turn to the west-northwest as it approaches Luzon, the Philippines main island. The storm's winds are forecast to strengthen to 221 kilometres per hour by the early hours of Nov 30, making it a Category 5 storm on the Saffir-Simpson scale of 1 to 5.

London, Nov 28 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Durian" near lat 11.9N, long 133.2E, at 0600, UTC, Nov 28. Movement past six hours 285 deg at 17 knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 60 knots with gusts to 75 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 25 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 70 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 65 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 60 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, Nov 29: Position lat 14.6N, long 126.1E. Maximum sustained winds 95 knots with gusts to 115 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 30 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 50 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 120 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 115 nautical miles elsewhere.

London, Nov 28 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Durian" near lat 11.9N, long 133.2E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 285 degrees at 17 knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 60 knots, gusts 75 knots. Forecast position lat 12.9N, long 130.3E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots, gusts 90 knots. Forecast position lat 13.8N, long 127.8E at 0600, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 85 knots, gusts 105 knots.

London, Nov 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Durian", packing winds of up to 120 kilometres per hour, headed toward the eastern Philippines today, where residents braced for possible floods and landslides. The fourth typhoon to hit the northeastern Philippines in as many months, "Durian" was expected to intensify further before passing close to Catanduanes island and slamming ashore over Aurora province on Friday (Dec 1), forecasters said. The weather bureau warned that the dangerous cyclone, could become a "super typhoon" with winds of at least 185 kph and could reach metropolitan Manila. Mayor Noel Rosal of Legazpi City in northeastern Albay province, one of the areas ravaged by previous typhoons this year, said disaster response agencies were working overtime to prepare for possible

emergencies. "Electric power hasn't even been restored to some villages. But now that the threat is here, we have no choice but to prepare," Rosal said. In central Sorsogon Province, Mayor Guillermo So said the coast guard barred ferries from leaving ports to prevent accidents.

London, Nov 29 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Typhoon "Durian" near lat 13.0N, long 128.6E at 0000, UTC. Movement for the past six hours 285 degrees at 15 knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 90 knots, gusts 110 knots. Forecast position lat 13.6N, long 126.2E at 1200, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 100 knots, gusts 125 knots. Forecast position lat 14.2N, long 124.1E at 0000, UTC, Nov 30. Maximum sustained winds 115 knots, gusts 140 knots.

Manila, Nov 30 — Typhoon "Durian" slammed into northern Philippines today shutting schools, halting sea travel and forcing hundreds of coastal residents to flee to higher ground as it barrelled towards Manila. The eastern island of Catanduanes and a nearby province were plunged into darkness after power companies halted operations. Disaster officials raised the top alert level, warning of flash floods, landslides and storm surges of up to 20 feet. "Durian", a category 4 typhoon, brought winds of up to 190 kph and gusts of up to 225 kph on a northward path that could sweep close to Manila tomorrow morning. "Evacuation is ongoing in the eastern seaboard of the Philippines," Nathaniel Cruz, weather services chief, told local radio. — Reuters.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Nov 26 — Gales and flooding battered Britain overnight - and the bad weather is set to continue, forecasters have warned. Wiltshire fire service said off-duty staff were called in to help respond to more than fifty emergency calls received from people affected by heavy rain, especially around Swindon where rail services were badly disrupted by flooding. One motorist had to be rescued from a car after getting stranded in floods close to the village of Sells Green, near Devizes. A Met Office forecaster said that predicted 75mph gusts did not materialise and the wind speed was closer to 50mph. Some Irish Ferries Swift Sailings on the Dublin/Holyhead route have been cancelled due to adverse weather conditions forecasted on the Irish Sea.

UNITED STATES

New York, Nov 24 — The Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) has returned to normal operations after slowing rates for a week after bad weather led to lengthy delays in loading tankers at the port of Valdez, a spokesman for the pipeline's operator said today. "We're back up to 100 percent and the port is moving nicely as well," said Alyeska Pipeline Services spokesman Mike Heatwole. Rates on the pipeline had been

reduced to as low as 25 percent earlier this week, forcing North Slope oil field operators BP Plc and ConocoPhillips to slash production. Tanker loadings at Valdez had been regularly interrupted by bad weather since Nov 16. — Reuters.

Earthquakes



INDONESIA

Jakarta, Nov 29 — A strong undersea earthquake struck near the Moluccas islands in northern Indonesia today, the U.S. Geological Survey said on its Web site, but there were no reports of a tsunami or casualties. The U.S. agency put the strength of the quake, which struck at 1032 hrs (0132 UTC), at a magnitude of 6.1. Indonesia's state meteorological agency in Manado on nearby Sulawesi island originally measured it at a 6.6 magnitude and because of that issued a tsunami warning to local broadcasters. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage from the earthquake. — Reuters.

London, Nov 29 — A strong deep sea quake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale rocked the Indonesian island province of North Sulawesi today and damaged or destroyed more than a dozen buildings, officials said. The quake struck at 0132 GMT and was centered 376 kilometres north-east of the provincial capital Manado at a depth of 74 kilometers. "There's no potential for a tsunami," meteorological agency official told French news agency. The quake destroyed three buildings and damaged a dozen others on Morotai island near the epicenter off Halmahera Island, but there were no reports of casualties, a district chief said. "Besides a mosque and a madrassa (an Islamic religious school), a health polyclinic was also destroyed while the number of houses damaged now stands at 10. Two schools were also damaged, but there was no loss of life," North Halamhera district chief told local radio.

Volcanic Activity



MOUNT ETNA, ITALY

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Volcanic ash spewed from simmering Mount Etna today, forcing authorities to close a nearby airport, officials said. The Fontanarossa airport, the main facility in eastern Sicily, would stay closed at least until early tomorrow, "when the state of the volcanic phenomenon and possible reopening of the airport will

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be examined,” the airport said on its web site. “This is all part of Etna’s normal activity,” said Antonella Scalzo, a geologist with Italy’s Civil Defense Department. “The ash is a nuisance, it’s not a precursor of a change in activity.” The 10,974-foot-high volcano resumed eruptions in early September and has sent lava streaming as far down as 7,546 feet. Scalzo said that is a safe distance from people’s homes, which don’t go any higher up the volcano than 2,297 feet. Civil Protection Department spokesman Roberto Forina said the only damage from the ash had been the airport’s closure.

London, Nov 28 — A press report, dated Nov 27, states: Clouds of volcanic ash billowing from Mount Etna forced authorities to shut down the airport near the Sicilian city of Catania today, for a fourth straight night. Fontanarossa Airport, the main airport in eastern Sicily, will be shut down as a precaution from dusk today to dawn tomorrow, Italy’s civil aviation authority said. The airport is being closed only overnight since pilots can avoid ash-laden clouds during the day, authority spokeswoman Loredana Rosati said. A number of flights have been cancelled or diverted at Fontanarossa since a column of smoke and ash began pouring from Etna last week.

MOUNT NYAMURAGIRA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, Nov 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A volcano erupted late yesterday near the city of Goma in eastern Congo, spewing lava in an area devastated by a major eruption four years ago. Mount Nyamulagira began erupting at about 2200 hrs, said Celestin Kasereka, head of the Goma volcano observatory. Specific details of the eruption weren’t immediately available. Kasereka said observation of the site had been difficult because of the unrest in the region. Goma is not in the path of lava flows from Nyamulagira because its sister volcano, Mount Nyirangongo, protects the city. “Nyirangongo constitutes a barrier,” Kasereka said.



AFGHANISTAN

Kabul, Nov 24 — US-led coalition troops clashed with Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan today, killing seven of the militants, the US military said. Afghanistan has this year seen the most intense violence since US-led forces drove the Taliban’s radical Islamic government from power in 2001. The level of violence has taken Afghanistan’s allies by surprise but the fighting has eased off in recent weeks. One soldier from the US-led

coalition force was wounded in the battle in Kandahar province in the south which involved artillery, mortars and close air support, the US military said in a statement. There were no casualties among civilians, it said. Afghanistan’s separate NATO force said one of its soldiers was killed and one wounded when militants fired a rocket at a NATO patrol in Ghazni province, to the south-west of the capital, Kabul, yesterday. More than 3,700 people have been killed in the violence this year, according to a recent government and UN report. Most of the casualties have been militants but more than a quarter of them were civilians. More than 150 foreign troops have also been killed, most of them American, British and Canadian. A Taliban commander said this week their attacks had fallen off because of the onset of winter but he vowed a fresh offensive in the spring. NATO says the level of violence has fallen because the Taliban suffered heavy losses. — Reuters.

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: One NATO soldier and about 57 insurgents were killed in four separate attacks in southern Afghanistan, officials said today. Insurgents attacked NATO-led forces Saturday (Nov 25) near Tirin Kot district in Uruzgan province. NATO returned fire and requested air support, killing approximately 50 insurgents, said the International Security Assistance Force of Afghanistan. One NATO soldier was also killed in the incident. In the Panjwaii district of Kandahar province, insurgents fired upon Afghan National Army and NATO soldiers Saturday. A retaliatory air strike killed approximately five insurgents, said the ISAF statement. Three NATO soldiers were injured. Canadian troops are deployed in Panjwaii, however, NATO has not yet released the nationalities of the three injured soldiers. In neighbouring Zabul province, about 50 Taliban fighters attacked the Arghandab district chief compound on Saturday and clashed with police for about an hour, leaving one Taliban dead and three wounded, said district chief Fazal Bari. On the Kabul-Kandahar highway in Zabul, Taliban fighters ambushed a police convoy Saturday night and exchanged gunfire with police for about 20 minutes, said Zabul highway police commander Jainani Khan. One Taliban was killed.

London, Nov 27 — A press report, dated Nov 26, states: A Pakistani suicide bomber detonated himself in a crowded restaurant today, killing 15 people and wounding 24, including an Afghan special forces commander and a district chief, the provincial governor said. The restaurant, located in the southeastern province of Paktika, was destroyed, said Governor Mohammad Akram Akhpelwak. The attacker was believed to be targeting the military commander and the district chief, he said. The suicide strike was the 102nd in Afghanistan this year, attacks that have killed 241 people, said Maj. Luke

Knittig, a spokesman for NATO’s International Security Assistance Force. Akhpelwak said the suicide bomber was from Pakistan, but he gave no further details.

Kandahar, Afghanistan, Nov 27 — A suicide bomber killed two NATO soldiers in an attack on an alliance convoy in Afghanistan’s southern city of Kandahar today. NATO spokesman in Kandahar Squadron Leader Jason Chalk could not give the nationalities of those killed, but Canadians form the bulk of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in the province. Civilians said the bomber ploughed into the convoy in a car. NATO forces sealed off the site of the attack on a road where several government buildings are located, they said. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack and military chief Mullah Dadullah said suicide bombers had infiltrated every city and would strike again. NATO said today it had killed an Afghan who ignored warnings to stop — including flares and warning shots — as he approached a convoy in Helmand province, also in the south. Today’s incident is the latest in which troops have fired on civilians in the mistaken belief they were under attack. On Saturday (Nov 25), NATO said it would mount signs on its vehicles in the two official languages, Dari and Pashto, warning people to keep away. A similar measure has long been in place in Iraq. However, half of Afghan men and 80 percent of women cannot read. ISAF said yesterday NATO forces had killed about 55 Taliban fighters in two separate engagements the previous day, both in the violent south. Two NATO soldiers died in on of the clashes. — Reuters.

Kabul, Nov 29 — A roadside bomb killed two NATO soldiers in Afghanistan, as the alliance decided to increase its forces in the country to overcome a resurgent Taliban. Yesterday’s attack struck a combat patrol in Logar province, about 60 km south of the Kabul, NATO said. The Taliban has launched a wave of attacks in recent days, killing six NATO soldiers in the past week. On Monday (Nov 27), two Canadian soldiers died when a suicide bomber rammed his car into their convoy in the southern city of Kandahar. NATO leaders at a summit in Riga will today declare their determination to prevail over the Taliban, but the increase in troop numbers is only small. A NATO spokesman said three countries had pledged more troops and a majority had agreed to ease restrictions on where and how their forces could fight in Afghanistan. — Reuters.

BANGLADESH

London, Nov 22 — The political crisis in Bangladesh deepened today after the third day of pitched street battles between rival parties left a trail of destruction and one person dead. Rioting in the northern town of Bogra, seen as a stronghold of the ruling Bangladesh National party (BNP), saw one man stabbed to death. Three

people were killed and around 200 wounded in clashes earlier this week. A nationwide strike, called by the opposition Awami League, has shut the country down and many businesses, shops and petrol pumps remain closed - sealing off the country's capital Dhaka.

Karachi, Nov 23 — Transportation of goods to and from the Chittagong Port of Bangladesh is likely to resume today on a limited scale as 14-party coalition relaxed its blockade on rail, road and waterways in Chittagong. According to media, the blockading political coalition will allow the goods laden trucks to move from the port to Chittagong city but will continue the blockade on the highways connecting the port city with the capital and other parts of the country. Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury addressing a rally at Lal Dighi Maidan yesterday afternoon asked his followers to allow transporting of goods up to Chittagong city. But no transport will be allowed to leave or enter the city, he said. He relaxed the blockade for three days to clear baby foods and perishable items which have been stockpiling in the port yard. Meanwhile, dock workers, however, are determined to continue the blockade on the Chittagong Container Terminal (CCT) demanding cancellation of an agreement signed with a private company. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Dhaka, Nov 24 — Ports and businesses reopened across Bangladesh today, after a four day transport blockade ended, the latest in a political campaign ahead of elections next year. The blockade ordered by a 14-party alliance led by Sheikh Hasina of the Awami League party was called off after the chief election commissioner, accused of a bias towards its main opponent, stepped aside. The blockade shut down transports, ports and schools across the country. Ten people were killed and hundreds injured in clashes between rival political parties during the shutdown over the past four days. The Awami League said it welcomed the decision of the chief election commissioner M. A. Aziz to go on leave, but would keep up the pressure on the country's interim administration to carry out more electoral reforms to ensure a free and fair election next January. "We can't have a farcical vote under people with questionable character," Hasina said. Her party had demanded that the government also sack Aziz's deputies, accused of a similar bias towards its rival, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. Election commission officials said one of Aziz's three deputies, Mahfuzur Rahman had taken over as acting election commission chief, a move which could further anger the Awami League. — Reuters.

Dhaka, Nov 25 — Two people were killed and several injured as clashes intensified between Bangladesh political rivals over elections in January. Police said the clashes involved activists of Awami League led

by Sheikh Hasina and Bangladesh Nationalist Party of Begum Khaleda Zia, both former prime ministers. One of the victims died in Chittagong and the other in the coastal Patuakhali district. Several home-made bombs went off at Dhaka University as Awami and BNP students sought to tighten respective control on the 50,000-strong campus. Police said no one was hurt but tension was high. Police said they feared more violence as the pro-Awami Jubo League called for protests outside Dhaka's presidential palace this afternoon. A 14-party alliance led by Hasina and a United Front which included dissidents of the BNP have called for a siege to force the country's interim government to fire key election commission officials, including acting chief Mahfuzur Rahman. Rahman took over earlier this week after his boss, chief election commissioner M.A. Aziz went on three months' leave to defuse mounting pressure from Hasina's alliance for his dismissal. The Awami League and its allies said today they would not take part in an election under Rahman. "We want Mahfuzur Rahman and his cronies removed immediately," said Awami general secretary Abdul Jalil. "Unless it is done, we will launch a bigger movement to force President Iajuddin to resign as chief adviser of the caretaker authority," he said. — Reuters.

Dhaka, Nov 28 — Political activists set fire to two election commission offices in Bangladesh today, as a 14-party alliance began a new campaign to force the removal of top election officials. The protests came a day after the election commission set parliamentary elections for Jan 21, defying calls by the Awami alliance to delay poll announcements until the commission was reorganised and the voters' list updated. The alliance accuses the election commission of bias toward their main rival Begum Khaleda Zia and her Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). Khaleda ended her five-year term as prime minister in October and the country is now being run by an interim administration headed by the president. Riot police stopped thousands of protesters, led by former prime minister and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, as they marched toward the heavily guarded election commission headquarters in the capital Dhaka. Protesters scuffled with police and broke through at least one barricade, but security forces prevented them from reaching the headquarters. "We will not be deterred by any resistance ... and will launch a more fierce campaign from Sunday (Dec 2) to achieve our demands," said Awami leader Mohammad Nasim, a former home minister. The alliance has threatened to step up protests including a new transport shutdown if the election commission goes ahead with its poll schedule. Earlier today, suspected alliance supporters set fire to district election offices in the southern coastal town of Barisal and

in Munshiganj district, near Dhaka, police said. Hundreds of documents were burnt. Another election office and a court building were set on fire in the south-western town of Khulna yesterday. — Reuters.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Paris, Nov 28 — Government troops in Central African Republic, backed by French forces, have launched an offensive to retake a north-east town from rebels, and have recaptured its airport, a French military spokesman said today. French armed forces spokesman Christophe Prazuck said French troops fired in self defence during the operation yesterday to retake Birao, capital of Vakaga prefecture, which was seized on Oct 30 by rebels opposed to CAR President Francois Bozize. — Reuters.

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated Nov 29, states: French forces have clashed with rebels in the Central African Republic (CAR) during a government offensive to regain control of the northern town of Birao. A French army spokesman said troops had reacted in self defence when they came under rebel fire near Birao's airport. Earlier this month, France promised to provide logistics and intelligence to CAR in their struggle against rebels who have recently seized several towns. The UN says thousands of people have fled fighting in the region. The CAR government says it has retaken Birao, 800km north-east of the capital, Bangui, but fighting is reported to be continuing. The government says the Union of Democratic Forces for Unity (UFDR) rebels are operating from Darfur with the support of the Sudanese authorities. French armed forces spokesman Christophe Prazuck said a French military transport plane flew CAR troops to Birao to retake the airport yesterday. "During this operation, the troops were attacked and retaliated. So French troops shot in self defence at rebels who were attacking them," Reuters news agency reports him as saying. Rebel spokesman Diego Albator Yao has denied that rebels had lost control of the town and said French soldiers were occupying Birao airport. "Our men are still there, but we don't need to attack the French because they are not interfering in our domestic problem," he said. He claimed the rebels had captured another town, Ndele, and were heading for the capital. The UFDR rebels say they are fighting against corruption and mismanagement under President Francois Bozize, who seized power in a 2003 coup. The United Nations says 46,000 people have crossed over to neighbouring Chad because of the unrest and another 90,000 are internally displaced within eastern CAR.

CHAD

London, Nov 26 — Chadian rebels attacked the eastern regional capital of Abeche overnight in their latest strike against President Idriss Deby's

rule, wresting control from government forces who withdrew and surrounded the town. Rebels of the Union of Forces for Democracy and Development (UFDD) took control of Abeche. Aid workers and diplomats reported looting as government troops fled. A second rebel group, the Rally of Democratic Forces (RAFD), said it had seized the town of Biltine, some 60 km to the north, just a few hours later after light clashes with government troops. It was not immediately possible to confirm this. Chad's army said it had pulled back from Abeche to prevent civilian casualties after the early morning attack by several armed convoys. Abeche lies on the main road to Chad's capital, some 600 km to the west, and is 160 km from the border with Sudan.

London, Nov 29 — A press report, dated Nov 28, states: A Chadian rebel group has claimed to have shot down a military plane which was bombing their positions. Mahamat Nouri, leader of the UFDD rebel group which briefly captured the eastern city of Abeche at the weekend, said his men downed the plane. Chad's communications minister admitted the plane was missing but said he could not yet confirm if it was shot down. He again accused Sudan and Saudi Arabia of backing the rebels, who are trying to overthrow President Idriss Deby. Mr Nouri said the plane was shot down in eastern Chad at about 0600 hrs, this morning, west of the town of Am Zoer, which is about 80km north of Abeche. He claimed it was struck with a surface-to-air missile which his men had taken from the Chadian army barracks when they attacked Abeche on Saturday (Nov 25). The Forces for Development and Democracy rebel commander said the plane was attacking his forces when the missile was launched. The government have confirmed that two planes went on a surveillance mission this morning and that one is now missing, but says there is no way of telling whether the plane was shot down or whether it may have been forced to make an emergency landing. Sources say the two planes were only delivered to the air force in Abeche yesterday and were on their very first sortie.

COLOMBIA

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated Nov 21, states: At least 11 guerillas and three government soldiers were killed in clashes between the army and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) in Colombia, the army's General Gilbero Rocha said today. The clash began late yesterday close to the village of Remolinos del Caguan, in the southern Colombian department of Caqueta, said Rocha, adding that the army had found a ton of FARC explosives close to the village of Orito, in southern Colombian department of Putamayo. Elsewhere yesterday, 15 people, including two policemen, were wounded in a bomb attack on a police patrol car in Petecuy, a working class

district in Cali. Most of the injured were hit by flying glass. Two other attacks have also occurred in Cali and caused minor property damage. Cali authorities said they were considering imposing a curfew as the FARC appeared to be targeting police in cities in southern Colombia. According to the army, four FARC rebels have been captured and some 40 kg of cocaine seized close to Vistahermosa, a town in the central department of Meta. The army also caught three rebels in Puerto Inirida, in the eastern department of Guainia when they were carrying 40 kg of pure cocaine.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 2,000 civilians have fled across the Congo River to escape fighting between supporters of the two rivals who contested the presidential election, the United Nations says. The clashes flared at Bolobo, 280 kilometres upriver from the capital Kinshasa in the western Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The fighting was the first violent incidents since electoral authorities announced a provisional result giving victory in the Oct 29 run-off to incumbent President Joseph Kabila. The latest fighting in western Bandundu Province, near Equateur province, were the first renewed clashes between the rival factions since Mr Kabila's victory, still to be confirmed by the Supreme Court. Although details were sketchy, authorities in neighbouring Republic of Congo reported that some 1,900 people had crossed the river and taken refuge in the towns of Mpouya and Bouemba.

Kinshasa, Nov 25 — Fighters loyal to a dissident general attacked army positions in eastern Congo with heavy weapons and small arms today, said the government and the United Nations. "Our military positions in Sake have been coming under attack from (rebel general Laurent) Nkunda since early this morning. Our brigade there is fighting back," Congolese Interior Minister Denis Kalume told Reuters. U.N. sources confirmed the attack on Sake, which is the front line between rebel and government forces some 20 km west of the provincial capital of North Kivu. — Reuters.

Kinshasa, Nov 27 — UN peacekeepers in Congo used a helicopter gunship today to block an advance against the eastern city of Goma by forces loyal to a renegade general, a UN officer said. Major Ajay Dalal, spokesman for Indian peacekeepers in North Kivu Province of Democratic Republic of Congo, said the UN forces engaged the soldiers of General Laurent Nkunda who seized another eastern town, Sake, yesterday. Dalal said that, at 0330, UTC, soldiers from the former Congolese army's 81st and 83rd Brigades, who have refused to join a new integrated national army, headed east towards Goma. Congolese government forces fled their positions and UN troops in the rebels' path were

threatened. "The attack helicopter was called for and fired on these elements. The advance towards Goma has been stalled," Dalal said. He added UN soldiers were also fighting another group of Nkunda's forces outside Sake, which the rebels took yesterday. — Reuters.

Kinshasa, Nov 27 — Democratic Republic of Congo's Supreme Court proclaimed Joseph Kabila president today after throwing out a legal challenge to his election victory by rival Jean-Pierre Bemba. The court rejected a challenge filed by former rebel warlord Bemba against results from the October 29 presidential run-off showing Kabila had won 58.05 percent of the votes against 41.95 percent for Bemba, whose camp had alleged "systematic cheating". The court session, which confirmed the result already announced by electoral authorities, was held in the Foreign Ministry in Kinshasa, because the Supreme Court building was set on fire by rioting Bemba supporters last week. — Reuters.

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated today, states: The last of three rebel groups in Ituri district in east DR Congo has agreed to disarm, potentially paving the way for permanent peace in the troubled region. The accord is the first step to ensure that up to 5,000 militiamen hand in their arms in exchange for an amnesty. The deal follows historic polls which saw Joseph Kabila elected president. In a dimly lit room, representatives of three rebel groups signed a deal which could draw to a close fighting in one of the bloodiest corners of DR Congo. This latest deal, which comes in the wake of the first free elections in more than 40 years, means that all three militia groups operating in the area have agreed to put down their weapons and become integrated into the regular army. The process has been controversial, with former rebel commanders offered top posts. But Brigadier General Christian Houdet from the UN peacekeeping mission in Congo said it was a historic day. Under the agreement, the armed groups are expected to release an estimated 700 child soldiers in the region and begin assembling at transit sites over the coming weeks to disarm. Cobra Matata, who commands the rebel FRPI (Ituri Patriotic Resistance Front) group, was the last of the warlords to sign the deal.

ETHIOPIA

London, Nov 28 — Ethiopian forces have exchanged fire with Islamists in a strategic town north of Somalia's capital, officials of the powerful Islamic movement say. The Union of Islamic Courts chairman Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed told a rally in Mogadishu that Ethiopian forces began shelling Bandiradley at 0300, GMT. Earlier this month, Islamists captured the town near semi-autonomous Puntland, which has strong ties to Ethiopia. There is no independent confirmation of the

fighting and no Ethiopian reaction. Last week, Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said the Islamists represented a "clear threat" to his country which he said was prepared for conflict following repeated Islamist calls for a holy war. The UIC, which is backed by Ethiopia's rival, Eritrea, and now controls much of southern Somalia, has denied claims by Ethiopia and the weak Somali transitional government that it has links to al-Qaeda.

FIJI

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated Nov 29, states: Fiji's military has staged night-time exercises to secure strategic areas of the capital, Suva, citing fears of "foreign intervention". Troops fired flares and set up checkpoints in what military leaders described as a training exercise. The move came amid warnings by Australia and other regional powers of an imminent coup in the Pacific nation, but PM Laisenia Qarase, who earlier met the military's chief for talks, said he had been told no coup would take place. Mr Qarase, who met with military chief Frank Bainimarama in New Zealand, said their talks had made substantial progress, and that he looked forward to further discussions. He described the exercises as "routine". Fiji has been tense for weeks amid a public stand-off between the two sides, with military leaders accusing the government of corruption and deceitfulness. In a statement today, Fiji's military said the exercises were being carried out to protect the country. "The exercise is in anticipation of any foreign intervention and the Republic of Fiji Military Force is taking all precautionary measures," the statement said. Troops in full combat dress began securing the centre of Suva at midnight, (1200, UTC) for three hours of planned operations. Armed troops manned checkpoints while others took up positions close to key institutions such as the national parliament, Reuters news agency reported. The military advised the general public to remain cautious when travelling into the centre of Suva, but urged them not to be alarmed by the exercise. The Fijilive website reported that it was "business as usual" on the streets of the capital, with people still going to nightclubs. The heart of the feud between the military and Mr Qarase's government lies in plans by the government to offer amnesties to those involved in a racially-motivated coup six years ago. The proposal is bitterly opposed by Cmdr Bainimarama, who put down the coup, and who at one stage was forced to flee for his life. Australia's Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said the situation remained worrying in Fiji, despite what he called a "helpful" meeting between the two men. Australia also said a Black Hawk helicopter had crashed into the sea near Fiji as it tried to land on HMAS Kanimbla. One person had died and

another was missing. Australia sent three naval ships to Fiji earlier this month as a precaution in case its citizens needed evacuating.

Suva, Nov 30 — An Australian Blackhawk Army helicopter crashed off the coast of Fiji waters late yesterday. According to ABC News the Black Hawk was trying to land on HMAS Kanimbla when it crashed into the ship's deck and plunged into the sea with 10 soldiers on board as reported. The Australian Naval ship is waiting in Fiji waters to evacuate Australian citizens in the event of a coup. This incident happened last evening killing one soldier, while another remains missing. Meanwhile the President Ratu Josefa Iloilo has been told that any foreign assistance to end the impasse between the Fiji Military and Government should be stopped, but instead he should urgently encourage skilled mediation between the disciplined forces and the Government. In other development Fiji's former prime minister Sitiveni Rabuka is charged with two counts of inciting a mutinous act particularly for removing the Commander of Fiji Military Forces on or about July 4 and November 2, 2000. The trial continues in the high court today. — Lloyd's Agents.

HAITI

Port-au-Prince, Nov 27 — Kidnappings and other violent crimes have increased in Haiti in recent weeks, and Prime Minister Jacques Edouard Alexis today blamed the surge partly on criminals deported by the United States. As many as 100 people have been kidnapped for ransom in November, according to the Coalition of Victims and Friends of Victims of Kidnappings, a group that assists relatives. According to police statistics, 40 kidnappings were reported in October and 30 in September. There seems to be no pattern to the abductions and they are not confined to any particular social class or group. Even with the presence of an 8,300-member United Nations peacekeeping force, Haiti has struggled to contain gang and political violence since a bloody rebellion ousted then-President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in February 2004. At least two recent kidnapping victims, a 20-year-old woman and a six-year-old boy, were killed even after ransoms were paid. The woman, Fara Natacha Dessources, was found dead last week after being kidnapped and tortured by gunmen outside the capital. She was shot several times and one of her arms was broken. The body of the boy, Carl Rubens Francillion, was found near Cap-Haitien on Haiti's north coast, police said. He was kidnapped in Port-au-Prince. Haitian officials have long complained that the United States sends dozens of Haitian criminals to the Caribbean island each month after they have finished serving their U.S. prison time. With its feeble judicial system and police force, the impoverished nation is ill-equipped to deal with them. — Reuters.

INDIA

Guwahati, Nov 23 — One person was killed and about half a dozen people were wounded today when suspected anti-India rebels exploded a bomb outside a crowded railway station in the northeastern state of Assam, police said. The blast took place in a taxi parking lot near a military transit camp outside the train station in Guwahati, the biggest city of northeastern India. Police said they suspected the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), which has been fighting for the freedom of Assam for more than two decades. — Reuters. (See issue of Nov 22.)

Srinagar, India, Nov 28 — Ten civilians, including six Indian tourists, were wounded when suspected separatist militants threw a grenade in a resort town in Kashmir today, police said. The tourists were attacked in Tangmarg on their way back from the ski resort of Gulmarg, about 35 km from Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, said a senior police officer. "We have cordoned off the area," he said. At least 15 tourists have been killed and 55 wounded this year in a series of attacks on visitors to the Himalayan region. — Reuters.

IRAQ

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The number of Iraqi civilians killed in October hits a new high number of 3,709, the highest since the U.S.-led invasion in March 2003, a UN report said today. The report noted that the influence of militias is growing, and torture continues to be rampant despite the Iraqi government's commitment to address human rights abuses. "Hundreds of bodies continued to appear in different areas of Baghdad handcuffed, blindfolded and bearing signs of torture and execution-style killing," said the report released by the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). "Many witnesses reported that perpetrators wear militia attire and even police or army uniforms," the report said. The report said the number of 3,709 people, including women and children, killed in October and that the "sectarian violence" seemed to be the main cause. The new figure for October, based on data provided by the Baghdad health ministry and morgues, showed that 7,054 civilians were killed over the two-month period, including 351 women and 110 children. October's figure was 119 more than July's total of 3,590, which UNAMI had termed unprecedented.

Baghdad, Nov 23 — A series of car bombs killed 30 people and wounded 95 in a Shi'ite militia stronghold in Baghdad today and gunmen mounted an audacious daylight raid on a Shi'ite-run government ministry. Three apparently co-ordinated car bombs and a mortar blast in different parts of Sadr City neighbourhood destroyed whole streets, leaving bloodied remains amid mangled vehicle wrecks in one the worst bomb attacks in the capital this month. Five

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people were wounded at the Health Ministry, about five kilometres from Sadr City, an Interior Ministry source said, when about 30 guerrillas fired mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and machineguns into the compound in one of the biggest public shows of force by militants in the city since the 2003 U.S. invasion. A deputy health minister accused the Iraqi army of failing to respond to his calls for help. It took the arrival of U.S. helicopters and ground troops to disperse the attackers, one ministry employee told Reuters after surviving the assault. During the raid, Deputy Health Minister Hakim al-Zamily spoke by telephone to Reuters: "Terrorists are attacking the building with mortars, machineguns and we can even see snipers. Any employee who leaves the building will be killed." An Interior Ministry source said gunmen had surrounded the ministry, north of central Baghdad on the mainly Shi'ite eastern bank of the Tigris, and clashed with Iraqi forces. Three mortar rounds landed in the ministry compound, he said. The source said the gunmen had attempted to break into the ministry compound but had been driven back. While the United States says many police and army units are suspected of being loyal to Shi'ite groups, some, particularly in the army, are believed to have links to Sunni leaders. The Health Ministry, controlled by Shi'ite cleric and militia leader Moqtada al-Sadr, is at the centre of controversy. Sadr's Mehdi Army militia, which has its Baghdad stronghold in the nearby Sadr City slum, is accused by the once dominant Sunni minority of some of the worst death squad killings, in which hundreds of people a week are dying in Baghdad. The health minister flatly denied a U.N. report which said a record 3,700 civilians died in violence in October. The real figure was about a quarter of that, Ali al-Shimeri said — an account at odds with data from other sources and with recent statistics from the ministry itself. Zamily said the health ministry was often attacked but today's raid was unusually sustained, with militants apparently trying to forge a safe corridor to link the Sunni enclave of Adhamiya in east Baghdad to the mainly Sunni west bank of the river. — Reuters.

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: In the deadliest attack since the beginning of the Iraq war, suspected Sunni-Arab militants used three suicide car bombs and two mortar rounds on the capital's Shiite Sadr City slum to kill at least 150 people and wound 238 today, police said. The Shiites responded almost immediately, firing 10 mortar rounds at the Abu Hanifa Sunni mosque as Azamiya, killing one person and wounding seven people in their attack on the holiest Sunni shrine in Baghdad. The Interior Ministry imposed a curfew on Baghdad until further notice.

Baghdad, Nov 24 — The death toll from a series of car bombs in the Shi'ite stronghold of Sadr City in

Baghdad yesterday rose to 202 with 250 more people wounded, Iraqi police said today. Doctors had said many of the wounded were seriously injured and unlikely to survive. — Reuters.

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A car bomb exploded in northern Iraq today, killing at least 22 people and wounding 26, police said. The 1100 hrs. blast was outside a car dealership in Tal Afar, 260 miles northwest of Baghdad. Baghdad remained under a 24-hour curfew aimed at stopping revenge attacks, after over 220 people were killed yesterday by car bombs and mortars in Baghdad's largest Shiite neighborhood. Three mortar rounds exploded near the Abu Hanifa mosque, Sunni Islam's most important shrine in another area of Baghdad, at 0945 hrs, today, wounding one guard, said its sheik, Samir al-Obaidi. The rest of Baghdad remained mostly quiet this morning, police said. In addition to the curfew, today is a day of worship in mostly Muslim Iraq when many people have the day off work. For several months, the government has been imposing a 1100 to 1500 hrs ban on vehicles on Fridays, forcing people to walk to their local mosques for services. Yesterday night, Iraq's government imposed the curfew in the capital and also closed its international airport to all commercial flights. The transport ministry then took the highly unusual step of closing the airport and docks in the southern city of Basra, the country's main outlet.

London, Nov 24 — A British soldier has been shot dead during a search and detention operation in Basra, the Ministry of Defence said today. His death brings to 126 the number of British military personnel killed since the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003 — of which 96 have been killed in action. The unnamed soldier was a member of the Parachute Regiment on secondment to the headquarters of the Multinational Division South East, Iraq. — Reuters.

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Gunmen broke into two Shiite homes and killed 21 men in front of their relatives, police said today, as Vice President Dick Cheney sought Saudi Arabia's help in calming Iraq after an especially violent week. The capital remained under a 24-hour curfew two days after suspected Sunni insurgents killed 215 people in Baghdad's main Shiite district with a combination of bombs and mortars. Another 87 people were killed or found dead in sectarian violence across Iraq Friday (Nov 24). The chaos cast a shadow over the summit next week between Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and President Bush in Amman, Jordan. Also today, US and Iraqi forces killed 22 insurgents and an Iraqi civilian, and destroyed a factory being used to make roadside bombs, during several raids north of Baghdad. During three of the coalition raids, soldiers killed 10 insurgents near the city of Taji, which is 12 miles north of Baghdad and

home to a major US air base. An Iraqi teenage boy also was killed and a pregnant Iraqi woman was wounded in the crossfire, the military said. US aircraft were called in to destroy a factory being used to make roadside bombs, and soldiers searching the area also found hidden caches of rocket-propelled grenades, machine guns, anti-aircraft weapons and pipe bombs.

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A suicide car bomber attacked a checkpoint near Fallujah today, killing a US soldier and three Iraqi civilians, and wounding nine other civilians and an American service member, coalition officials said.

London, Nov 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Three US Army soldiers were killed and two wounded during combat operations in Baghdad, the military said today. The Multinational Division soldiers died at about 0900 yesterday, the command said. Yesterday was the last day of a 24-hour curfew that barred all civilian vehicles in the capital. It was imposed after more than 200 Iraqis were killed in Sadr City, Baghdad's large Shiite slum, on Thursday (Nov 23) in the deadliest insurgent attack of the war. The deaths raised to at least 2,878 the number of members of the US military who have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March, 2003.

London, Nov 27 — A bomb exploded under an oil pipeline and set it on fire today south of Baghdad, and Iraqi and U.S. forces were sent to secure the area, police said. No injuries were reported in the blast near Mahmoudiya, about 20 miles south of Baghdad, said police 1st Lt. Haider Satar. He said the bomb had been planted beneath the pipeline, which carries crude oil from storage tanks in nearby Latifiyah to the Dora refinery in Baghdad. The U.S. command said Iraqi and American forces were deployed to the area as Iraqi firefighters battled the blaze, and Satar said the fire was out by about noon.

London, Nov 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Mortar rounds crashed into an oil processing facility near the northern city of Kirkuk yesterday, igniting a huge blaze, and a U.S. Air Force jet with one pilot crashed while supporting American soldiers fighting in Anbar province. The mortars started a fire that burned for several hours before it was extinguished, the U.S. military said. The mortar shells hit a pipeline filtering facility 25 kilometres northwest of Kirkuk at 1830 hrs, shutting down the flow of crude to the massive Beiji refinery to the southwest, according to an official at the North Oil Co., who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters. Earlier yesterday, a bomb exploded beneath an oil pipeline and set it on fire south of Baghdad, and Iraqi and American forces were deployed to secure the area, police said. No injuries were reported in the 0730 hrs. blast near Mahmoudiya, about 30

kilometres south of Baghdad, said police 1st Lt. Haider Satar. He said the bomb had been planted beneath the pipeline, which carries crude oil from storage tanks in nearby Latifiyah to the Dora refinery in Baghdad. The fire was put out about noon. The F-16CG jet that crashed was supporting coalition ground forces when it went down at about 1335 hrs, in Anbar province, about 32 kilometres northwest of Baghdad, the military said in a brief statement. The statement had no information about the suspected cause of the crash or the fate of the pilot. Mohammed Al-Obeidi, an Iraqi who lives in the nearby town of Karmah, said that he saw the jet flying up and down erratically before it nose-dived and exploded in a farm field. He said other U.S. warplanes rushed to the crash site and were circling around it. Maj. Gen. William Caldwell, a U.S. military's spokesman, said he doubted the jet was shot down because F-16's fly very fast and have not encountered weapons capable of taking them down in Iraq. The U.S. command also said three of its soldiers were killed and two wounded during combat operations in Baghdad on Sunday (Nov 26). The government fully lifted a curfew yesterday, allowing vehicles back on the roads and reopening the international airport. Also yesterday, Iraq's parliament speaker implemented new rules banning reporters from the legislative building and imposed a 30-minuted delay on broadcast of sessions, an apparent bid to squelch information reaching the public about the increasingly bitter debates between Shiite and Sunni lawmakers. The delay would allow the speaker to censor debate that he considered overly inflammatory. Across the country yesterday a total of 91 people were killed or found dead in sectarian violence. Forty-one bodies were found dumped in the capital alone.

London, Nov 29 — A press report, dated Nov 28, states: Iraq's Parliament voted unanimously today to extend the country's state of emergency for 30 more days, and suspected Sunni insurgents set off bombs that killed eight people and wounded 40 across the country. Lawmakers decided to continue the state of emergency that allows for a nighttime curfew and gives the government extra powers to make arrests without warrants and launch police and military operations. The measures, in place everywhere except for the northern autonomous Kurdish region, have been renewed every month since they were first authorized in November 2004. Sectarian violence has worsened, and two car bombs exploded today near a hospital morgue in Baghdad, killing three civilians and one policeman and wounding 19 civilians, a police officer said on condition of anonymity to protect his security. In other fighting, U.S. troops fought with suspected insurgents in Ramadi, and the battle left six Iraqis dead, including five females ranging in

age from an infant to teenagers, the U.S. military said. The fighting began after a coalition patrol discovered a roadside bomb in the Hamaniyah section of Ramadi, and two men fled to a house, where they took up positions on the roof, the military said. Meanwhile, videotape footage obtained by AP Television News appears to show the wreckage of a U.S. single-seat F-16CG jet in the farm field where it crashed yesterday and the remains of an American serviceman with a tangled parachute nearby. U.S. forces investigating the crash said that insurgents had reached the site before American forces could and the pilot is missing. Maj. Gen. William B. Caldwell, a U.S. military spokesman, said there was no indication the plane, deployed to the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing at Balad Air Base in Iraq, was shot down. In Diyala province north of the capital, where heavy fighting between police and Sunni insurgents has raged for several days, a roadside bomb exploded in the town of Baladroz, killing three civilians and wounding four, a police officer said. He also spoke on condition of anonymity out of concern for his security. North of Diyala, an Iraqi governor survived an assassination attempt when a suicide bomber blew himself up near the official's convoy. The attacker with an explosive belt hidden beneath his clothing approached the convoy at 0935 hrs, as it was driving slowly through the center of Kirkuk near the city's main public hospital, said police Brig. Sarhat Qadir. The man tried to enter the governor's car, but when the door was locked he blew himself up, Qadir said. Gov. Abdul Rahman Mustafa and his bodyguards were not harmed, but the powerful blast hit civilians standing nearby, killing one of them and wounding 17, the officer said.

Baghdad, Nov 30 — The bodies of a senior official of a Sunni religious organisation, his three guards and four others were found dumped together near the southern Shi'ite city of Basra today, police said. Police said gunmen ambushed two cars carrying a local official of the Sunni Endowment, the body responsible for Sunni mosques in Iraq, and members of Facility Protection Services (FPS), which guards Iraq's oilfields. The Sunni Endowment in Basra said its deputy manager, Nasser al-Qatrani, and his three guards were ambushed on a bridge on the northern outskirts of Basra yesterday. Police said they discovered the bodies nearby today, along with those of the four FPS members, who are frequent targets for attack by militants. — Reuters.

ISRAEL

Gaza, Nov 26 — A cease-fire between Palestinian militants in Gaza and Israel took effect today after five months of bloodshed in the coastal strip, raising the possibility of moribund Middle East peacemaking being revived. The truce is designed to end rocket attacks on the Jewish state and to halt an Israeli army offensive

in Gaza. Israel Radio reported a rocket landed in southern Israel an hour after the truce began but that no one was hurt. The army said it detected a launching but that it was unclear if any rocket landed. Several militant groups denied firing rockets. "Yes, the cease-fire is in effect," said Abu Ubeida, of the armed wing of the governing Palestinian Islamist Hamas group. "We will monitor the commitment of the enemy to the agreement and decide on the future as it unfolds." Israeli Deputy Defence Minister Efraim Sneh told Israel Radio: "It's a fragile cease-fire. But I think that within hours we will be able to see in which direction matters are moving." The Israeli army said it had withdrawn its forces from Gaza overnight, before the truce took effect. Palestinian witnesses confirmed soldiers had left northern Gaza, where operations against rocket-launching squads had been focussed. The cease-fire could pave the way for a long-awaited summit between Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on ways to restart peacemaking. Peace talks collapsed in 2000, just before a Palestinian uprising erupted. The truce might also speed up efforts to arrange a swap of Palestinian prisoners in Israel for an Israeli soldier whose capture by gunmen in a cross-border raid from Gaza in late June sparked the Israeli military assault. Hamas said its armed wing fired three rockets at Israel just before the cease-fire took effect at 0600 hrs (0400, UTC). The rockets caused no casualties, the Israeli army said. Hamas, whose rise to power in the Palestinian territories after winning January elections triggered a Western aid boycott that has deepened economic hardship, was instrumental in persuading militant groups to agree to the truce. Abbas, a moderate whose long-dominant Fatah faction was beaten in the elections, hammered out the agreement to halt rocket attacks with Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas. The president, who has long sought a halt to the attacks, informed Olmert of the deal in a phone call late yesterday. Israel, which completed a pullout of troops and settlers from Gaza in September, 2005, threatened last week to step up the military offensive after an upsurge in rocket attacks. More than 400 Palestinians, about half of them militants, have been killed in the offensive, Palestinian hospital officials and residents said. Three Israeli soldiers and two civilians have been killed since the assault began. Eisin said Olmert and Abbas had agreed to talk soon on ways to end violence in the occupied West Bank. — Reuters.

ISRAEL-LEBANON

Gaza, Nov 23 — Israeli troops backed by tanks killed a Palestinian civilian in a raid in the northern Gaza Strip today, Palestinian hospital officials said. Residents said the Israeli troops thrust into the town of Beit Lahiya, a day after the security cabinet decided

to press on with military incursions but not order a large-scale assault in response to a wave of Palestinian rocket attacks. Tanks firing machineguns stormed a housing project in the town, killing a 19-year-old male civilian, the hospital officials said. Another civilian was wounded, they said. The Israeli army said it was checking the reports. The residents said it was one of the biggest raids into Beit Lahiya since Israel launched an offensive in late June after gunmen, including members of the governing Hamas movement, abducted a soldier in a cross-border raid from Gaza. Israel has said the raids would not stop until the soldier, Gilad Shalit, was freed and rocket attacks stopped. In a sign of possible progress in efforts to arrange an exchange of Palestinian prisoners in Israel for Shalit, Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal arrived in Cairo today to discuss Egyptian mediation efforts for a swap. — Reuters.

Jenin, West Bank, Nov 27 — Israeli troops shot dead two Palestinians, including a militant, in the West Bank during an exchange of fire today, Palestinian security sources said. Israeli forces patrolling the village of Qabatiya, near the city of Jenin, had come under fire several times by Palestinian militants, an Israeli army spokesman said. The troops fired at and hit two armed Palestinians, he said. The Palestinian security sources said the soldiers killed a militant and a woman who had rushed to his aid. Palestinian hospital officials confirmed the two deaths. “We will do everything we can to protect the citizens of Israel, so these actions are meant to prevent harm against Israeli civilians,” Israeli Defence Minister Amir Peretz told Israel Radio. A truce between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza took hold yesterday. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said he hoped the truce could apply to the West Bank. Palestinian militant groups have demanded Israel halt attacks in all Palestinian territories. — Reuters.

MEXICO

Oaxaca, Nov 25 — Protesters shot fireworks at riot police and burnt down government buildings in Mexico’s colonial city of Oaxaca today, days before President-elect Felipe Calderon was to take office. At least nine of the demonstrators, who are demanding the resignation of state Governor Ulises Ruiz, were injured in skirmishes with police wearing body armour and lobbing tear gas, a government news agency said. Other protesters threw petrol bombs into at least four government buildings, including a museum and court, starting blazes that spread to nearby shops. Oaxaca has been in chaos for the last six months because of protests by striking teachers, Indian groups and leftists against Ruiz, who they say is corrupt and authoritarian. The latest violence flared when hundreds of activists, some armed with rocks, homemade wooden shields and

fireworks, tried to surround federal police occupying the city’s central square. Armored riot trucks with water canons drove the protesters away from the plaza and sent them fleeing down side streets. Later, state police patrolled streets littered with burnt out cars and detained people considered suspicious. At least 60 protesters had been arrested, Ruiz said. A witness at one point heard what sounded like gunshots. In October, federal authorities forced their way into the city, normally popular with foreign backpackers, to try to end the conflict, which has killed more than a dozen people. The situation in Oaxaca will be one of conservative Calderon’s most pressing problems when he takes power on Dec 1. He also faces protests in Mexico City from leftist supporters of losing presidential candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador who claim Calderon won July’s election by fraud. — Reuters.

NIGERIA

London, Nov 23 — The Terminal Operators of Okono Terminal, AGIP, have halted production and declared a Force Majeure effective from 0300, yesterday (Nov 22), following an attack by militants. According to local reports, a group of militants boarded the Okono Terminal non specific tanker *FPSO Mystras* in the early hours of Nov 22 and took seven expatriates hostage. One expatriate and three other people are said to have been killed when the militants were encountered by Government security operatives

Lagos, Nov 28 — Royal Dutch Shell will soon take a first step to resuming 500,000 barrels per day of Nigerian oil output by sending inspectors to assess pollution and damage to facilities in the western Niger Delta, company sources said today. Shell executives attended a three-way meeting at the weekend (Nov 25-26) with government officials and a militant group from the area. At the talks they agreed to start joint inspections of the facilities shut by a series of militant attacks in February. “The agreement was that Shell can go back to the western Niger Delta where the security incidents have been,” a Shell source said. “It means we will go in and assess the extent of the damage to the facilities and determine the clean-up we have to do.” The closure of the Forcados and EA oilfields in the western delta set a new standard for militancy in the Niger Delta. It also cut output by Africa’s biggest oil producer by about a fifth, contributed to a surge in world oil prices and played havoc with Nigeria’s budget. The militant group attending the meeting was the Federated Niger Delta Ijaw Communities (FNDIC), which has been linked to the group that claimed responsibility for the February attacks — the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND). FNDIC spokesman George Timinimi said Shell had agreed to provide power generators, while the government had

promised water, roads and hospitals to riverine communities around the abandoned facilities as part of the deal. “There is nobody who does not like development so if Shell makes an effort I don’t see MEND deterring it,” Timinimi said. MEND has consistently threatened to execute any oil workers found returning to the abandoned oilfields. MEND, whose leadership is unknown, says it is fighting for more regional control over the delta’s oil resources and compensation for decades of oil pollution. “We will visit them at the appropriate time to formally welcome them back to those installations,” MEND said today. The planned inspections, by teams comprising company and government officials, are a prerequisite for Shell to resume pumping from the Forcados oilfields in the swamps around Warri and the offshore EA oilfield. Some of the lost production, including the 115,000 bpd EA field, could be restarted within weeks after inspections, company sources said. However, other facilities that were damaged in the attacks or vandalised since then could take several months to return to full volume, the sources added. The February attacks marked an intensification of the conflict in the vast wetlands region of southern Nigeria, where militancy fuelled by poverty has been on the rise for decades. Dozens of foreign oil workers have been kidnapped from oil facilities and residential compounds since the February attacks, mostly by ransom-seekers. Militants have also fought sporadic firefights with troops. Shell has said it does not expect a significant increase in output from the western delta this year, and many analysts expect violence to intensify further in the run-up to general elections in April. — Reuters.

SRI LANKA

Colombo, Nov 23 — Sri Lanka’s military battled Tamil Tiger rebels with tanks and fighter jets along a shared “border” in the island’s east today, with each side blaming the other for the outbreak of fighting. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said the army entered no-man’s land in the eastern district of Batticaloa with tanks and armoured vehicles, while the military said the Tigers were first to fire heavy artillery. The army said seven soldiers were injured, but there were no details of any rebel casualties. In a separate incident in the eastern district of Ampara further south, three policemen were killed in a firefight with Tigers who had ambushed them in paddy fields in government territory, officials said. “There is an intense confrontation going on,” Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) military spokesman Rasiah Ilanthiraiyan told Reuters from the town of Kilinochchi, the rebels’ northern stronghold. “They are moving with tanks and armoured personnel carriers towards our forward defence line,” he added, referring to the fighting in Batticaloa. Ilanthiraiyan

said the battle was raging on the defence lines that separates rebel from government territory in the east, near the rebel-held town of Vakarai, where an estimated 30,000 displaced persons have fled to camps. The military denied it had entered no-man's land, and said that air force fighter jets had launched a third consecutive day of air strikes on rebel positions. "They initiated a heavy attack using artillery and mortars. We have retaliated with ... armoured tanks and also air support," said a military spokesman. Jehan Perera of the non-partisan advocacy group the National Peace Council said the absence of chief rebel negotiator Anton Balasingham, who is battling bile duct cancer in London, from the island's failing peace process was a major disadvantage. "Balasingham's absence will deprive the Tigers of a person who had a more comprehensive view of the entire ethnic conflict... and was willing to take risks on the possibility that a negotiated settlement will yield something better," he said. — Reuters.

London, Nov 27 — A press report, dated Nov 25, states: Sri Lanka's military said it sank three Tamil Tiger rebel vessels in a sea battle off the island's northwest coast early today, and that four navy sailors were wounded. Military spokesman Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe said small navy patrol craft engaged the Tiger vessels off the Mannar peninsula, and that helicopter gunships were called in to help. He said no navy vessels were sunk. "Three LTTE boats were sunk, and four navy sailors have gunshot injuries, but their craft are intact," Samarasinghe said, adding that "The battle is still going on."

Colombo, Nov 28 — Sri Lanka's military fought a fierce artillery duel with Tamil Tigers in the island's restive east early today, just hours after the rebels said they were resuming their two-decade independence struggle. The military said the Tigers were using 152 mm artillery shells for the first time to target their forward defence line in the eastern district of Batticaloa, and had so far killed one soldier and injured two others. "Our defence lines have been mortared and shelled," said Major Upali Rajapakse, a spokesman with the Media Centre for National Security. "They are using heavy, heavy guns. The army is retaliating with artillery." Yesterday, the rebels gave the green light for a convoy of 60 trucks carrying around 600 tonnes of food aid to cross into their territory to reach around 30,000 war-displaced, but Rajapakse said continued rebel fire could scotch the plan. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who yesterday said they saw no other option than to resume their demand for an independent state and resume their struggle, were not immediately available for comment on the clash. Shadowy Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, who had earlier pushed for a separate homeland for minority Tamils short of

outright independence, called in an annual speech yesterday for international recognition of their struggle, which analysts said meant Sri Lanka should brace for more war. Prabhakaran said the ceasefire had become defunct and had been effectively buried by the government. President Mahinda Rajapakse has ruled out a separate homeland or independence, but says he is willing to consider widespread devolution of power within a united Sri Lanka. His government says it will continue to fight the Tigers if provoked. — Reuters.

SUDAN

London, Nov 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Darfur rebels have attacked an oil field in Southern Kordofan, making a rare extension of their campaign eastwards toward Khartoum, the rebels and government said Monday. The National Redemption Front said its fighters had seized the Abu Jabra oil field on the edge of South Darfur and Southern Kordofan yesterday. "The government garrison guarding the oil field was totally destroyed," the NRF said in a statement. "Numerous soldiers, including high-ranking officers and generals, have surrendered." But the Sudanese military said its forces had repelled the attack and were in full control of the field. The army "inflicted heavy casualties on the rebels, who withdrew from the area," said a military spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with official policy.

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated Nov 29, states: Fighting has broken out between the Sudanese army and the former southern rebels, the Sudan People's Liberation Army, the United Nations has said. All non-essential UN and aid agency staff have been leaving the southern town of Malakal. There are reports of heavy gunfire, but no reliable word on casualties. The violence is one of the most serious violations of a peace deal between Sudan's Arab north and black African south signed nearly two years ago. What started as clashes between southern troops and pro-Khartoum militia has escalated. Forces from the national army and the former southern rebels, the SPLA, have fought in the streets of Malakal. There are 10,000 UN peacekeepers deployed in southern Sudan at a cost of \$1bn a year. A spokeswoman said they had no mandate to intervene and that the UN was encouraging both sides to peacefully resolve the situation.

THAILAND

Singapore, Nov 24 — Martial law in Thailand could be lifted before the end of the year, coup leader General Sonthi Boonyaratglin told CNN television. Sonthi, who led a military coup that overthrew Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra on September 19, said in an interview aired today that he wanted a return to normalcy as soon as possible. Pressed repeatedly for a timetable, Sonthi said "when

possible", "soon" and finally "yes" when asked if martial law would be lifted before the end of the year. Martial law has not been enforced in any visible way, but coup leaders have previously said it was necessary because of "undercurrents" stirred by supporters of the ousted Thaksin. — Reuters.

London, Nov 25 — Five people have been killed in Thailand's Muslim-majority south, police said today, despite the post-coup government's promise to boost the local economy in the hope of ending three years of unrest. Finance Minister Pridiyathorn Devakula said the Government would set up a special economic zone in the south to lure investment to the region which currently lags far behind the rest of the nation. "We are considering giving privileges to the private sector such as tax deductions and discount fees for land purchase as investors and businessmen have fled the area," Mr Pridiyathorn said. The economic scheme, announced yesterday by army-backed premier Surayud Chulanont after a special cabinet meeting, covers the three restive provinces of Narathiwat, Yala and Pattani on the border with Malaysia. Mr Pridiyathorn said the economic zone, which includes neighboring Songkhla and Satun provinces, would be set up next month.

UGANDA

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated Nov 29, states: Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army rebel group has suspended its participation in peace talks with the government. It says the Ugandan army killed three of its fighters heading towards an assembly point in southern Sudan. The LRA said its leaders would stay away from the talks until the Ugandan army withdrew from positions east of the River Nile and go back into Uganda. The faltering peace talks have been taking place in Juba in Sudan in an attempt to end the 20-year insurgency. A truce has been in place whilst LRA rebels are supposed to gather at two assembly points in southern Sudan. The Uganda army rejected claims that LRA forces were heading towards assembly points saying they were seeking an excuse to explain why they haven't assembled as part of a cessation of hostilities agreement. "We have not killed any LRA. If anything they are very far away from Ngangala and Magwi as they claim," Army spokesman Major Felix Kulayigye said.



MEXICO

London, Nov 29 — A press report, dated today, states: U.S. and Mexican authorities are searching for three Americans and two Mexicans kidnapped

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by dozens of armed men who swarmed a Mexican hunting ranch near the U.S. border. Witnesses told police that 30 to 40 armed men entered the La Barranca ranch late Sunday (Nov 26) and took the five men. The ranch, used for deer hunting, is located near the Mexican town of Hidalgo, about 40 miles northwest of Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. Erik Vasys, an FBI spokesman in San Antonio, Texas, late Tuesday identified the Americans as Librado Pina Jr., 49, who owned the ranch, and his son Librado Pina III, 25, both of Laredo, Texas; and David Mueller, 45, of the Sweetwater, Texas, area. The kidnappers also seized the ranch's cook and another Mexican man at the ranch for a hunting trip. Mueller was also hunting at the ranch, officials said. The kidnappers do not appear to have made any ransom demand, Vasquez Estrada said.

Labour Disputes



BELGIUM

Brussels, Nov 24 — Thousands of workers rallied outside Volkswagen's Brussels plant, pledging to carry on with strikes after the German automaker's decision to cut more than 3000 jobs there. The socialist FGTB union's Manuel De Castro said: "The strike will continue until the situation is clearer and the workers decide to end it." He said Belgian unions had called for a national demonstration in Brussels on December 2 to put pressure on Volkswagen's management. "We will do everything to get guarantees to keep our jobs," he said. Volkswagen has announced it will stop building the best-selling Golf in Belgium and reduce the 4900 staff in Brussels to 1500 employees. It plans to transfer Golf production to two plants in Germany. Manufacturing jobs are scarce in Brussels, where unemployment is running at over 20 percent. VW's cuts would leave major auto production in Belgium only at Ford's plant in Genk, Volvo at Ghent and Opel in Antwerp. Production at the plant stopped and workers were joined by students and employees from surrounding firms. The European Commission said it might be able to help the Belgian government assist the workers. EU Regional Aid Commissioner Danuta Huebner met Belgian federal and regional employment ministers to discuss possible EU aid for the laid-off workers. — Reuters.

FRANCE

London, Nov 29 — A press report, dated Nov 28, states: No tug boats have been available at Fos/Lavera since 1230 hrs, today, due to wildcat action by crews. As a result, some vessels may experience delays in departure.

London, Nov 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Strike action in the northeastern French port of Calais was causing disruption to ferry services between Britain and France, a Port of

Dover spokesman has told AFP. More than 1,000 trucks were queueing up on the M20 motorway back towards London today while several passengers had scrapped their bookings as the Port of Dover and ferry operators attempted to clear the backlog of services. About 50 ferries normally leave Dover daily around the clock. "The schedule is shot to pieces," a Port of Dover spokesman told AFP. "Some services are getting in and it's a wait-and-see situation. "We've got more than 1,000 trucks queueing on the M20 waiting to get into the port, which is very busy with traffic. "Ships are out of their slots. It will take eight to 12 hours to clear the backlog provided Calais is fully reopened. "Most tourists have cancelled their journeys," he added. Workers at the Calais Chamber of Commerce and Industry are taking industrial action to protest against the sacking of one of their colleagues. "Services into Calais are being severely disrupted," said a spokesman for P and O ferries. "We have two ships currently operating on the run. However, there is still considerable doubt as to what will happen in Calais," he said. "It is not therefore certain that we will continue to operate a service throughout the day; or, service may improve." Local authorities in and around Dover have grown accustomed to the knock-on effects of industrial action in France.

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated Nov 29, states: The strike by tug boat crews at Fos/Lavera came to an end last night. Tug boats are again available for operations.

GREECE

Piraeus, Nov 24 — Piraeus and Thessaloniki ports Labour Unions have decided to continue the strike indefinitely and will continue working only one shift per day (weekends/holidays excluded). — Lloyd's Agents.

ISRAEL

London, Nov 29 — Israel's public sector and air travel mostly ground to a halt as the country's powerful workers' union went on general strike in protest at long-delayed salary payments. The strike was ordered over failure by the finance ministry to pay local council workers' wages for the past six months, despite repeated agreements reached between the Histadrut workers' union and the government. Employees in all government offices, the postal service, the rail service, airports, seaports and land border terminals, oil refineries and local authorities, along with numerous other public bodies, downed tools. The industrial action began at 0400, GMT, after the failure of a last-ditch effort to avert the strike at talks between union leaders and Finance Minister Avraham Hirschson. Emergency services will be operated on the same footing as during the Jewish Sabbath, but there will be no strike in the health services or the education system, except for assistant kindergarten teachers, public radio reported. The banks are not on strike and the stock exchange will be open for business, the station added.

PERU

Lima, Nov 27 — Workers began a 48-hour strike over wages today at Peru's Cerro Verde mine, the country's No.4 copper producer, but the company said production was unaffected. Cerro Verde is majority-owned by Phelps Dodge Corp., which has a 53.6 percent stake, while Peru's Buenaventura holds 18.5 percent of the mine. Union leader Zenon Mujica told Reuters that workers began striking this morning, saying the company had ignored a collective wage agreement that stipulates salaries equal to the average among major miners. — Reuters.

Awards & Settlements



EXPULSION FROM CONSTRUCTION PROJECT, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated Nov 21, states: Jurors awarded Kevin Daves \$34 million in punitive damages in a case that revolved around his alleged expulsion from the massive Ritz-Carlton Sarasota project. The bulk of the award — \$20 million — from the six-member jury was against British homebuilder Taylor Woodrow, which developed Ritz-Carlton-branded condominiums with C. Robert Buford on Lido Beach. Another \$10 million was levied against the Buford family's SLAB and SLAB Lido companies. The jury awarded \$3 million from C. Robert Buford and another \$1 million from his brother Dan.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated Nov 25, states: A Multnomah County jury awarded \$5.7 million to a woman dying of breast cancer because a radiologist incorrectly evaluated her mammogram. The jury, at the end of a two-week trial, found that The Oregon Clinic harmed Julie Joel by its negligence, awarding her \$754,052 in economic damages and \$5 million for pain and suffering. It was unclear yesterday whether The Oregon Clinic would appeal. Joel, 58, of Portland went to the Providence Professional Plaza in 2002, where a radiologist with The Oregon Clinic misread the breast X-ray and found no abnormalities, according to her lawyer, Elden Rosenthal. Joel went to a different clinic in 2004 and was told she had advanced breast cancer. Joel, who sat through portions of the trial, said experts called on her behalf said the results of the breast X-ray merited another look, while those called by The Oregon Clinic said the exam showed no abnormalities. Some hospitals ask two radiologists to read mammograms, but Joel said in her case only one doctor signed off on the results. Joel said she hoped her lawsuit would lead hospitals to require a second opinion.

**WORK-RELATED ILLNESS,
UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 28 — A press report, dated Nov 27, states: A retired police officer and brake repairman whose right lung was removed because of cancer caused by asbestos has won a \$20 million verdict from automaker DaimlerChrysler Corp. A jury in Manhattan's state Supreme Court awarded the money to Alfred D'Ulisse, 73, of North Massapequa, New York, plus \$5 million to his wife for past and future loss of his companionship, D'Ulisse's lawyer Jerry Kristal said today. DaimlerChrysler, which makes cars under the Mercedes-Benz and Chrysler brands, issued a statement saying the case was built on "junk science" and accused Justice Louis B. York of "improper rulings." The company said it was confident last week's verdict would be reversed on appeal. The jury found DaimlerChrysler, the world's fifth-largest maker of motor vehicles, 10 percent liable for the cancer, mesothelioma, which D'Ulisse contracted after working at Morak Brakes in Brooklyn, Kristal said. Surgeons removed D'Ulisse's right lung in 2004, the lawyer said. Two now-defunct companies were each found to be 35 percent liable for D'Ulisse's cancer, Kristal said. Two other auto manufacturers, found 10 percent liable by the jury, settled with D'Ulisse before trial for undisclosed amounts, he said. Because the jury also found that DaimlerChrysler acted with reckless disregard for the safety of others, Kristal said, the company is liable under New York law for money owed by any non-settling defendant. This means DaimlerChrysler owes its 10 percent plus the combined 70 percent of the two defunct companies, which were makers of asbestos compounds, for a total of \$20 million of the \$25 million verdict, Kristal said.

**WRONGFUL ARREST,
UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 30 — A press report, dated Nov 29, states: A US lawyer wrongfully arrested over the Madrid train bombings in 2004 has settled part of his lawsuit against the US government for \$2m (£1.03m). Brandon Mayfield was held for two weeks when the FBI linked him to fingerprints found in Spain - but later said it was wrong and apologised. But the convert to Islam still insists he was targeted because he is a Muslim. The Justice Department has rejected the charge, saying Mr Mayfield's faith was not the reason for the arrest. In the settlement, the government admitted it "performed covert physical searches of the Mayfield home and law office, and it also conducted electronic surveillance targeting Mr Mayfield", Elden Rosenthal, Mr Mayfield's attorney, said in a statement. He said the government once again apologised to his client. The Justice Department said earlier he was held "because fingerprint examiners believed his print to match the Spanish print". He was arrested on a material witness warrant and did not have the same rights as those charged with

criminal offences. Today, Mr Rosenthal also said the settlement allowed Mr Mayfield to continue pursuing his challenge of the constitutionality of the sweeping post-9/11 anti-terror law known as the Patriot Act. Mr Mayfield had said it allowed law enforcement officials to tap his telephone in violation of the US constitution.

Railway Accidents**COURTLAND AREA, MINNESOTA,
UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A section of State Highway 68 in southern Minnesota was closed after a train derailed yesterday night, officials said. Between six and 10 Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad cars went off the rails south of Courtland, the Blue Earth County Sheriff's Department said.

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Crews are cleaning a major ethanol spill after seven tanker cars derailed last night south of Courtland, just south-east of New Ulm in southern Minnesota. Kevin Schieffer, president of the Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railroad of Sioux Falls, says the track in southern Minnesota is more than 50 years old and needs to be replaced. Schieffer says about 30,000 gallons of ethanol spilled. A few homes were evacuated yesterday, but their owners were back in them by noon today. Track repairs should be done by tomorrow. The derailment had closed state Highway 68 from Highway 15 near New Ulm to Blue Earth County Road 47.

**PEWSEY AREA, WILTSHIRE,
UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Nov 29 — A press report, dated Nov 28, states: A fallen tree led to the derailment of a maintenance train which meant the closure of one of the main railway lines through Wiltshire. First Great Western said the locomotive partly came off the track near Pewsey and was blocking the both directions. Network Rail said no-one had been injured and hopes the line would be fully operational by tomorrow. Road transport has been provided for passengers travelling between Pewsey and Newbury. All high speed services between London and the South West are being diverted via Swindon, Chippenham and Melksham to Westbury. A First Great Western spokesman said: "It is expected that the line will be closed for the rest of today. This does not affect services between Bedwyn and Reading. Some West of England services have been cancelled and further cancellations are likely." A Network Rail spokesman said: "Our engineers are currently on site working to re-rail the train. Once this has been completed, we will be repairing the track and stabilising the embankment so that the line can re-open for passengers first thing tomorrow morning."

PITCHIT PROVINCE, THAILAND

London, Nov 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Train services on northern routes is resumed this afternoon after two trains crashed in Phitchit province, Chiang Mai's railway chief Sompong Buttakhun said. A sprinter train rammed into another train which was stopped at a station in Pitchit at about 0015 today, injuring more than 100 passengers. The accident led to the closure of the northern route. Both trains were bound for Chiang Mai province. The No 963 train was stopped at Tapanhin station, waiting for permission to leave, when the sprinter train crashed into its two last compartments. The crash damaged the compartments of the stationary train and injured more than 130 passengers on both trains.

**REEVES AREA, GEORGIA,
UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated Nov 24, states: A Norfolk-Southern Railway train derailed early this morning near the Reeves Station Road crossing. Sources from Calhoun Emergency services and the railroad confirmed the derailment, saying that around 0530 the train had come to a halt causing six cars to derail. The train blocked the Reeves Station Road crossing for about 90 minutes Friday morning. Emergency services were notified and City Fire department Captain Heath Smith and his crew immediately aided the situation. There were no injuries and no hazards to report. "The train accident happened at 0530 causing six cars (cars 92-97) to derail," said Susan Terpay, a Norfolk-Southern spokesperson. The train carried three locomotives and 125 cars, she said. "Four cars had coal in them and the other two were empty. There were no injuries and the cause of the derailment is under investigation," she said. Several pieces of heavy equipment were at the site attempting to clear the track. "We hope to have the track cleared and working by 6 p.m.," she said.

Miscellaneous**DRUGS FOUND ON TURKISH
VESSEL, VARNA, BULGARIA**

Varna, Nov 27 — Bulgarian police seized about 14 million contraband cigarettes on general cargo *Suleyman Kursun*, 77 gt, 28 metres, near Varna early yesterday, local prosecution and police officials reported. Police found the cargo on a Turkish-registered vessel travelling from Varna to Georgia, after intercepting crew-members as they tried to smuggle part of the 1,400 boxes ashore on a smaller boat a Bulgarian fisherman vessel with reg. No B 4601. Some 25 men suspected of being involved were arrested, including three Turkish nationals and two Bulgarian border police. A Varna port patrol was expected to bring the vessel to dock later

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yesterday for further investigation by military prosecutors. Reportedly the contraband cargo consisted of 1400 masterboxes "Mira Mar" cigarettes with an estimated worth of 1 million euro. — Lloyd's Agents.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

Tokyo, Nov 24 — Japan has suspended poultry imports from South Korea from yesterday after a suspected case of bird flu was found at a poultry farm in the southwest of the country, a Japanese Agriculture Ministry official said today. Japan imported a total of 1,500 tonnes of fresh and processed poultry and duck meat from South Korea last year, which is about 0.2 percent of Japan's total global imports, the official said. Yesterday, South Korea's farm ministry said it had discovered a suspected case of bird flu at the poultry farm, which could be the country's first outbreak in about three years. A South Korean ministry official said about 6,000 chickens at a farm in North Cholla province had died this week. The remaining 6,000 or so poultry at the farm would now be culled. — Reuters.

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: South Korea has confirmed its first bird flu outbreak in three years after a strain of the avian virus was found in tests on dead birds. "Tests conducted by the National Veterinary Research and Quarantine Service confirmed a bird flu outbreak caused by the H5N1 virus," Lee Yang-Ho, the spokesman for the agriculture ministry, told journalists. "Despite the confirmation that the virus is the H5N1 strain, experts are trying to determine if this is a highly contagious type or a milder variety," Lee said. The blood tests on affected birds were carried out after some 6,000 chickens on one farm died in three days — the first suspected case since the country declared itself free of the disease last December. The ministry said the remaining 6,000 birds on the farm in the southern city of Iksan, 50 kilometres south of Seoul, had been all culled and buried. The ministry has banned shipments to and from the farms in the contaminated area, carried out quarantine measures and imposed restrictions on the movement of people and vehicles there. Iksan City called for an emergency fund of some 17 million dollars from the central government to increase quarantine activity and provide financial assistance to affected farms, Yonhap news agency said. It also expanded the cordoned-off zone from an area within a radius of three kilometers to eight kilometers and asked for manpower assistance from police and military authorities to control movements to and from this area, it said.

Seoul, Nov 28 — South Korea's farm ministry said today it had found a second suspected case of highly pathogenic bird flu at a poultry farm, after confirming on Saturday (Nov 25) it had its first outbreak in three years of the H5N1 strain. The ministry said the second suspected case was at a poultry farm near where the first case had been found and they are checking to see if the virus has spread through the country. South Korea has nearly completed

culling all 236,000 poultry within a 500 metre radius of a farm in North Cholla province about 170 km south of Seoul where officials said the H5N1 avian influenza strain had been detected. — Reuters.

Seoul, Nov 30 — South Korea will cull over half a million fowl in a bid to prevent the spread of the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu, having already killed 150,000 chickens near farms where the virus was found, officials said today. Last week South Korea confirmed it had its first outbreak of the H5N1 strain in about three years, saying the strain had been found at two nearby poultry farms close in Iksan, about 170 km south of Seoul. "We will expand the radius of areas for culling bird flu-infected poultry farms ... in order to make sure the outbreak does not spread," the agriculture ministry said in a statement. The ministry decided not to include other animals in the cull, although it has already killed dogs and cats on the farms hit by the outbreak despite criticism from animal rights groups. — Reuters.

POWER OUTAGE, TAJIKISTAN

Dushanbe, Nov 29 — A power shortage in Tajikistan caused blackouts across the impoverished nation today, disrupting traffic and creating long queues for natural gas for cooking. The government had warned that the construction of a new hydroelectric plant on the Vakhsh river would lead to power supply disruptions from the Soviet-era Nurek hydro power plant. "Today and tomorrow are the worst days. We know people are suffering but they have shown understanding," said an Emergencies Ministry spokeswoman. Some residents of the capital Dushanbe have been without electricity since Sunday (Nov 26). The spokeswoman said planned shortages would continue until Dec 3 but would not affect "strategic sites" such as hospitals and airports. It was unclear if Tajikistan's electricity-heavy aluminium production might be affected. Tajikistan is a mountainous nation north of Afghanistan that relies heavily on hydroelectric power. The shortage led to long queues for cooking gas in Dushanbe, residents said. Electric trolley buses stood still in the middle of Dushanbe's broad Soviet-era streets. — Reuters.

PROBO KOALA (Panama)

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated Nov 23, states: A government commission investigating a deadly toxic waste scandal today blamed the tragedy on negligence and corruption by senior officials and an ill-equipped company set up solely to dump the waste. Officials said 10 people died and more than 100,000 sought medical treatment after hundreds of tons of waste were offloaded in Abidjan on Aug 19 from combined bulk and oil carrier *Probo Koala*, chartered by the Dutch commodities trading company Trafigura Beheer BV. An Ivorian company called Tommy loaded the waste on special trucks and dumped it at 17 sites around the city, in some places just yards from homes, prompting whole neighbourhoods to flee. The Ivorian government set up a

national commission to investigate the tragedy, and a report released today blamed corruption and negligence among a host of government officials, including Cabinet ministers and port workers. A separate judicial inquiry now under way has the power to bring to justice anyone accused of wrongdoing. The report said Tommy was set up specifically for the waste dumping operation and singled out its jailed Nigerian owner and manager, Salomon Ugborugbo, for facilitating the tragedy. "It is undeniable that Salomon Ugborugbo is the principle actor in the dumping of the toxic waste," the report said. Tommy accepted the waste, despite "neither having the know-how nor the technical means" to treat it. The report said Trafigura was aware Tommy was dumping the waste rather than neutralising it. Trafigura has said it believed Tommy had the facilities to dispose of the waste legally. Tommy agreed to dispose of the waste for less than \$20,000 — 16 times cheaper than officials in the Netherlands were going to charge when the vessel stopped there beforehand. Trafigura officials say the vessel was carrying a cargo of gasoline and stopped in Abidjan to dispose of the contents of its waste tanks, known as "slops." Trafigura says the waste disposed of in Abidjan was a mix of gasoline residues, water and caustic sodas used to clean slops. UN experts, however, say the waste contained hydrogen sulphide, which is deadly in concentrated doses. Trafigura officials said it was a mystery how the hydrogen sulphide got there because caustic sodas typically used to clean slops cannot produce the toxic substance. The report said former Transport Minister Kobena Anaky granted Tommy a license to offload cargoes without assessing their capacity and ability to do so. The report also accused Energy and Mines Minister Leon Monnet of failing to co-ordinate with health authorities prior to the waste's arrival and neglecting to take "environmental dimensions into account." Other officials accused of flaunting regulations included a former environment minister, the maritime and port affairs director, a chief customs officer and Abidjan Governor Pierre Djedji Amondji. Two of Trafigura's executives are in Ivorian custody facing poisoning charges. The waste is still being moved out of the country by a French company hired by the government.

SEIZURE OF CONTRABAND CIGARETTES FROM KOREAN VESSEL, GREECE

Piraeus, Nov 28 — Passenger ro/ro *Bana* remains under arrest at Mytilene port. Prospects of release unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

SNOW WHITE (Panama)

London, Nov 27 — A press report, dated today, states: When Captain K Shaukath Ali heard of a vessel for sale, he checked it out as he was looking to expand his business which supplies marine oil to India. He found that the ship, *Kwang Min*, was suitable for his company, Baltic Shipping. He did not expect that the vessel was the same one that had been stolen from a business

associate about a month ago. Capt Shaukath said that a friend and business associate had informed him of the theft of a recently purchased chemical tanker *Snow White* on Oct 21. *Snow White* had been anchored off Dubai. Capt Shaukath said: The ship had been carrying 1,800 tonnes of diesel worth US\$1.04 million. It was scheduled to sail for the Indian Ocean to take oil supplies to Korean fishing vessels. But contact with the ship was lost on Oct 21 while it was in the Oman sea. We could not contact the master or ship's manager. The ship's owner then informed all associates as well as the Maritime and Interpol authorities. According to Capt Shaukath, the owner had bought the ship for US\$430,000 from a Korean on Oct 12 in Dubai. The Korean was then appointed the ship's manager. The owner, who is from the United Arab Emirates, is now in Singapore to look into recovering his ship. A business associate of Capt Shaukath, Capt Jumal Din said that when they decided to buy the *Kwang Min*, he and a friend boarded the boat which was anchored at Western Anchorage (Singapore). After examining the certificates we realised the ship was actually the *Snow White*, not the *Kwang Min* as painted on the boat. It was then that we realised the boat was stolen and had its name changed. That was when they made a police report and hired a lawyer to secure a court order to seize the vessel. At about 1130 Friday (Nov 24), the lawyer, court officers, Capt Shaukath, Capt Jumal and some business associates raided the ship that was docked off Tuas. The ship's master, manager and seven other crew members are missing. The police are investigating.

SUSPENSION OF SHEEP IMPORTS FROM AUSTRALIA

Sydney, Nov 28 — Livestock *Maysora* will be restricted from loading cattle until the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) has completed an investigation into the death of about 250 cattle last month. The vessel is waiting at Fremantle port to load more livestock as AQIS investigates the cattle deaths on a shipment bound for the Middle East in October. A spokeswoman for federal agriculture minister Peter McGauran confirmed that AQIS would stop cattle being loaded onto the vessel but that sheep could be moved on board. "When that vessel left (Australia) it had some sheep on board as well and they had no problem so it is allowed to load sheep but it is not allowed to load cattle," the spokeswoman said. Mr McGauran would make a statement once the investigation was finalised, she said. — "Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News."

Fires & Explosions



BUSH, AUSTRALIA

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighting

operations in the Blue Mountains have been hampered overnight by light misty rain, while a large blaze in Victoria's south-west may be contained today. The Blue Mountains fire started almost two weeks ago and has now burned through more than 14,000 hectares of bushland. Partial burns were carried out to the north of Faulconbridge and at Mount Tomah overnight and firefighting strategies will be re-assessed this morning. Mark Sullivan from the Rural Fire Service (RFS) says the rain made things difficult for fire crews, but they were able to take advantage of easing winds and lower temperatures. In Victoria, firefighters are confident they will be able to contain a large blaze at Dergholm, in the state's south-west, by the end of the day. The fire has burnt more than 10,000 hectares of the Roseneath State Forest but has not damaged any private property. The Incident Controller for the fire, Andrew Morrow, says firefighters have had a good night. "I'd say we're about 90% contained at this stage and we'll have about four kilometres of burning out to be completed to achieve full containment during the day."

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire crews in the Blue Mountains are not letting light rain interrupt their efforts to contain the Grose Valley fire ahead of soaring temperatures next week. Crews have been forced to stop backburning because of overnight rain. Now for the first time in about a week, they are attacking the fire head-on at its south-west front at Mount Hay. Blue Mountains incident controller Mal Cronstedt says backburning has succeeded to the north-west of the fire, so Mount Tomar is now protected. But he says the progress is not being taken for granted. "Given the extensive nature of the fire, its remote location and the fact that when things dry out, become warmer, we'll have a much more active fire front," he said. Hot, dry conditions are forecast for the next week with temperatures expected to soar.

CHEMICAL PLANT, MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The grim task of rebuilding the Danvers neighbourhood slammed by a massive chemical explosion will likely take months and millions of dollars as displaced residents battle to salvage their homes and holiday spirits. The extent of the damage was still being assessed last night, but federal officials said at least 20 homes and small businesses were destroyed by the 0300 explosion. Another 20 buildings have structural problems and could be condemned, and 60 more sustained significant cosmetic damage, such as blown-out windows and toppled chimneys.

COAL MINE, GANSU PROVINCE, CHINA

Beijing, Nov 29 — Eleven miners were killed in a gas explosion at a mine in Gansu province today, Xinhua news agency said, adding that 27 miners

managed to escape. Authorities had yet to confirm how many people were trapped underground. — Reuters.

COAL MINE, JIXI, CHINA

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Explosions occurred yesterday in the Yuanhua Coal Mine in Jixi, a city in north-east Heilongjiang province, when 31 miners were working, Xinhua said. By today, the remains of 21 miners had been found, while six more were still missing, Xinhua said. Four managed to escape.

COAL MINE, LINFEN, SHANXI PROVINCE, CHINA

Beijing, Nov 27 — A gas blast killed 24 coal miners in China's northern province of Shanxi just a day after 53 died in two separate mining accidents, Xinhua news agency said today. In the latest disaster, a power failure disabled the ventilation system at the Luweitan coal mine in Linfen yesterday and led to an accumulation of gas, Xinhua said. All 24 bodies had been recovered at the colliery, which has an annual output of 150,000 tonnes, it said. "The mine's production and safety licences had both expired," Xinhua said, adding police had detained its owner but the general manager had fled. Shanxi, which produces a quarter of China's coal but is notorious for colliery disasters, had just sacked two local government officials for three accidents at unlicensed coal mines that killed a total of 55 people in past weeks. It has also ordered a "one by one" inspection of all small coal mines and vowed to shut down those falling short of safety standards. — Reuters.

COAL MINE, SHAANXI PROVINCE, CHINA

Beijing, Nov 29 — A Chinese court today jailed two managers of a state-owned coal mine for negligence two years after a gas explosion killed 166 miners, Xinhua news agency said. The blast, one of the worst in China in decades, hit the Chenjiashan coal mine in Tongchuan in the north-western province of Shaanxi just days after the pit had caught fire. Mine manager Liu Shuangming was jailed for five-and-a-half years and his deputy and chief engineer, Wang Youjun, was jailed for five years, Xinhua said. "After the fire was put out, they ordered the miners to risk their lives resuming production without sufficient safety measures," Xinhua said. "Their action was extremely outrageous." — Reuters.

COAL MINE, YUNNAN, CHINA

London, Nov 26 — In the southwestern province of Yunnan, at least 32 miners were killed when a gas explosion tore through a shaft in Fuyuan county yesterday, Xinhua said. Another 28 miners were injured in the blast, it said.

FACTORY, AJMAN, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Karachi, Nov 29 — A huge fire broke out in a privately owned, one of the largest blending cum lubricant manufacturing units, Solar Lubricants, at the new industrial area in Ajman in United Arab Emirates, at about 1300

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hrs, yesterday. As a result one worker was killed and the owner estimated a loss of UAE Dh 20 million (\$5.5 million) According to civil defence, the fire was controlled after hectic efforts of more than six hours. Four vehicles of the employees of Solar Lubricants parked outside the factory premises were also gutted, but the fire fighters managed to salvage the refinery section of the company. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

FACTORY, PERUGIA AREA, ITALY

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Four people carrying out maintenance work at an olive oil factory in central Italy have been killed in a series of explosions. A fifth maintenance worker was unhurt. As a precaution, police evacuated about 500 people who lived close to the factory, in an industrial district near the city of Perugia. The cause of the blasts was not known. The factory, owned by Umbria Olii, was on fire and a thick column of black smoke was rising from the site, local news agencies said.

METALLURGICAL PLANT, MAGNITOGORSK, RUSSIA

London, Nov 29 — A press report dated today, states: The Magnitogorsk metallurgical plant has caught fire, a source at the information department of the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry said. According to the preliminary information, eight people are injured and have burns. The fire alarm sounded at 1930, Moscow time. "Some 800 square metres of roofing have gone down," he said. Fifteen teams of firemen are extinguishing the blaze.

Yekaterinburg, Nov 29 — An extensive fire at one of Russia's largest steel plants, Magnitogorsk or MMK, killed seven people, a spokeswoman for the emergency ministry said today. Production was not affected. "The search for one more person is carrying on," she said, adding that eight people had been injured. The acting governor of the region, Andrei Kosilov, told journalists that the exact number of casualties would become known only after all debris was cleared. "Production work in the workshop is very dangerous," he said, adding that chemical vapours made the work of firefighters difficult. The blaze erupted at the plant at 1920 hrs, yesterday and was extinguished about 12 hours later. The plant, which produced 11.4 million tonnes of crude steel last year, will not halt production after the fire, MMK executive director Gennady Senichev said. "(The workshop) has enough prepared material and unfinished products, which will ensure continuous work ... while the consequences of the accident are being dealt with," Senichev said, according to MMK press service. Senichev said MMK had worked out an action plan which "will help minimise negative economic consequences". MMK spokeswoman Elena Azovtseva said the financial damage from the fire was not yet known. MMK, located in the southern Ural mountains, posted a net profit of \$947 million in 2005. — Reuters.

OIL REFINERY, KUWAIT

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A Kuwaiti oil refinery shut down by a fire three weeks ago has resumed operations at its full capacity of 200,000 barrels per day (bpd), officials said yesterday. "The refinery of Shuaiba resumed full operations on Nov 17 after repairing a unit that was affected by fire," Hussein Ismail, head of the refinery, told a press conference. Shuaiba, the smallest of three refineries in oil-rich Kuwait, was shut down after the fire broke out in its heavy oil unit on Nov 4. The fire caused no casualties and the material damage was very limited, Ismail said. Most other units had resumed operations earlier, he added.

PETROCHEMICAL PLANT, JILIN PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated Nov 24, states: Environment officials and senior executives of a state-owned petroleum company and its listed subsidiary have been punished for a toxic river spill a year ago that forced officials to temporarily cut off water to millions living in north-eastern China and Russia, state media reported today. The accident, one of China's worst toxic spills, occurred in November, 2005, when an explosion at a chemical plant discharged tons of benzene and other dangerous chemicals into the Songhua River in Jilin province. Xinhua News Agency said the State Council, China's Cabinet, meted out "administrative punishments" to senior executives of the state-owned China National Petroleum Corp and its New York- and Hong Kong-listed subsidiary, PetroChina Co Ltd. Administrative punishment usually means the person is given a warning, demoted or removed from his or her position. Duan Wende, vice general manager of the China National Petroleum Corp. and senior vice president of PetroChina, which owned the plant, received a demerit on his personal record, Xinhua said. Nine other executives, including Yu Li, board chairman and general manager of the Jilin branch of PetroChina, were either given serious warnings, demoted or dismissed, the report said, but did not give details. Wang Liying, director of the Jilin provincial environmental protection department, was given a "serious demerit" on his record, according to the report. A State Council investigation showed the Nov 13, 2005, explosion was caused by negligence and a failure to observe regulations on the plant's operations, Xinhua said. The blast killed eight people and injured 60, but also forced authorities to shut off water supplies to 3.8 million people in the city of Harbin for five days, and strained relations with Russia, because the Songhua River feeds other rivers that flow through the Russian Far East city of Khabarovsk. Local authorities were accused at the time of reacting too slowly to the accident and delaying public disclosure of the spill.

REFINERY, TEXAS CITY, UNITED STATES

Houston, Nov 27 — Marathon Petroleum Co. LLC yesterday quickly

put out a small fire at its 72,000 barrel-per-day refinery in Texas City, Texas, according to a local newspaper report today. The fire was confined to an unidentified unit at the refinery, the Galveston County Daily News reported on its Web site, citing a statement from a public safety official. — Reuters.

STEEL FACTORY, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated Nov 22, states: Africa's largest steelmaker Mittal Steel South Africa said today that its V1 caster at its Vanderbiljpark plant was operational again, following the hydraulic fire late last month that damaged both the V1 caster and V2 caster. The company added that it had lost less than 10,000 tons of final product. Initially it estimated that it would lose up to 100,000 tons of liquid steel production. Mittal Steel SA GM of corporate affairs Tami Didiza said that the V1 caster was brought back into operation on Sunday (Nov 19), about 26 days after the fire and three days ahead of planned start-up date. The V2 caster was back in operation eight days after the incident. Didiza said that Mittal Steel SA did everything within its power to ensure that the impact on its clients was kept to a minimum. "To ensure we were able to meet our orders, we used our existing stocks of slabs with the shortfall being made up by the importation from within the group."

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated Nov 23, states: A wildfire that had consumed about 125 acres and continued to burn today was started by a camper who lit a signal fire after getting lost in a national forest, authorities said. The man got lost trying to return to a group of other campers after a hike in the San Bernardino National Forest, US Forest Service spokesman John Miller said. The camper was about a mile from where he started when he set the signal fire Tuesday night (Nov 21). Authorities had not determined whether to charge the man. Nearly 400 firefighters, four helicopters and four air tankers battled the blaze in hard-to-reach terrain near Yucaipa, about 70 miles east of Los Angeles. Low winds allowed crews to get the upper hand by yesterday afternoon.



C-FTQT

London, Nov 23 — The privately operated Cessna 180B, registration C-FTQT, went missing on a flight from Antofagasta, Chile to Santiago, Chile. The wreckage was subsequently located near Santiago at 2145, UTC, Nov 18. The pilot, who was the sole occupant, had sustained fatal injuries. The aircraft was substantially damaged due to impact forces and there had been a post-impact fire. A Canadian Accredited Representative has been appointed.

C-GBMI

London, Nov 27 — Airco Charters Ltd Piper PA-31-350, C-GBMI, was on an flight from Edmonton to Valleyview, Alberta, when after a visual approach to a runway which was believed to be that of Valleyview, the aircraft landed on a snow-covered, abandoned forestry strip about 1.5 nautical miles south of Valleyfield, which was utilized as a summer helicopter staging area. During the landing roll, the aircraft went through two snow windrows formed by a ploughed road which crossed the landing area, and came to rest facing 90 degrees to the landing path. The aircraft had a collapsed nose gear, damaged propellers, and wrinkled nose structure. There were no injuries to the pilot and five passengers who exited the aircraft and walked to a nearby forestry building.

CRASH, CEBU PROVINCE, PHILIPPINES

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft crashed this afternoon in Cebu province and killed two passengers including a British pilot, ABS-CBN Regional Network Group reported. Authorities identified the fatalities as Roy Bruce and Filipino mechanic Romy Ophelia. The report said the extra 300, two-seater acrobatic aircraft took off from Mactan airport at 1648, today. Witnesses said they saw the aircraft doing some acrobatic flight stunts before it went down in two-metre deep water. Fishermen doing their regular rounds near the area responded immediately and were able to retrieve the body of Ophelia. Bruce's body was later recovered at 1930 by responding units of the Philippine Coast Guard. Authorities said Ophelia had suffered a fatal wound in his head while Bruce's right arm had been detached from his body due to the strong impact of the crash. The report said the British was a resident in Cebu where he was running a furniture business.

CRASH, COIHAIQUE AREA, CHILE

London, Nov 25 — All the five passengers and the Chilean pilot were killed in a twin-engine aircraft crash in southern Chile, authorities reported. The crash occurred near the city of Coihaique, about 2,100 kilometres south of the capital of Santiago, the government's emergency bureau said. The tourists had hired the private aircraft to visit the nearby San Rafael Lake, a top tourist attraction, according to the bureau. There were strong winds in the area at the time of the crash, but the cause of the accident was still under investigation.

CRASH, ESSEN AREA, GERMANY

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Five people have been injured, two seriously, when a small aircraft crashed onto a motorway in Germany today. The twin engined aircraft tried apparently to make an emergency landing and crashed onto the four-lane A52 highway, near Essen, using the lane with oncoming traffic. A fire started as a result of the crash and

witnesses rushed to extinguish the blaze and tend to the injured. A VW van with a trailer and a car were also involved in the accident. The motorway remained closed while rescue operations continued. The cause of the crash landing is believed to be fuel shortage.

CRASH, KAIPARA HARBOUR, NEW ZEALAND

London, Nov 25 — Two people have died after a light aircraft crashed into Northland's Kaipara Harbour this morning. Emergency services at the crash scene near Pouto Point, about 70km south of Dargaville, pulled the wreckage of the plane from the harbour just before 1100, today. "We can confirm two bodies have been located in the wreckage of the plane," Fire Service northern communications spokesman Jaron Phillips said. Emergency services were called to the scene, at the northern entrance to Kaipara Harbour, about 0900 hrs. Mr Phillips said the aircraft had been identified but he was not sure where it had taken off. Police said later that the light aircraft crashed into the sea about 100 metres offshore and rescuers were attempting to bring the wreckage ashore. Civil Aviation crash investigators were in attendance. The Rescue Co-ordination Centre told National Radio that the aircraft took off from a beach at Kaipara Harbour.

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Civil Aviation investigators were today beginning the lengthy task of trying to determine the cause of a fatal Kaipara Harbour aircraft crash. The bodies of a man and a woman were pulled out of the wreckage yesterday. Their aircraft went down just after 0900 yesterday morning at Pouto Point. An eyewitness reported seeing the aircraft take off near the beach, and climbing to about 200 metres. It then veered to the left and crashed into the sea. Civil Aviation spokesman Bill Sommer said one investigator was at the scene and another was on his way from Christchurch. He said it was now a matter of looking at the wreckage and talking to eyewitnesses to piece together what happened.

CRASH, TETNEY MARSHES, LINCOLNSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Nov 26 — A press release from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, dated today, states: Humber Coastguard received a 999 call at 1600 this afternoon reporting a light aircraft crash in the vicinity of Tetney Marshes, south of Cleethorpes. The Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre at Kinloss (ARCC) in Scotland were immediately informed and Cleethorpes and Donna Nook Coastguard Rescue Teams plus the Cleethorpes RNLI inshore lifeboat (ILB) were asked to attend the incident along with Rescue Helicopter 128. The Police and Ambulance Service were also informed. The crew of the Cleethorpes ILB established when they were on scene with the helicopter winchman that the casualty was unharmed. Coastguards and the ILB crew are presently attempting to tow the aircraft onto harder sand.

EMERGENCY LANDING, ANAPA, RUSSIA

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A Russian passenger aircraft with 61 people aboard made an emergency landing Saturday (Nov 25) after the pilot discovered engine trouble shortly after take-off, an emergency official said. The Aeroflot-Nord airlines Tu-134 landed safely in the Black Sea coast city of Anapa, where it had taken off on a flight for Moscow with 53 passengers and eight crew members aboard, said Vladimir Gerasin, s spokesman for the Emergency Situations Ministry branch in southern Russia. Nobody was hurt.

EMERGENCY LANDING, IRKUTSK, RUSSIA

London, Nov 28 — A press report, dated today, states: An airliner with 184 passengers and 11 crew members on the board made an emergency landing in Irkutsk this morning. The A-310 aircraft was coming from Moscow. A spokesman at the regional Emergency Situations Ministry said that a cockpit signal showed that the left wheel failed to go out. The captain reported the contingency to ground controllers. Rapid reaction services were rushed to the airport. Observers on the ground could see that the wheel remained retracted during the aircraft's landing approach. The airliner made a circled over the city, during which the crew managed to deploy the wheel by using a backup hydraulic system. The landing was smooth. Nobody was hurt, and the aircraft was not damaged. The aircraft was put in a hangar for technical checks.

EMERGENCY LANDING, ROSTOV-ON-DON, RUSSIA

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A Russian Tu-154 airliner en route to Turkey made an emergency landing in southern Russia today and no one was injured, the Emergency Situations Ministry said. The Aeroflot-Don plane, carrying 54 passengers and eight crew members, left Rostov-on-Don for Istanbul early today, said Oleg Ugnivenko, a spokesman for the ministry's southern district department. The plane began vibrating as it approached the Russian border and the crew decided to turn back after learning one of the three engines had failed, he said. The plane circled Rostov to burn off fuel before making the successful emergency landing.

EMERGENCY LANDING, TUSCON, ARIZONA, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 28 — A press report, dated Nov 27, states: A U.S. Airways plane that left Sky Harbor International Airport (Phoenix), late this afternoon has had to make an emergency landing. The plane was bound for Houston, but was forced to land at Tucson International Airport just after 1600 hrs, because of a decompression problem in the cabin. One person was reportedly treated for minor injuries.

EMERGENCY LANDING, VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CANADA

London, Nov 29 — A Manila-bound jet carrying more than 280 passengers made an emergency landing at Vancouver International Airport shortly after take-off this morning. Airport officials told media the Philippines airliner had just left the airport when a problem developed with one of its wing flaps. The pilot decided to turn back and dumped fuel into the ocean on the way to Vancouver. Fire and ambulance crews were dispatched as a precaution but the aircraft landed without incident. It's unclear whether the plane is now grounded or when the flight will resume.

FLIGHT DIVERTED TO MARSEILLE, FRANCE

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft heading from Paris to the West African nation of Ivory Coast was diverted at 1130 today to an airport in southern France and safely evacuated following a bomb threat, a regional official said. The Air Ivoire aircraft, with about 50 people aboard, landed at the airport in Marseille, Christian Fremont, top official in the southern Bouches-du-Rhone region, told France 2 television. The airport was closed until 1300. The aircraft was isolated, and bomb disposal experts were waiting for a safe period of time to go by before searching the aircraft, he said. Officials had received a threatening phone call saying a bomb was aboard the flight, Fremont said. The aircraft was flying from Orly Airport, outside Paris, to Abidjan in Ivory Coast, he said.

FLIGHTS DELAYED DUE TO FOG, POLAND

London, Nov 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Thick fog all but halted traffic at Warsaw airport and hit other airports across Poland today, a spokesman said. "Since 0500, GMT, almost no planes have been able to take off or land," said Grzegorz Chlebowski, spokesman for Warsaw airport. "Only a Star Alliance aircraft bound for the United States is preparing to leave the airport this afternoon," he told AFP. The airports at Poznan in the west, Wroclaw in the southwest and the southern cities of Katowice and Krakow were also fog-bound. "The situation is terrible. Only the airport at Rzeszow (in the southeast) is still working, but it is overloaded with diverted traffic," Chlebowski said. Weather conditions were unlikely to improve until tomorrow, he added.

FLIGHTS DELAYED DUE TO FOG, SERBIA

London, Nov 29 — Traffic at Belgrade International Airport, the main airport in Serbia, was stopped yesterday due to thick fog, an airport official said. "Since the afternoon the arrivals have been redirected to the airport in Nis (250 kilometres, 150 miles south from Belgrade) and passengers are being bussed to the capital," the official told AFP. "Apart from a few exceptions, the departures have been cancelled," he added. The weather was not expected to improve until today, he added.

G-JSAR

London, Nov 25 — The wreck of helicopter G-JSAR was brought into Den Helder on a pontoon towed by tug *JWR Apollo* on Nov 23. It was then taken away for further research.

INCIDENT AT JEJU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SOUTH KOREA

London, Nov 28 — At least six people were injured in a runway accident at South Korea's Jeju International Airport today, local media reported. Six people, including the chief pilot, were injured and taken to a nearby hospital after a 76-seat passenger aircraft of the Hansung Air skidded off the runway at 1615, this afternoon when it was landing at Jeju International Airport, officials of the Jeju International Airport said. The jet of Hansung Air, a minor domestic carrier, departed from Seoul's Gimpo Airport at 1507 hrs and was scheduled to land at Jeju Island's tourist airport at 1630 hrs. The Police have launched investigation into the cause of the accident, local media said. Following the accident, the Jeju International Airport was temporarily closed.

INCIDENT AT SHARJAH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Karachi, Nov 27 — United Arab Emirates Shahjah International Airport was closed for around two hours on Nov 26 after a light aircraft tyre burst on landing. According to local media, airport engineers on board a six-seater Beechcraft had a lucky escape when its left rear tyre burst soon after it landed and skidded off the runway at Sharjah airport. The incident took place at noon yesterday when the engineers were on a calibration mission. The incident led to the closure of the runway for a couple of hours and two incoming flights had to be diverted to Dubai International airport. Dr Ganem Al Hajri, Director-General of the Sharjah International Airport, confirming the incident said there were no casualties or injuries. He said: "It was a Beechcraft that was on a calibration mission which involves testing navigation procedures." Dr. Al Hajri said the aircraft is registered in Pakistan. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Nov 30 — Pakistan's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) will initiate an enquiry into crash landing of its aircraft, six-seater Beechcraft, at the Sharjah International Airport in United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Nov 26. An investigator has been sent to the Gulf emirate to ascertain causes of the incident, the authority informed journalists. The aircraft, which was on a navigational calibration mission, was severely damaged when it skidded off the runway after its left engine failed soon after take-off from the Sharjah airport. As a result the airport was closed for few hours. The pilot made an effort at an emergency landing, but the plane's landing gear failed to deploy properly. The CAA's aircraft checks the accuracy of landing guidance and navigational systems, called flight calibration. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

INCIDENT AT TRUDEAU AIRPORT, MONTREAL, CANADA

London, Nov 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A medical transport aircraft arriving from the United States skidded off the runway this morning at Montreal's Trudeau Airport. None of the six people onboard the Learjet was injured. The aircraft coming from Georgia experienced problems with its hydraulic system after making a normal landing in good weather. The Transportation Safety Board is investigating

N115SE

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A small aircraft crashed near an air strip near Alvarado, killing both people aboard, a state communications operator said today. The crash was first reported to authorities about 1800 yesterday, according to a Texas Department of Public Safety dispatcher in Waco, who declined to identify himself. The dispatcher said the plane crashed about 1.5 miles from the strip in Johnson County. He said the name of the strip was not available. The dispatcher said the passengers' names were not yet available. One man was from the north Dallas suburb of Addison, the other was from Grandview in Johnson County, 45 miles south-west of Dallas, he said.

London, Nov 27 — Aero Designs Pulsar N115 SE crashed near Alvarado, Texas, at 2150, Nov 24, while on a local flight from Alvarado. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

N1611W

London, Nov 24 — McDonnell Douglas MD369E, operated by Menasha Forest Management Services LLC, lost control and impacted the ground, while hoisting a load the sling snapped and struck the main rotor disk, at Lyons, Oregon, at 2300, local time, Nov 22. The aircraft sustained substantial damage.

N17727

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated Nov 23, states: The Gwinnett County Airport closed for a couple of hours today after a Beech Bonanza BE-36 aircraft's landing gear apparently failed, causing it to skid on a runway, officials said. It skidded a short distance on its belly on runway 25 after it touched down about 1115 today. The landing gear on the aircraft appeared to collapse after the aircraft touched down. The pilot, who was the only occupant, was not injured. The aircraft is registered to Kenneth J. Lewis of Statham, said Kathleen Bergen, the spokeswoman for the Southern Region office of the Federal Aviation Administration. The aircraft had flown to Briscoe Field from Gainesville. There was a small fuel leak, which was brought under control by airport officials, said Lt. Thomas Rutledge, spokesman for the Gwinnett County Fire Department. Firefighters assessed the scene and then left, he said. The airport reopened after the aircraft was removed from the runway. The FAA is investigating the incident, Bergen said.

London, Nov 24 — Beechcraft Bonanza BE-36, N17727, privately operated, gear collapsed after landing at Lawrenceville, Georgia, at 1614, local time, Nov 22. Minor damage sustained.

N3144D

London, Nov 28 — Beechcraft Bonanza B36TC N3144D crashed near Fullerton, California, at 1010, Nov 26, while on a flight to Fullerton. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was seriously injured.

N414AY

London, Nov 28 — A press report, dated Nov 27, states: A plane exploded in flames in a residential neighbourhood yesterday after engine troubles forced an emergency landing as it approached the North Las Vegas Airport. The pilot and two passengers of the Cessna 414, all Las Vegas residents, escaped uninjured, and no one on the ground was hurt, fire and police officials said. The crash occurred shortly after 1500 hrs, as the twin-engine plane was returning to its home airport from San Luis Obispo, Calif., officials said. The plane had been cleared to land when the pilot reported trouble with one of its two engines, said Jerry Pascual, spokesman for the Clark County Department of Aviation. Las Vegas police Lt. Tom Roberts said the pilot reported that an engine had stalled. Faced with landing on the busy Rancho Drive or Jones Boulevard, the pilot decided to land on Jones. "The pilot did a phenomenal job," Las Vegas Fire Department spokesman Tim Szymanski said. "He looked at Rancho, with lots of cars on the road. He looked at Jones, with no cars on the road." While landing, however, the left wing of the plane clipped a light pole, and then the plane hit a rock wall, officials said. The plane spun, spewing fuel that then ignited, officials said. Despite the flames around the cockpit, the pilot and passengers escaped unharmed, officials said. Police and investigators refused to release the names of the pilot or passengers. Pascual said the owner of the plane was not in it at the time. The owner came to the scene later, he said. A Las Vegas Fire Department statement said the plane was owned by a North Las Vegas business. The Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board are investigating the incident.

London, Nov 28 — Cessna 414A N414AY crashed into a street in North Las Vegas, Nevada, at 2302, Nov 26, while on a flight from San Luis Obispo, California, to North Las Vegas. The aircraft caught fire, and sustained substantial damage. The three persons on board were not injured.

N4426X

London, Nov 27 — A press report, dated Nov 26, states: Authorities today found the plane that crashed into the ocean just off White Point Saturday and killed a Huntington Beach Toyota engineer. David Hermance, 59, a leading expert on hybrid technology, had taken off from Long Beach Airport and was apparently practicing aerobicic maneuvers in his single-engine stunt

plane when he crashed, according to witnesses and friends. Authorities found the two-passenger 1993 Interavia E-3 aircraft at the bottom of the ocean at a depth of 70 feet, said Captain Mark Savage of the Los Angeles County Fire Department. The plane crashed at about 1315 hrs, yesterday about 400 yards offshore, Savage said. Hermance's body was recovered at the surface of the water yesterday and no one else was believed to be on board, Savage said. Hermance was married and the father of an adult son and daughter. Divers were videotaping the wreckage today in case it gets damaged during the removal process, Savage said. "We are waiting for direction," Savage said. "We'll probably raise the aircraft (today) with airbags. We're waiting for the NTSB decision." The cause of the crash was under investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board.

London, Nov 28 — Interavia E-3 N4426X crashed into the Pacific Ocean off San Pedro, California, at 2116, Nov 25, while on a flight from Long Beach, CA. The one person on board was killed.

N977SA

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A small aircraft with six people on board crashed in North Las Vegas this morning. No one was hurt. Police spokesman Tim Bedwell says the Cessna 210 was flying into North Las Vegas' airport from Salt Lake City at about 0800. The aircraft experienced some difficulty making it incapable of reaching the runway. The aircraft clipped phone and cable lines. Bedwell says the pilot managed to land the aircraft on its belly near the intersection of Clayton Street and Cheyenne Avenue about a half-mile from the airport. One of the wings broke on impact. Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board are on the scene.

London, Nov 28 — Cessna T210M (Centurion II) N977SA crashed near North Las Vegas, Nevada, at 1653, Nov 24, while on a flight from Salt Lake City, Utah, to North Las Vegas. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The six persons on board were not injured.

YV-1756

London, Nov 27 — A mechanic was working on the Antonov 28, YV-1756, which was parked on the apron at Caracas-Simon Bolivar Airport (CCS) at 1640, Nov 23. The aircraft suddenly rolled forward and went down an incline into bushes. The mechanic reported that the Antonov began to roll due to the rotor wash of a helicopter nearby.



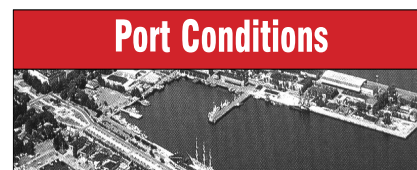
CHAIN SAWS, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 29 — A press release, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product

Safety Commission, Washington, D.C., dated Nov 28, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with MTD Southwest Inc., of Tempe, Ariz., today announced a voluntary recall of the approximately 76,000 Troy-Bilt and Craftsman Brand Gasoline Chain Saws. The chain saw's plastic front handle can break during operation. If this occurs, the saw would be difficult to control and poses a risk for lacerations. MTD has received two reports of consumers losing control of the saw when the handles broke during use. One consumer reported bruising to his elbow and the other received burns to his fingers after contacting the muffler when the chain saw he was using broke and he lost control of the saw. These Troy-Bilt and Craftsman brand chain saws are powered by a two-cycle gasoline engine ranging in size from 46cc to 55cc. They are equipped with either an 18-inch or 20-inch bar. There are four Troy-Bilt models affected: 41AY00AR966, 41AY60AR766, 41AY90AR766 and 41AY08AR966. There is one Craftsman "Incredi-Pull" model affected: a 55cc two-cycle gasoline engine with an 18-inch bar and model number 316.350840. The model number of the chain saw is located on the engine casing. The Troy-Bilt brand chain saws were sold at independent retailers, home improvement and hardware stores nationwide from January 2004 through to June 2006 for between \$200 and \$250. The Craftsman brand chain saws were sold at Sears and Kmart stores nationwide from January 2004 through to June 2006 for between \$190 and \$230.

HONDA MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Nov 25 — Honda Motor Co said yesterday it is recalling a total of 209,898 of its Mobilio and the Mobilio Spike small passenger cars for repairs of defective parts. The brake lights and the gears of the vehicles, manufactured from November 2001 to May 2005, may fail due to a defective electric wiring system, Honda said in a report to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. From October 2004 to September this year, 41 cases of such defects were reported, including one in which a driver could not move the gear stick from the position for parking, Honda said.



AUSTRALIA

Sydney, Nov 28 — The queue of coal ships waiting to enter the port of Newcastle(NSW) should peak at what is believed to be a record of 56 vessels some time in the next two weeks. Updated information from the Hunter Valley Coal Chain Logistics Team (HVCCLT) indicates that the queue will top the 54 ships waiting when the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) approved the introduction of a capacity balancing system in 2004. The

Newcastle Port Corporation was unable to be contacted to confirm if it had dealt with a longer queue than 54 ships. There were 48 ships waiting to load more than four million tonnes of coal yesterday, ahead of an expected increase to the mid-50s within a fortnight. Port Waratah Coal Services (PWCS), which manages both coal terminals at the port, has predicted that the queue might not fall significantly until late December or early January. PWCS is due to complete a \$170m upgrade of its Kooragang Island terminal by the end of the first quarter of 2007, taking the network's capacity to 102m tonnes each year. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

BANGLADESH

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Chittagong Port Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) yesterday gave a 48-hour ultimatum to the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) to resume the gantry crane operation through the private operator. The operation of gantry crane has remained suspended since Nov 12 following a row between private operator — Saif Powertec Limited — and dock workers. The Dock Unit CBA, loyal to Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Wednesday (Nov 22) asked the CPA to resume gantry crane operation through its own operator by Sunday. Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) for general port workers favours operation of the gantry crane by Saif Powertec Limited and has given the deadline to the CPA. Nurullah Bahar, general secretary of the CBA, told the FE Friday that they had given ultimatum to the CPA in the interest of the Chittagong Port. "We want to resume the gantry crane operation through the private operator of Saif Powertec Limited and we will do it by any means after expiry of our deadline," Nurullah Bahar said. The major trade bodies including the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Bangladesh Knit Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) are likely to meet in Dhaka today to hammer out a solution to the impasse. A total of 11 gearless feeder vessels are waiting at the CPA jetty and outer anchorage on Friday. Port and Customs sources said Friday one of the stranded vessels is

carrying potato seed and any further delay in discharging the seed will hamper the country's potato cultivation to a great extent. Besides, the potato seed might be damaged as it requires preservation in a particular temperature. However, Member (Operation and Harbour) Captain Quamrul Hussain said that they were discussing with different departments to resume the gantry crane operation and informing the development to the ministry of Shipping. Meanwhile, the Chittagong Port delivered 1500 Twenty Equivalent Units Thursday after the withdrawal of countrywide blockade enforced by 14-party combine and it is expecting to deliver around 2000 TEUs yesterday. Loading and unloading from eight feeder vessels were taking place until Friday afternoon. Two gearless vessels remained idle at the Chittagong Container Terminal (CCT) on the day. Some 17 vessels including nine gearless vessels were waiting at the outer anchorage Friday. A total of 18,200 TEUs of containers were stockpiled at different port yards yesterday.

Karachi, Nov 27 — Eleven gearless vessels laden with 7,000 TEUs remained stranded at the Chittagong Port of Bangladesh for last couple of days due to an indefinite strike enforced by Dock Sramik Union. They are demanding cancellation of appointment of foreign operators for modern gantry cranes and the agreement signed with SAIF Power Tech in this regard. According to local media, the port authority in a fix as one political party is against the award of contract to foreign firm while other is favouring. Last week, leaders of the Awami League led 14-party combine gave a 24-hour ultimatum to the port authorities for cancelling the agreement with SAIF Power Tech while the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)-backed CBA and non-CBA Sramik Karmachari Parishad gave a 48-hour ultimatum on Saturday (Nov 25) for starting the operation of gantry cranes. Under the circumstances, Port Authority Chairman M Moslehuddin yesterday discussed the matter with Shipping Advisor M Azizul Haque in Dhaka but the meeting ended inconclusively. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Nov 30 — The gantry crane operation at the Chittagong Container

Terminal (CCT) of Bangladesh is likely to start today following the successful talks concluded last night, after 17 days of shutdown that had left 11 gearless vessels stranded. The gantry crane operation will now handle by own operators of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA). The operation had remained suspended since Nov 12 over a row between a hired private operator — Saif Powertec Limited — and the CPA's own workers. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

IRAQ

London, Nov 25 — Basrah Oil Terminal will be closed for maintenance between Dec 16 and Dec 19.

London, Nov 27 — Basrah Oil Terminal will be closed for maintenance between Dec 16 and Dec 19.

ITALY

Genoa, Nov 27 — Port situation Nov 27: Genoa: No vessels awaiting berths. Savona: One vessel awaiting special berth and one vessel waiting a normal berth. Average delay in berthing 24 hrs. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. — Lloyd's Agents.

PANAMA CANAL

Balboa, Nov 27 — The present backlog stands at 58 ships and the Canal is showing a projected backlog in the next 48 hours at 49 ships, which is a clear sign that the overall condition is improving. The weather over the last two/three days has been relatively good which has also helped sustain capacity at maximum level. Delays are now running about two to three days. This period tends to be fairly busy with high arrivals of container, bulk and cruise ships. During this time of the year, 36 to 48 hours delay are rather normal, even with the Canal operating at Maximum capacity. — Lloyd's Agents.

QATAR

Doha, Nov 30 — †As of 0700, Dec 1 to 0700, Dec 3 all cargo operations will be suspended due to the†Asian Games. — Lloyd's Agents. †

SYRIA

Aleppo, Nov 29 — Waiting period in Syrian ports: Lattakia 24 hours and Tartous two days. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Azerbaijan		
Apscheron	04-Dec-2006	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 3 vessels berthed, all discharging, of which 2 fuel oil, 1 crude oil.
Baku	04-Dec-2006	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; AzerTrans terminal - Nobel avenue: 1 vessel due 5/12 to discharge crude oil; Sangachal district: no vessels.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	04-Dec-2006	Eight vessels in port of which 5 loading (1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 3 coils, 1 sunflower seeds), 3 discharging (1 billets, 1 zinc concentrate, 1 copper concentrate); 5 vessel in roads of which 1 to load coils, 4 to discharge (1 iron ore, 1 salt, 1 coal, 1 pipes); 5 vessels due of which 3 to load (1 metal, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 ammonium nitrate), 2 to discharge (1 concrete iron, 1 coke).
Varna	04-Dec-2006	Varna East, Varna West, Balchik: Thirty-two vessels in port operating of which 16 loading (10 soda, 1 sunflower seeds, 1 bulk cement, 1 bulk sulphuric acid, 1 silica sand, 1 kaolin, 1 scrap), 5 discharging (2 bulk coal, 1 scrap, 1 pipes, 1 steel coils), 11 discharging/loading (7 containers, 1 equipment, 1 hardboard/ammonium nitrate, 1 feldspar/kaolin, 1 containers/spare parts); no vessels waiting in roads.
Egypt		
Adabiya	04-Dec-2006	Four vessels berthed (loading/discharging), all general cargo.
Alexandria	04-Dec-2006	Twenty-three vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 14 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 2 tankers, 2 passenger vessels; 10 vessels at inner anchorage, 8 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	04-Dec-2006	Twenty vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 14 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 4 container vessels; 15 vessels at outer anchorage, none at inner anchorage.
Dekheila	04-Dec-2006	Nine vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 1 container vessel; 2 vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	04-Dec-2006	Six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 4 container vessels.
Suez	04-Dec-2006	Five vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 2 passenger vessel; 2 tugs, 3 vessels dry-docked.
Suez Canal	04-Dec-2006	Twenty-two vessels transiting Northbound, 25 Southbound.
Estonia		
Tallinn	04-Dec-2006	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): Two vessels loading at berth (1 oil products, 1 coal); no vessels waiting at anchorage; 2 vessels due, with 6 days berthing delay expected.
Georgia		
Batumi	04-Dec-2006	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, both loading, of which 1 crude oil, 1 LPG; 4 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 2 crude oil, 1 gasoil, 1 LPG; 3 vessels due by 9/12, all to load, of which 1 crude oil, 1 gasoil, 1 fuel oil, 1 unknown cargo
India		
Kolkata	04-Dec-2006	3 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Containers, 2 vessels discharging (Logs, Containers), 1 vessel working at midstream and discharging Crude, 1 vessel waiting to discharge at midstream; 2 vessels under repair, 1 vessel under dry docked; 1 vessel under arrest; 1 vessel at shipyard quay, 1 vessel waiting to sail; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load and discharge.
Haldia	04-Dec-2006	10 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Iron Ore, Thermal Coal, Steel), 7 vessels discharging (Crude-2, POL, Coke-2, M. Coke, MOP); 2 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (1 to load, 1 to load and discharge), 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 5 vessels due (Crude-2, Palm, Coke, Containers).
Paradip	04-Dec-2006	8 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Iron Ore-2, Thermal Coal, Ctr.Con.), 3 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-4, Project Cargo, Sulpher); 13 vessels due.
Visakhapatnam	04-Dec-2006	12 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Iron Ore-2, Soya, Product Tankers), 8 vessels discharging (Coking Coal, LPG Gas, DBM & Project Cargo, DAP, Alumina, Pet Coke, Steel Pipes, Rock phosphate); 12 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (6 to discharge, 6 to load); 37 vessels due (Iron Ore-7, Steel Cargo-2, Product Tankers-4, Phosphoric Acid, MOP-2, DAP, Coking Coal-6, Containers-2, Project Cargo, Steam Coal-3, Crude Oil-6, Wheat-2).
Chennai	04-Dec-2006	14 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (Iron Ore, Naptha), 9 vessels discharging (Wheat, Urea, Thermal Coal, Sulphar, Met Coke, Steam Coal-3, C. Oil), 3 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge, 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load; 2 vessels due (Passenger/ General Cargo, Project Cargo).
Tuticorin	04-Dec-2006	9 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading General Cargo, 8 vessels discharging (Urea, Thermal Coal-2, Wheat, Peas, Logs-2, Rock Phosphate), 1 vessel waiting for bunkering; 10 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (1 to load, 9 to discharge), 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load.

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

Port Conditions

Cochin	04-Dec-2006	6 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading POL, 4 vessels discharging (Wheat-2, MOP, Iron Ore Pallets), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers ; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge; 3 vessel under other reasons. (Arab Yah (for repair), Sagan Manthan (Survey), Sagar Manjush (Survey).
New Mangalore	04-Dec-2006	10 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Iron Ore Fines-2, POL Product), 7 vessels discharging (Timber-2, Coal-2, Fertilizer, POL Crude, LPG); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage (2 to load, 1 to discharge); 6 vessels due (POL Product, POL Crude-2, Container, LPG, Phosphate Acid).
Mormugao	04-Dec-2006	3 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Iron Ore, 2 vessels discharging (Coal, C. P. Coke); 5 vessels working at midstream and loading Iron Ore; 2 vessels waiting berth at anchorage to load, 2 vessels waiting and working at anchorage to load; 4 vessels under dry docked; 7 vessels due (C.Coke-2, C P Coke, Iron Ore-4).
Mumbai	04-Dec-2006	16 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Lubricant Oil, POL-2), 8 vessels discharging (Base Oil, MOP/Rock Phosphate-2, Peas , Wheat, Steel Cargo, General Cargo, POL), 5 vessels loading and discharging (Steel, General Cargo, Containers, Heavy Lifts, Project Cargo); 1 vessel not ready to work at anchorage to discharge, 3 vessels waiting berth at anchorage to discharge, 1 vessel waiting and working at anchorage to discharge ; 10 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 6 vessels under arrest; 7 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 34 vessels due (Containers-6, Fertilizer Raw Material, General Cargo-27).
J.N.P.T.	04-Dec-2006	7 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels discharging (High Speed Diesel/MAS/SKO, Ammonia Acid), 5 vessels loading and discharging Containers.
Kandla	04-Dec-2006	16 vessels operating at berth of which 7 vessels loading (Rice, Agriculture Product, Salt, Pipes, Bauxite, C. Oil, Orthoxylene), 7 vessels discharging (Butane, Chemical, High Speed Diesel, Timber Logs-2, Urea, Wheat); 10 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (6 to discharge, 4 to load), 7 vessels not ready to work at anchorage (3 to load, 4 to discharge).
Ennore	04-Dec-2006	1 vessel operating at berth discharging Thermal Coal, 1 vessel waiting to discharging Thermal Coal; 4 vessels due (MV Mech Cebu (Iron Ore), MV Tamil Anna (Coal), MV Apj Sri Devi (Coal), MV Gem of Ennore (Coal).
Israel		
Ashdod	04-Dec-2006	No labour problems; One vessel loading general cargo at berth, 11 discharging at berth (8 general cargo, 3 bulk cargo), 3 loading/discharging containers at berth; 8 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (7 general cargo, 1 bulk cargo), 3 waiting at anchorage to load/discharge containers; 15 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	04-Dec-2006	No labour problems; Four vessels discharging at berth (2 general cargo, 2 bulk cargo), 9 loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 2 car carriers, 2 tankers, 1 passenger vessel); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge general cargo, 6 waiting at anchorage to load/discharge containers; 8 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 16 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Kazakhstan		
Aktau	04-Dec-2006	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, loading unknown cargo; 8 vessels in roads, all to load unknown cargoes; 3 vessels due by 4/12, all to load unknown cargoes.
Poland		
Gdansk	04-Dec-2006	Fifteen vessels in port operating of which 5 loading at berth (2 coal, 1 bulk cargo, 1 general cargo, 1 tanker), 10 discharging at berth (1 bulk cargo, 5 tankers, 3 general cargo, 1 grain); 2 tankers waiting in roads; 8 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 25 vessels due.
Gdynia	04-Dec-2006	Five vessels in port operating of which 3 loading general cargo at berth, 2 discharging grain at berth, 18 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 45 vessels due.
Russia		
Novorossiysk	04-Dec-2006	Eighteen vessels in port operating of which 15 loading (1 bulk cement, 1 bulk urea, 1 steel billets, 4 wheat, 1 slabs, 4 coils, 1 vegetable oil, 1 scrap, 1 D/O), 2 discharging (1 bulk sugar, 1 vegetable oil), 1 discharging/loading containers; 7 vessels in roads of which 6 to load (1 wheat, 2 aluminium, 2 D/O, 1 UANS), 1 to discharge bananas; 87 vessels due of which 79 to load, 7 to discharge (2 vegetable oil, 1 meal products, 3 debars, 1 bulk sugar), 1 to load/discharge containers; Oil terminal: 2 tankers loading at berth (1 crude, 1 diesel oil); 1 tanker in roads to load crude oil; 8 tankers due, all to load (6 crude oil, 2 diesel oil
Slovenia		
Koper	04-Dec-2006	Port working normally; Nine vessels at berth of which 2 loading sawn timber/ general cargo, 6 discharging (1 tanker discharging mineral oils, 1 car carrier discharging vehicles, 4 bulk carriers discharging coal/minerals), 1 discharging/loading containers; 14 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 7 to load (3 to load steel products/general cargo, 4 bulk carriers to load coal), 7 to discharge/load (5 containers, 2 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles).
Spain		
Bilbao	04-Dec-2006	Twenty-four vessels in port operating (4 tankers, 20 others), of which 4 loading, 13 discharging, 7 loading/discharging
Sagunto	04-Dec-2006	Nineteen vessels in port operating, of which 4 loading (2 steel products, 1 fruit, 1 machinery), 14 discharging (11 steel products, 1 gas, 1 fruit, 1 anhydrous ammonia), 1 loading/discharging steel products; no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.

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Port Conditions

Turkmenistan

Aladja	04-Dec-2006	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, loading crude oil; 1 vessel in roads to load crude oil.
Okarem	04-Dec-2006	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, loading crude oil.
Turkmenbashi	04-Dec-2006	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, loading fuel oil; 10 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 4 gasoil, 1 heating oil, 2 fuel oil, 1 unknown cargo; 1 vessel due 4/12 to load gasoline.

Ukraine

Illichevsk	04-Dec-2006	Six vessels in port operating of which 3 loading (1 steel products, 1 wheat, 1 sulphur), 2 discharging (1 nickel ore, 1 palm oil), 1 discharging/loading containers; 2 vessels in roads of which 1 to discharge palm oil, 1 to discharge/load containers; 14 vessels due of which 9 to load (7 steel products, 2 sunflower oil), 5 to discharge/load containers.
Mariupol	04-Dec-2006	Nine vessels in port operating of which 8 loading (3 steel, 2 fire-clay, 3 coal), 1 discharging/loading containers/fire-clay; 2 vessels in roads, both to load fire-clay; 64 vessels due of which 59 to load (37 steel, 8 coal, 4 fire-clay, 1 bran, 2 slag, 4 sulphur, 2 coke, 1 steel/equipment), 3 to discharge (1 ferroalloy, 1 equipment, 1 bauxite), 1 to discharge/load containers.
Odessa	04-Dec-2006	Sixteen vessels in port operating of which 9 loading (5 metal, 1 pig iron, 1 scrap, 1 timber, 1 grain), 5 discharging (1 passenger vessel, 3 baggage, 1 citrus), 2 discharging/loading containers; 4 vessels in roads of which 3 to load (2 metal, 1 scrap), 1 to discharge/load containers; 92 vessels due of which 32 to load (23 metal, 3 pig iron, 1 scrap, 2 soy, 1 ore, 1 timber, 1 equipment), 10 to discharge (1 metal, 1 general cargo, 2 ore, 1 sugar, 2 bananas, 1 equipment), 50 to load/discharge containers.

United States

Beaumont	05-Dec-2006	Louis Dreyfus terminal: no delays expected.
Kalama, WA	05-Dec-2006	Kalama export terminal: 1 day's delay expected; United Harvest terminal: no delays expected.
New Orleans	05-Dec-2006	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 1 day's delay expected. Cargill-Westwego: 2 days delay expected. ADM/Ama: 2 days delay expected. Bunge/Destrehan: 3 days delay expected. ADM/Destrehan: 2 days delay expected. ADM/Reserve: 2 days delay expected. Cargill/Reserve: 2 days delay expected. ADM/Paulina: 2 days delay expected. Zen-Noh/Convent: 3 days delay expected. Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays expected. 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: no delays expected; Mile 158.0 Myrtle Grove Midstream terminal: 5 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 4 days delay expected.
Portland, OR	05-Dec-2006	Columbia Grain terminal: no delays expected; CLD Irving terminal: 2 days delay expected; CLD, O Dock terminals: 2 days delay expected.
Seattle	05-Dec-2006	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 1 day's delay expected.
Tacoma	05-Dec-2006	Temco terminal: 1 day's delay expected.
Vancouver, WA	05-Dec-2006	United Harvest terminal: 1 day's delay expected.

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