

Top container lines demand action to relieve port congestion

TWO of the world's biggest container lines have told ports to hire more dock workers and invest in new equipment in order to help relieve berth congestion.

"It is not acceptable to say nothing can be done," P&O Nedlloyd chief executive Philip Green said yesterday.

Concerned

And Yukio Ozawa, senior managing director of P&O Nedlloyd's Grand Alliance partner NYK, told a press conference in Tokyo that the Japanese line was concerned about a lack of dock workers around the world as cargo volumes surged.

"In the US and Europe the shortage of dock workers is becoming a serious problem for the entire maritime industry as shipping demand is now growing at a much faster pace than expected," Mr Ozawa warned.

In Rotterdam, Mr Green said P&O Nedlloyd "will continue to put terminal operators, including P&O Ports, under as much pressure as possible" to urge them to address congestion problems.

Speaking to Lloyd's List after yesterday's extraordinary meeting, Mr Green said delays had led to increased costs in the third quarter although the amount was "difficult to quantify".

But the inability of terminal operators to cope with the volumes was increasing outgoings and affecting service levels, particularly on the US west coast and in Britain.

"It is very frustrating for us," he added. "Ships are missing ports and the service is well below what it should be."

Overnight

Mr Green acknowledged that new terminals could not be built overnight but claimed: "A lot more could have been done and could have been done earlier."

He singled out Singapore and Rotterdam as two ports that had responded to the emergency.

Singapore, for instance, had added more people and new equipment, while Rotterdam had also taken on extra workers.

Southampton, which Mr Green visited 10 days before, could have responded earlier but was now stepping up recruitment.

Nevertheless, terminal operators in Britain and on the US west coast were under great pressure with little relief in sight. "There is no light at the end of the tunnel," Mr Green told Lloyd's List

Commenting on the Ceres Paragon terminal in Amsterdam, which has yet to find a regular customer, Mr Green said P&O Nedlloyd was encouraged by improvement in Rotterdam, which had reduced the pressure to move some services elsewhere.

However, if the situation did not improve the company "would be forced to consider alternatives". It was not just problems at the terminals that shipping lines were encountering. Hinterland connections, especially in the US and Britain, were "creaking".

But an experiment with feeder connections from continental Europe to regional British ports had thrown up operational problems.

**Helen Hill
and Janet Porter
Lloyds List Editorial**

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
AROSA	general	KHM	—	2,811	5,017	1985	Sank near Vostochnyy, Nov 2, due heavy weather conditions. Nine crew rescued. One dead, seven missing. Master seriously injured.
ATLANTIS CHARM	bulk/ container	CYP	BV	13,588	22,558	1982	Immobilised 900 miles west of Dakar Oct 29. Tug arrived Oct 31 and currently towing to Las Palmas. Salvage services being rendered under LOF.
BARACHOIS	general	ATF	BV	18,597	29,538	1998	Had fire on deck and subsequent loss of steering forced her to drop anchor at Pointe des Ormes anchorage, near Trois Rivieres, in lat 46 16.43N, long 72 23.36W, Nov 2.
ELBE	yacht	NLD	—	905	—	1959	Sank in Schiedam harbour Oct 27. Salvage plans to be assessed. Sold. Salvage operations under way.
HOUSTON	general	BHS	NV	23,239	24,640	1979	Had fire in holds off Aden Oct 29. Fire extinguished by vessel's own carbon dioxide system, however, some leakage of CO2 into engine-room. Salvors on scene.
IBUKI	container	ATG	GL	16,266	22,494	1994	Reported at Honolulu Nov 2 to be leaking heavy fuel and diesel into double bottom ballast tanks. Ordered to remain in port until problems resolved.
KOSHIN MARU NO.8	lpg	JPN	NK	693	799	1980	In collision with fishing Hoseki Maru in lat 02 59N, long 162 06E, Oct 30 causing it to sink.
MARITIME RIAL	bulker	SGP	NK	36,557	69,607	1994	Port anchor broke loose from lashings about 320 miles NW of Bermuda Oct 26. Anchor and 11 shackles of chain lost, hull damage caused in way of No 1 ballast tank, which flooded. Proceeding to Santo Domingo, pumping out at intervals.
MWAALIL SAAT	fishing	USA	—	164	—	1982	Reported Nov 1 salvaged at a cost of \$3.5m after sinking at Saipan during bad weather and causing pollution. Broken for scrap.
PACIFIC SKY	passenger	GBR	LR	46,087	6,135	1984	Reported returning to Brisbane Nov 2 due to main engine problems. Sailed again same day. Had further breakdown and returned to Brisbane Nov 5 for repairs. Cruise cancelled. ETC Nov 13.
RED FERN	bulker	GBR	RI	38,995	73,317	1998	Grounded 75 miles south-east of Balikpapan Oct 31. Initial refloating attempts unsuccessful. LOF signed. No leakage/ingress.
WEST	general	MNG	—	1,427	1,847	1970	Sent distress signals from the northern coast of Primorye Nov 2, but soon radio contact was lost. Three vessels sent to area to search. Storm impeding search.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AL BOURAIQA (Cambodia)

Aden, Oct 29 — Understand that crude oil tanker *Al Bouraiqa* (46446 gt, built 1975), currently at anchor in Aden outer harbour, has boiler breakdown and is immobilised. Vessel usually shuttles between Ras Isa and Aden with crude oil. — Lloyd's Agents.

Aden, Nov 3 — No change in status of crude oil tanker *Al Bouraiqa* which is still at anchor off Aden, loaded with a cargo of crude oil from Ras Isa, with problem with its boiler. Therefore vessel cannot berth or discharge cargo. Understand efforts are being made to carryout repairs but no details available. — Lloyd's Agents.

AL-SAMIT-3

See "Bangladesh" under "Piracy."

ALAMOIA (Brazil)

London, Nov 2 — Chem.tank *Alamoia* arrived Aratu Oct 26 and sailed Oct 29 for Santos.

ALEXANDER THE GREAT (Greece)

London, Nov 1 — Passenger ro/ro *Alexander the Great*, presently under arrest at Bijela, is scheduled to be sold at auction Nov 8.

ALGOPORT (Canada)

London, Nov 1 — Bulk *Algoport* (20222 gt, built 1979) lost port anchor around 200 metres from the Grande Entree Wharf, Iles de la Madeleine, in lat 47 33 23N, long 61 33 44W, at 0408, EST, Nov 1.

ALKISTIS (Greece)

Piraeus, Oct 1 — Ferry *Alkistis* is still laid-up at Eleusis. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Alkistis* experienced water ingress and sank while laid-up in Eleusis Bay Feb 4, 2001.)

ANGLIAN EARL (Barbados)

Falmouth, Oct 27 — Anchor handling tug/supply *Anglian Earl* is under repair at Kings Wharf. — Lloyd's Agents.

ANGLIAN WAY (Panama)

London, Nov 3 — Ro/ro *Anglian Way* (7628 gt, built 1977) ran aground on the approaches to Harwich harbour at 0300, UTC, Oct 25. Vessel refloated and proceeded to Ipswich the same day. Vessel sailed Ipswich at 1521, Oct 26, subsequently arriving Rotterdam at 0120, Oct 27. Vessel will be repairing at Rotterdam for a further two weeks.

AQUA SIERRA (Cyprus)

Monrovia, Oct 22 — General cargo *Aqua Sierra* sailed from Monrovia on Oct 17 bound for Indian breakers. — Lloyd's Agents.

AROSA (Cambodia)

Vladivostok, Nov 2 — Understand from Vladivostok Salvage Co-

ordinating Centre that general cargo *Arosa* (2811 gt, built 1985), Vostochnyy for Japan, loaded with coal, sank near Vostochnyy at 0900, local time, today due to heavy weather conditions. All 17 crew members abandoned the vessel. Nine were rescued by tug *Grif*, one of whom — the vessel's master — was seriously injured. Two crew members could not be recovered from a liferaft due to heavy weather, one person was killed and five have not yet been found. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Arosa*, en route from Nakhodka to Siriyamasaki, with a 4,400-tonne coal cargo on board, sank near coasts of Russia's Primorye region. It had a "15-member" Russian crew. Seven seamen have been rescued, one has died and seven are missing. Tug *Grif* and a Mi-8 helicopter from Vladivostok are carrying out the search. The shipwreck happened during a storm at 0930, Vladivostok time, today, the regional sea search and rescue centre's press service said.

ATLANTIS CHARM (Cyprus)

Piraeus, Nov 3 — Bulk/c.c. *Atlantis Charm* (13588 gt, built 1982) was immobilised 900 miles west of Dakar Oct 29. A tug proceeded from Cape Verde and arrived on scene Oct 31. It is now towing *Atlantis Charm* to Las Palmas, where ETA Nov 11. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

London, Nov 4 — Understand salvage services are being rendered to bulk/c.c. *Atlantis Charm*, cargo ammonium nitrate/urea, under Lloyd's Open Form, by Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

BALANCE DAWN

Brisbane, Nov 3 — Trawler *Balance Dawn* struck Centenary Reef, 200 kilometres east of Yeppoon, Queensland and sank. The five crew called for assistance via satellite phone as they watched it sink. Crew were rescued by another trawler. — Lloyd's Agents.

BALTIC CARRIER (Dominica)

London, Nov 2 — Understood general cargo *Baltic Carrier* (1667 gt, built 1977) struck locks in the Kiel Canal over the weekend (Oct 30/31). Vessel has denting and holing damage to bow above waterline and proceeded to Rotterdam, where arrived Nov 2. (Note — *Baltic Carrier* arrived Kiel Oct 30 and sailed Oct 31, subsequently passing Brunsbuttel Nov 1.)

Maassluis, Nov 3 — General cargo *Baltic Carrier* sailed Rotterdam Nov 2 for Vyborg. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

BARACHOIS (French Southern Territories)

London, Nov 2 — General cargo *Barachois* (18597 gt, built 1998), cargo grain/cereals, had a fire on deck and a loss of steering forced it to drop anchor at pointe des Ormes anchorage near Trois Rivières, lat 46 16 43N, long 72 23 36W, at 0312, EST, today.

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

BBC CHINA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Oct 29 — A press report, dated Oct 28, states: Poor weather continued to delay the removal of the remaining fuel on board general cargo *BBC China*, authorities said today. "High winds, bad weather conditions and high swells with waves breaking over *BBC China* have rendered attempts to board the vessel unsafe and dangerous for the salvage team," said environmental affairs spokesperson Carol Moses. About 29 tons of heavy fuel oil had been removed from the vessel so far. A total of 126 tons of oil, including 58 tons of heavy fuel oil, 60 tons of diesel and eight tons of lubricants remained on board the ship. She said salvors needed two or three days of good weather and calm seas to remove the balance of the oil from *BBC China*. The ship was declared a "constructive total loss" after its owners realised the extent of its damage had made it impossible to refloat, she added.

London, Oct 30 — A press report, dated Oct 29, states: General cargo *BBC China* will not be refloated. SmitPentow Marine, the company responsible for salvage work on the vessel, says the vessel has been declared a wreck because of extensive damage sustained. Claire Gomes, a company spokesperson, says pounding waves and the rocky shoreline had taken its toll on the vessel and a decision had been taken to write it off. The next move will be to decide on possible removal of the larger structures on board. Twenty-nine tonnes of heavy fuel has so far been pumped out. Some of the paint cargo and 40 sealed lead batteries have been taken ashore by helicopter. Rough sea conditions have been the biggest challenge the salvors faced. Seven metre swells broke over the vessel and two containers washed overboard earlier this week. A small dinghy from the vessel was ripped apart and vital salvage equipment lost.

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated Nov 1, states: Improved weather conditions have allowed salvage personnel to again place cranes, onboard generators and other equipment on general cargo *BBC China*, the department of environmental affairs said today. Bad weather seriously hampered salvage operations on the vessel which ran aground off Port Grosvenor on the Wild Coast last month. Departmental spokesperson Carol Moses said that as soon as the weather allowed, the salvage team would continue to remove fuel from the vessel. "To date, about half of the heavy fuel oil on board has been removed, with a total of 30 tons of heavy fuel oil, 60 tons of diesel and eight tons of lubricants remaining. The removal of cargo items will also continue as soon as weather conditions allow." She said the department's oil pollution patrol and abatement vessel *Kuswag 1* regularly patrolled the area, while an oil-patrol aircraft continued to comb the coastline. So far, there have not been any reports of oil leaking from the damaged vessel and no pollution

was visible on the beach. "Of paramount importance during the oil-removal operation is the protection of the marine environment. To this end, both proactive and reactive environmental protection measures are in place." Moses said the vessel had been declared a constructive total loss and would not be refloated. Authorities were now investigating the most effective way of reducing the stranded vessel's impact on the environment.

Rotterdam, Nov 2 — Salvage personnel have made good use of improved weather conditions to continue with the general cargo *BBC China* fuel removal operation. One of two specially designed 'seaslugs' (floating "bladders" commonly used to safely store oil) was securely positioned on the landward side of *BBC China* yesterday and the team began pumping oil into it shortly before 1800 yesterday evening. This operation continued throughout the night and by mid-morning today, a total of 40 tonnes of heavy fuel oil had been pumped from fuel tanks on board *BBC China*. This brings the total heavy fuel oil removed to date to approximately 70 tonnes. The salvage team is now concentrating on skimming in the engine-room and all oil recovered has been transferred to a secure holding tank for transfer into the 'seaslug' later. Once conditions allow, divers will be sent into the engine-room to ensure that all pollutants are recovered. The removal of certain items of cargo was also recommenced yesterday. The Department of Environmental Affairs & Tourism's oil pollution patrol and abatement vessel *Kuswag 1* undertakes regular patrols in the vicinity of the casualty. The oil pollution patrol aircraft *Kuswag VIII* continues to patrol the coastline on a daily basis and yesterday reported minimal pollution on site, dissipating within 250 metres of *BBC China* and no pollution on the beach visible from the aircraft. — SMIT Salvage BV.

Rotterdam, Nov 3 — In the press release dated Nov 2, it was stated that an approximate total of 70 tonnes of heavy fuel oil had been removed from general cargo *BBC China*. This is incorrect and the total amount of heavy fuel oil removed to date, including the 29 tonnes of heavy fuel oil pumped from *BBC China* by last Monday, is approximately 65 tonnes. *BBC China* fuel removal operation continues today with the salvage team now concentrating on skimming in the engine-room. All oil recovered by this method is being transferred to a secure holding tank. Once conditions allow, divers will be sent into the engine-room to open all manholes and vents so as to allow any trapped oil to come to the surface in the engine-room, where it will be skimmed off in an effort to ensure that all pollutants are recovered. The removal of certain items of cargo was also recommenced on Monday and to date, except for those in one hold, all such cargo items including paint and lead covered batteries have

been removed. The salvage team is working on gaining access to hold No.2 in order to remove the balance of such cargo items. — SMIT Salvage BV.

BELLONA (Sweden)

Gothenburg, Nov 2 — Product tanker *Bellona* is still in shipyard. After more tests were carried out and classification society, Det Norske Veritas, did not approve repairs, a new rudder stock and main piece had to be ordered from the manufacturers in Denmark. New tiller as well as aft rudder mounted. Some parts ETA tomorrow, some during weekend of Nov 6-7. Then work will take approximately eight to 10 days plus tests and class approval. — Westax Marine Services AB.

BERGITTA (NIS)

London, Oct 29 — Following received from the managers of crude oil tanker *Bergitta*, dated today: Following the collision with c.c. *MSC Eyra* on Oct 24, *Bergitta* underwent a thorough damage assessment by the classification society Det Norske Veritas. As a result of the inspection, the vessel was given permission to proceed to Rotterdam to discharge its cargo. Therefore, there will be no need for transshipment.

London, Oct 30 — Crude oil tanker *Bergitta* arrived Rotterdam 0930, Oct 28.

London, Oct 31 — C.c. *MSC Eyra* arrived Antwerp on Oct 29.

BERGSTRAUM (NIS)

Le Havre, Oct 28 — Chemical/oil carrier *Bergstrum* is currently under repair at SORENI shipyard. The shipyard is awaiting spare parts to complete repairs, and the vessel is expected to sail next week. — Lloyd's Agents.

BLUE GAS (Italy)

London, Nov 1 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 1100, UTC, today: Lpg *Blue Gas* (3102 gt, built 1982), Genoa for Ravenna, had engine failure and grounded on sandbank in Saline Joniche harbour at 1120, Oct 30. Vessel refloated at 1535 same day by one tug and proceeded to Augusta for inspection. (Note — *Blue Gas* sailed Genoa Oct 27 for Ravenna.)

London, Nov 3 — Following received from the operators of Lpg *Blue Gas*, dated Genoa, today: After refloating with use of its main engine and one tug, vessel proceeded with the use of own propulsion arriving Augusta roads at 0800, Oct 31 for inspection of underwater hull, rudder, propeller and main engine with satisfactory result. There was no damage at all and class reconfirmed in full. Vessel sailed for Ravenna 0800, Nov 1 and is presently loading in Ravenna. Vessel was in Genoa from Sep 25 to Oct 30 for intermediate visits, dry dock and maintenance. Main Engine was overhauled in full, two new diesel generators and two new cranes for hoses installed on board. The emergency stop of main engine was made by engine crew due to the crash of the suction valve control cross piece into cylinder head No.2.

BOY SHANE (U.K.)

London, Oct 29 — A press release from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency Press Office, timed 1844, UTC, Oct 28, states: At 1500 this afternoon, Shetland Coastguard were alerted by a PAN PAN emergency VHF broadcast from trawler *Boy Shane* (150 gt, built 1996) with seven crew on board. They reported they were drifting 31 miles West of Orkney near Sule Skerry after ropes had been caught in the propeller. Shetland Coastguard requested the attendance of the RNLI all weather lifeboat from Stromness which was on scene by around 1630 hrs and was able to connect a tow to the drifting vessel and is now on route back to Stromness with an estimated arrival time of midnight. The weather conditions on scene are easterly winds force 5 to 6 (fresh to strong breeze) with moderate seas.

London, Oct 29 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRCC, timed 1100, UTC: Trawler *Boy Shane* was towed into Stromness by the lifeboat at 2205, UTC, yesterday.

BRIGHT STATE (Panama)

Yokohama, Nov 2 — Ro/ro *Bright State* (9991 gt, built 1997), proceeding in Kanmon Strait to Shimonoseki, contacted Buoy No.10 at 1228, local time, Oct 29. No damage to hull or personal injury. Vessel berthed at Chofu No.2 pier in Shimonoseki, under own power, at 1415, local time, same day. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Bright State* sailed Shimonoseki Oct 30, arrived Osaka Oct 31 and sailed Nov 1 for Yokohama.)

CAMILLE MARCOUX (Canada)

London, Nov 1 — Passenger ro/ro *Camille Marcoux* (6122 gt, built 1974) experienced pitch problems with its starboard propeller at Matane, Quebec, in lat 48 51N, long 67 31.59W, at 1930, EDST, Oct 29. Only the port propeller was operable from the bridge.

CHAINAT NAVEE (Thailand)

London, Oct 29 — General cargo *Chainat Navee* arrived at Immingham on Oct 27 from Hull. London, Nov 4 — General cargo *Chainat Navee* sailed Immingham Nov 2 for Antwerp.

CHRISTA KERSTIN (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Nov 3 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 2029, UTC: General cargo *Christa Kerstin* (1939 gt, built 1982) in lat 50 13.5N, long 01 25.6W, approximately 25 nautical miles off St.Catherines Point, Isle of Wight, at 1928, UTC, with ingress of water into engine-room. Pumps coping at present. Vessel requests entry to port of Southampton for repairs. Duty surveyor and duty CPSO discussing options with master. (Note — *Christa Kerstin*, Nador for Rotterdam, passed Cape Finisterre Nov 1.)

London, Nov 4 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 0012, UTC: General cargo *Christa Kerstin* is presently off Sandown Bay. A

Maritime and Coastguard Agency surveyor is due to board the vessel shortly to assess the situation.

London, Nov 4 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 0245, UTC: Following the marine surveyor's assessment that general cargo *Christa Kerstin* has no further leakage, the vessel is now under way for Rotterdam, ETA 0400, Nov 5.

CMA CGM PUGET (Bahamas)

Marseilles, Nov 2 — C.c. *CMA CGM Puget* arrived Fos Oct 30 from Barcelona and sailed Nov 1 for Genoa. — Lloyd's Agents.

CONTRADER (Panama)

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

CRISTOFORO COLOMBO (Belgium)

London, Nov 1 — A press report, dated today, states: The operation to heave off hopper dredger *Cristoforo Colombo* has begun on Sakhalin today, the officials of the Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk sea rescue co-ordinating centre said. "So far the arrangement of the ships which have arrived to refloat the craft from the rocks has begun," the officials of the Kholmsk port supervision service said. A total of five craft, among them *Rubin* special craft of the Sakhalin basin emergency-rescue directorate, have come up to the water area of the port where *Cristoforo Colombo*, was "thrown" by typhoon "Songda" onto a stony shoal stretch 50 metres away from the shore between Kholmsk commercial sea port and Sakhalin Zapadny (Western) sea port on Sep 8. To heave off the Belgian craft, which has two holes in the fuel tanks, from the rocks, dams will be poured around the vessel to set up a kind of dock. Then the vessel, from which all the heavy equipment and materials have been removed to diminish the vessel's weight, will be led into clear water by a specially dug canal. The Belgian craft of the European seabed-deepening company was freighted to build a sea pipeline as part of the Sakhalin-2 project in the north-east of the island. As a result of the grounding, about 200 tons of boiler oil and diesel oil flowed out into the sea and onto the coast from the holes in the fuel tanks. The Sakhalin interdistrict nature-conservation Prosecutor's Office filed a criminal case on the pollution of the sea environment. The vessel's captain Nicolas Verbraeken is staying on Sakhalin. A bail in roubles, equivalent to \$100,000, was deposited for him.

DORIC CHARIOT (Greece)

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority says it is satisfied with the fine handed to the owner of bulk *Doric Chariot* that ran aground on the reef in far north Queensland two years ago. The owner of the *Doric Chariot* was fined \$100,000. About 1,500 square metres of coral was crushed when the 73,000 tonne bulk carrier ran aground on

Piper Reef north of Cairns. The Doric Chariot Corporation was yesterday fined \$100,000 in Cairns Magistrates Court. The vessel's second officer, Christos Biskinis, was also ordered to pay \$10,000. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has refused to comment publicly on the result. However, a spokesman says it is happy the matter is over and satisfied with the outcome. A Transport Safety Bureau investigation found the pilot had fallen asleep and recommended fatigue management policies be put in place. (Note — *Doric Chariot* grounded on Piper Reef, near Lockhart River, 1800, UTC, Jul 28, 2002.)

DORTHE DALSOE (Denmark)

London, Nov 3 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1100, UTC: Fishing *Dorthe Dalsoe* and general cargo *Scot Explorer* (1882 gt, built 1996) were in collision in lat 57 30.9N, long 11 17E, about 1740, UTC, yesterday. *Dorthe Dalsoe* is being towed to its home port of Strandby, while *Scot Explorer* is continuing voyage for Varberg.

ELBE (Netherlands)

London, Oct 28 — Local police at Schiedam received a report at about 1815, local time, Oct 27, that museum tug *Elbe* (905 gt, built 1959) was sinking in Schiedam harbour, in the vicinity of the W%ortsil%oo repair quay. When the police arrived on scene, the tug had already partly sunk and had also developed a list. Two SMIT Harbour tugs, along with Rotterdam Harbour patrol vessels and two divers, tried to pump the vessel out but could not prevent it from sinking. The police technical department will carry out an investigation into the cause of the sinking after the vessel has been raised. Salvage plans will be assessed today.

London, Nov 3 — Museum tug *Elbe* which sank in the harbour of Schiedam at the location of the repair quay of Wartsila on Oct 27, has been sold to Scheepssloperij Nederland B.V. in 's Gravendeel. The tug might be saved for the museum purpose that was intended. This promise has been made by the buyer Henk Poot, owner of the breaker yard. He promised not to demolish the vessel but leave it alongside the yard for the time being. The salvage operations started on Nov 1. The floating sheerleg cranes *Taklift 1* and *Taklift 3* and the salvage vessel *Jacomina* will raise the sunken tug. The lifting started at 0730, local time, this morning, and it is expected that it will be afloat today after the water has been pumped out. The vessel will be transported to 's Gravendeel, where an investigation will be started as to the cause of the sinking. If there is not too much damage, the restoration project might go ahead, but a lot more money has to be raised for the repairs after this second sinking.

EVERTON (Malta)

London, Oct 29 — Crude oil tanker *Everton* arrived at Fujairah Anchorage on Oct 21 and sailed Oct 23 for Khor Fakkan.

FLYING DOLPHIN XIX (Greece)

London, Nov 4 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Hydrofoil *Flying Dolphin XIX* (161 gt, built 1983), while sailing from Hydra bound for Spetses-Porto Heli, sustained engine damage during the afternoon of Nov 3. Following the incident the hydrofoil returned to Hydra sailing conventionally where the 13 passengers were disembarked and proceeded to their destination on another vessel from the same Line. Following a sea trial, the Marine Inspectorate permitted the hydrofoil to proceed to Perama for repairs.

FOFO I (Syria)

London, Nov 2 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: General cargo *Fofo I* (397 gt, built 1959) arrived at Rhodes port on Nov 1 following the occurrence of an abnormal sound from the main engine and the unsatisfactory operation of the fuel pump. Previously the vessel had departed from Port Said bound for Varna with 2800 tonnes of salt on board. Rhodes Port Authority prohibited departure pending issuance of a class maintenance certificate.

GARDNO (Panama)

Zeebrugge, Nov 2 — Bulk *Gardno* arrived Flushing Nov 1 from La Pallice. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

GLOBAL FREIGHTER (Finland)

Gothenburg, Oct 28 — Ro/ro *Global Freighter*, previous information regarding to the grounding in September, where master put the vessel "ashore" in order to avoid sinking, it was confirmed that the pilot on board commenced a port turn in the channel slightly too late, whereas the vessel came too far to starboard and hit ground at Loevskaer in the archipelago and touched the bottom at a speed of over 17 knots. The vessel cleared over the bottom but sustain serious damage to bottom where several holes noted and at least one of larger size. Water flooded into the vessel and it quickly got a starboard list, increasing fairly rapidly. Master took the decision to ground the vessel on soft bottom, near the island Vandrock. All 40 trailers and trucks loaded on board were discharged to a barge successfully and no injuries noted. At the time of grounding, the pilot and officer on duty were at the bridge but not the master. — Westax Marine Services AB.

GREAT HARBOUR CAY (Bahamas)

Freeport, Oct 31 — Tug *Great Harbour Cay* was successfully refloated Oct 29 by a team from US-based salvage company Resolve, which commenced refloating work on the vessel about 10 days ago. Nothing is presently known regarding plans for the remnants of the tug which is largely intact. — Lloyd's Agents.

Ymuiden, Nov 1 — Resolve Marine Group and Wijsmuller Salvage BV succeeded in refloating sunken tug *Great Harbour Cay* last weekend (Oct 30-31) (not Oct 29 as before reported) after operations lasting some 12 days.

The tug sank Sep 28 as a consequence of being struck by other craft in Freeport, Bahamas. Salvage teams, equipment and craft were moved in from the weekend of Oct 16-17 after Resolve/Wijsmuller were contracted. The refloating plan consisted of using regaining buoyancy techniques — including pumping and pressurisation on selected compartments and patching the damage sustained to the hull — and a Resolve Marine floating sheerleg *RGM-400* to provide the necessary lifting power. Oil pollution prevention activities, including removal of oil from the sunken vessel, were executed before operations to refloat the tug were started. Over the weekend of Oct 30-31 the refloated tug was redelivered, again floating on its own keel. — Wijsmuller Salvage BV.

HOSEKI MARU (Japan)

London, Nov 1 — Following received from Coast Guard Honolulu, timed 1715, UTC: Fishing *Hoseki Maru* and lpg *Koshin Maru No.8* (693 gt, built 1980) were in collision in lat 02 59N, long 162 06E, at 2347, UTC, Oct 30. *Hoseki Maru* sank and its crew of 10 persons was rescued by *Koshin Maru No.8*. The Japanese Coast Guard are now dealing with the situation.

HOUSTON (Bahamas)

Aden, Oct 30 — Understand general cargo *Houston* (23239 gt, built 1979), bound Kuwait, cargo steel, has had a fire in its holds off Aden. Fire has been put out by vessel's crew and it is proceeding for Dubai. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Houston* sailed Koper Oct 13 and passed Suez Oct 19.)

London, Oct 30 — Understood fire on board general cargo *Houston* occurred off Djibouti yesterday and was extinguished using the vessel's own carbon dioxide system. Vessel has continued voyage for Kuwait, having sustained only minor damage.

Aden, Oct 31 — General cargo *Houston* is about 25 miles off Aden. It has a cargo of timber, not steel, and was reportedly bound for Kuwait. Salvage team from Wijsmuller proceeded to vessel early this morning, to render assistance. It is understood that fire was brought under control, by vessel, with carbon dioxide, however carbon dioxide is reported to be leaking into engine-room. It is also understood that fire was located in No.5 hold, in reefer locker. — Lloyd's Agents.

IBUKI (Antigua & Barbuda)

Honolulu, Nov 2 — C.c. *Ibuki* (16266 gt, built 1994), which has been at Honolulu since Oct 31, is reported to be leaking heavy fuel and diesel into its double bottom ballast tanks. The vessel recently completed drydocking in a Singapore shipyard. The Captain of the Port of Honolulu issued a Captain of the Port Order that the vessel must remain berthed in Honolulu harbour until the problems are corrected. Understand that after the vessel discharges its cargo late this afternoon, repairs will be put in hand by Pacific Environmental (PENCO) and Marisco

Ltd. It is estimated that PENCO will extract approximately 50,000 gallons of tainted ballast in the double bottoms, so that the problem can be located. The owners' Superintendent is expected to arrive this evening. — Lloyd's Agents.

JIN AN (Panama)

Yokohama, Nov 2 — General cargo *Jin An* (1997 gt, built 2003), Russia to Kashima, had engine trouble 1.3 miles, 128 deg, from Kinkasan Lighthouse in Miyagi Prefecture at 1110, local time, Oct 27. Temporary repairs completed by crew at 1215 and called at Ishinomaki at 1508, same day. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Jin An* arrived Kashima Oct 28 from Vostochnyy.)

KENT NAVIGATOR (Gibraltar)

Halifax, Nov 2 — General cargo *Kent Navigator* completed temporary repairs on Oct 24 and sailed from Pictou on Oct 25 for Eastport. — Lloyd's Agents.

KILSTRAUM (NIS)

London, Oct 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Submarine *Utstein*, on a UK-organised military exercise, in collision with chemical/oil carrier *Kilstraum* in the Minch. The UK Ministry of Defence said the submarine, which was submerged at the time, sustained rudder damage and was in Stornoway undergoing inspection. The tanker was unscathed by the collision and continued on its journey. A spokesman said: "The submarine was in periscopic position - only the periscope was above sea level. There has been radio contact between the submarine and the captain on board the tanker. The captain on board the tanker reports no personal injuries. No leakages have been observed." The MoD said it expected a board of inquiry would be held by the Norwegian defence ministry.

London, Nov 2 — Chemical/oil carrier *Kilstraum* arrived and sailed Haugesund Oct 30, subsequently arriving Stavanger Oct 30 and sailing Oct 31 for Elvesvagen.

KOSHIN MARU NO.8 (Japan)

See *Hoseki Maru*.

KRISTIN POLING (U.S.A.)

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated Nov 1, states: Non specific tanker *Kristin Poling* (1546 gt, built 1951), that ran aground on a sand bar today in Newark Bay closing the busy Arthur Kill waterway, freed itself three hours later as the tide rose, the US Coast Guard said. None of the 18,000 barrels of No. 2 heating oil spilled, said Petty Officer Mike Hvozda, a Coast Guard spokesman. The 281-foot vessel, out of New York, was southbound to Oceanside, Long Island, N.Y., when it grounded during low tide around 0530, Hvozda said. He said the cause of the vessel running aground was being investigated. Initial reports said that the vessel was on the wrong side of a channel marker and that is the reason it ran aground. The vessel was escorted by a Coast Guard vessel to a dry dock

in Staten Island, N.Y., where divers will assess whether repairs are needed. There were no injuries from the incident.

LAKE LISI (Marshall Islands)

London, Oct 29 — Product tanker *Lake Lisi* arrived at Haugesund on Oct 25.

LECONTE (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Ro/ro *Leconte* has returned to service after months of costly work to repair damage when the vessel was grounded on Cozian Reef in Peril Strait. The vessel left Ketchikan at about 1330, Wednesday (Oct 27) and headed to Petersburg. Doug Ward of Alaska Ship and Drydock said the repairs were expected to cost about \$3 million but were closer to \$4 million. The cost includes annual maintenance on the vessel.

LUCKY LADY (Malta)

London, Oct 29 — Following received from the managers of crude oil tanker *Lucky Lady*, dated today: *Lucky Lady* sailed Cilicap Oct 19 for Singapore for cleaning and to dispose of slops, etc, and it has now arrived at a shipyard in Vietnam for repairs, which are expected to take around three weeks.

MAANAV STAR (India)

London, Oct 31 — General cargo *Maanav Star* sailed from Hansweert Oct 29 for North Sea.

MARITIME RIAL (Singapore)

London, Oct 28 — Following received from Bermuda RCC, timed 1432, UTC: The port anchor of bulk *Maritime Rial* (36557 gt, built 1994) broke loose from its lashings about 320 miles north-west of Bermuda Oct 26 and ran out completely, resulting in the loss of the anchor and 11 shackles of chain, and causing hull damage in way of No 1 ballast tank, which is now flooded. The vessel is proceeding to Santo Domingo. (Note — *Maritime Rial* sailed Baltimore Oct 23 for Constantza.)

London, Oct 29 — Following received from Bermuda RCC, timed 1210, UTC: Bulk *Maritime Rial*: Our last information on the vessel, which was proceeding towards Santo Domingo, was that it was taking water at the rate of 250 cubic metres an hour. The vessel is being pumped out every four to five hours and they are currently coping with the water ingress. Vessel was reported as being slightly down at the bow. It has 23 people on board.

London, Oct 30 — Following received from Bermuda RCC, timed 1640, UTC: Bulk *Maritime Rial* reported it had pumped itself out and was safely proceeding to Santo Domingo. Weather in area good.

MARJA (Netherlands)

London, Nov 1 — General cargo *Marja* sailed Vigo Oct 19 and subsequently arrived Ribadeo Oct 20 and sailed Oct 23 for Heysham.

MECIT KAPTAN (Turkey)

Oristano, Nov 2 — General cargo *Mecit Kaptan* arrived Oristano Oct 20 from Istanbul and sailed Oct 26 for Khoms, Libya. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

MERKUR BRIDGE (Liberia)

Singapore, Oct 28 — C.c. *Merkur Bridge* sailed Singapore Oct 27 for Port Klang. — Lloyd's Agents.

MERMAID (U.K.)

London, Nov 3 — Understood that lighthouse tender *Mermaid* (2820 gt, built 1987) was towed into Falmouth early today.

Falmouth, Nov 4 — Lighthouse tender *Mermaid* was not towed into Falmouth but was assisted into berth while making a routine call by a harbour tug for safety reasons. Vessel had only a minor electrical problem with an engine. — Lloyd's Agents.

MIYA (Belize)

London, Nov 3 — Following navigation warning issued Nov 2: Kurushima Kaikyo traffic route: Sunken wreck, cargo vessel, 1205 tons, (general cargo *Miya*) exists in lat 34 07 09N, long 132 59 16E, buoy with light marks it.

MSC EYRA (Panama)

See *Bergitta*.

MWAALIL SAAT (U.S.A.)

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated Nov 1, states: An oil spill from fishing *Mwaalil Saat* (164 gt, built 1982) that sunk after its mooring broke due to bad weather threatened Saipan's marine environment and navigation before federal and local agencies successfully removed the abandoned vessel from the Saipan lagoon. Coastal Resources Management Office's chief enforcement officer Martin Cabrera also disclosed that *Mwaalil Saat* contained about 50 cubic yards of contaminated sediments, including asbestos. "While the owner reported that the tanks had been run dry, there was a diesel sheen around the vessel and a two-foot by half-mile trail of black oil. The vessel was blocking the island's only fuel dock. The situation was critical since fuel for the island's electricity comes through that dock," he said. Cabrera disclosed this Friday (Oct 29) following the recent completion of the salvage operations of the 90-foot-long, 30-foot-wide, trawler from the water fronting the Tanapag Harbour. He said the vessel was salvaged from underwater and cut into pieces for disposal. Cabrera said salvage operations, which cost about \$3.5 million and took over two months to complete, were funded by the U.S. Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration considered the operations a high priority. Cabrera said the vessel's mooring broke during the onslaught of Typhoon "Tingting", causing it to sink. "The vessel rested on a sand and coral rubble bottom with low coral cover and was in close proximity to more sensitive habitats including mudflats, mangroves and

coral reefs," he said. In response to the incident, Cabrera said a unified command was established. Agencies involved were the U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA, and the CRMO, he said. The contractor for the salvage operations, Titan Maritime, removed the vessel from the water and broke it for scrap. It cut the ship into five large sections and brought them upland. "The debris brought up from the vessel and the area surrounding it were returned to the owner or sent to a landfill after being tested for PCB contamination," he said. Cabrera said about 125.5 tonnes of scrap was recycled, while some 50 cubic yards of contaminated sediments were packed and shipped to the United States for proper disposal. (Note — *Mwaalil Saat* had been taken out of service July 20, 2004 by MSO Guam.)

NAPOLEON (Malta)

London, Nov 3 — Bulk *Napoleon* sailed Galveston Oct 23 and arrived back at Galveston on Oct 30.

NIRINT CHAMPION (Bahamas)

Ponta Delgada, Nov 2 — General cargo *Nirint Champion* arrived St. Michael's Oct 30 from Cuba and sailed Oct 31 for Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Agents.

NORTH COUNTESS (Greece)

London, Oct 30 — Bulk *North Countess* arrived Necochea Oct 21 from San Nicolas, Arg, and sailed Oct 24 for Egypt.

NORWEGIAN MAJESTY (Bahamas)

London, Oct 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Complaints continue to be received from passengers of passenger *Norwegian Majesty* (40876 gt, built 1992), hit by bad weather on a cruise from Boston to Bermuda between Oct 17 and 24, even as investigators insist the vessel sustained only minor damage and one injury. The passengers say they were angered by Coast Guard comments downplaying the severity of the storm and the danger to the vessel. Several said a male passenger on board *Norwegian Majesty* suffered several cuts to his face, when two windows were shattered at the height of the storm last Saturday night (Oct 23). They also insisted that an adolescent boy broke his arm, while two other passengers added that they believed another passenger was killed. "The ship wasn't delayed 23 hours for nothing," said one passenger, referring to the vessel's late return last Monday morning. "The ship's announcement itself said we had 30- to 40-foot swells." The Coast Guard said there were no reports of any deaths or injuries during the cruise, other than the man whose face was cut. "A piece of equipment broke off the bow and penetrated two windows," said Lt. Keith Hanley, of the Coast Guard. The man "suffered minor injuries, and he was treated right there on the vessel." The vessel was cleared to embark on another Bermuda cruise last Tuesday morning, Hanley added.

NYK ARGUS (Panama)

London, Oct 30 — C.c. *NYK Argus* arrived Rotterdam 1600, Oct 28.

London, Nov 2 — C.c. *NYK Argus* sailed Rotterdam Oct 30 and arrived Hamburg Oct 31.

NYSA (Singapore)

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

OTTON (Panama)

See "Netherlands" under "Port State Control."

PACIFIC SKY (U.K.)

London, Nov 3 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0002, UTC: At 0920, UTC, Nov 2, passenger *Pacific Sky* (46087 gt, built 1984), Brisbane for Port Vila, reported that it was returning to Brisbane due to main engine problems. (Note — *Pacific Sky* sailed Brisbane Nov 1.)

Brisbane, Nov 3 — Passenger *Pacific Sky* left Brisbane at 2135, last night, bound for Port Vila. They are going to cut one port out of the cruise but haven't decided which one yet. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Passengers on passenger *Pacific Sky* have been left high and dry after technical difficulties forced the ship to return to Brisbane a week early. P&O Cruises managing director Gavin Smith said the ship, which had been scheduled to cruise the South Pacific for 12 nights, yesterday developed a problem with its starboard engine and could not operate at full speed. Carrying 1485 passengers, *Pacific Sky* was expected to return to its berth at Pinkenbah wharf on the Brisbane River about 0600, Friday (Nov 5). Passengers had already spent more than a day stranded at the Pinkenbah industrial wharf after it was discovered the vessel had a faulty boiler valve. This was followed by a further delay to repair a damaged gearbox in the starboard engine. Smith said *Pacific Sky's* engine problems, which were discovered at sea about 600km north-east of Brisbane, were unrelated to its earlier difficulties in port and posed no threat to the safety of the ship's passengers. Passengers would get a full refund and a 25% credit on their next cruise. *Pacific Sky's* itinerary was supposed to have included stops at Mystery Island in Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Fiji. Mr Smith said repairs would be conducted in Brisbane and the next cruise would depart from Brisbane on Nov 13, as scheduled.

Brisbane, Nov 4 — Passenger *Pacific Sky* experienced a further breakdown in the starboard engine about 300 miles from Brisbane and is returning to Brisbane, ETA 0630, Nov 5. The cruise has been cancelled but the next cruise will hopefully commence Nov 13. — Lloyd's Agents.

PANAGIA HOZOVIOTISSA (Greece)

London, Nov 1 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the morning of Nov 1, while

ferry *Panagia Hozoviotissa* (3204 gt, built 1977) was sailing five nautical miles north-east of Kythnos, the vessel sustained damage to the port main engine. At the time *Panagia Hozoviotissa* was performing the schedule Syros-Kythnos-Kea-Lavrion with five passengers and one car on board. Due to the damage the vessel did not proceed to Kythnos-Kea but proceeded directly to Lavrion. The 15 passengers who were waiting at Kythnos were forwarded to their destinations on the next vessel.

PONGOLA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Nov 2 — General cargo *Pongola* sailed Durban Oct 20 and subsequently arrived Maputo Oct 21 and sailed Oct 23 for Beira.

PRIDE A. (Greece)

Piraeus, Nov 1 — Product tanker *Pride A.* arrived Piraeus Oct 29 from Eleusis. — Lloyd's Agents.

RED FERN (U.K.)

London, Nov 3 — Following received from the managers of bulk *Red Fern* (38995 gt, built 1998), dated today: *Red Fern*, loaded, grounded 75 miles south-east of Balikpapan at 2130, UTC, Oct 31. Vessel is still aground after initial attempts to refloat under its own power were unsuccessful. Lloyd's Standard Form salvage contact has been signed with SMIT Salvage BV, who are already carrying out on-scene operations. No injuries, no pollution and no leakage or ingress of water.

London, Nov 4 — Understood bulk *Red Fern* is loaded with coal.

S. DURVILLE (Singapore)

Sydney, Nov 2 — Extensive repairs have been carried out on general cargo *S. Durville* and the vessel is expected to return to the Australia-New Caledonia service in a few days, according to Pacific Direct Line. The company has advised that the vessel should sail from Melbourne on Nov 6 and start to load in Brisbane from Nov 10-11. From Brisbane the vessel will sail to Sydney, where all Sydney and railed Melbourne origin cargo will be loaded. The vessel will then proceed to Noumea. Once discharged at Noumea, the vessel will sail for Melbourne in order to resume its normal service rotation. — "Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News."

SAN ROCHELLE (New Zealand)

London Oct 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing *San Rochelle*, abandoned by its three crew when it caught fire off Cape Reinga on Wednesday, is believed to have sunk. "It looks like it's gone," owner-skipper John Alexander said in the Far North yesterday. He had earlier held hopes for a possible salvage and tow operation if the boat could be found and the fire extinguished. *San Rochelle*, an 18-metre tuna boat valued at about (NZ) \$500,000, was last seen on fire and drifting. Mr Alexander said fishing *St Paul*, searched an area later on Wednesday where his boat was last seen but found only floating fishing

gear. There was no sign of the burning boat and no smoke was seen in the area, he said. A planned air search was called off soon afterwards. Neither the Rescue Co-ordination Centre nor Far North Coastguard Radio had been told of any sightings of *San Rochelle*, but a navigation hazard warning to vessels in the area was still current yesterday. Mr Alexander was to meet insurance and marine assessors in Mangonui, where *St Paul* was to land *San Rochelle's* fishing gear. The Maritime Safety Authority will conduct an investigation.

SARAH JANE

Vigo, Sep 30 — Ref *Sarah Jane* is still undergoing repairs at Varaderos Domaio, Vigo. — Lloyd's Agents.

SCOT EXPLORER (United Kingdom)

See *Dorthe Dalsoe*.

SEABARONESS (Russia)

Novorossiysk, Nov 3 — General cargo *Seabariness* (3994 gt, built 1975), proceeding in ballast to Balakovo for loading, was in contact with the lower gate of Lock Konstantinovskiy because of malfunction of its main-engine and caused severe damages to the lower gate. Gate is subjected to replacement by a new one. Lock Konstantinovskiy is located 150 km from the port of Rostov-on-Don up to the River Don. At the present moment the Lock's water is being discharged into the river to empty for the gate's replacement. The Lock repairs will be commenced tomorrow upon water discharging. At the present time traffic is suspended, a lot of vessels are trapped due to this reason, traffic will be resumed upon completion of Lock repairs in three-to-four days. The vessel is now secured alongside the Lock's berth under investigation of local and government authorities. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 4 — Yukos will reassign some of its planned crude and fuel oil volumes after a crash blocked the Volga-Don canal supplying the port of Kavkaz for at least three weeks, a spokesman said. But BP's Russian venture TNK-BP said it was still loading barges for the canal as usual. A dry-load barge (? general cargo *Seabariness*) struck the gates of a lock on the southern Russian canal on Monday evening. Officials told Reuters the accident had left around 122 vessels stranded and the transport minister said the canal would be closed for at least three weeks. "The crude volumes that were planned to be shipped by water will be distributed between pipelines and railways to the ports of Kavkaz and Murmansk," the Yukos spokesman said late yesterday. "As for water-borne deliveries of fuel oil, a part of the volumes will be reoriented from southern routes to the north. The remainder will be removed from barges and shipped by rail to Odessa and Kaliningrad." Northern river routes lead to St. Petersburg and the White Sea. Yukos ships about 100,000 barrels per day of crude down the canal for onward shipment from

Kavkaz, traders say, while TNK-BP reloads two to three cargoes a month there. TNK-BP said it had not altered loading schedules at its Saratov facility on the Volga river. "We have continued to load barges at Saratov," a spokeswoman said. "We don't see any impact." The Volga-Don canal links the Volga to the Black Sea and is a major transport corridor for products such as crude, oil products, grain and metals.

SEEBRISE (Belize)

London, Oct 28 — Following received from Coastguard Dublin MRCC, timed 2259, UTC: General cargo *Seebriase* is still aground. A refloating attempt using two tugs is to be made at 0600, local time, tomorrow. It is believed port double bottom fuel tank has been damaged.

London, Oct 29 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Seebriase*, which ran aground during the midweek storm, remained stranded for a second night in Kinsale harbour. A further attempt to refloat the vessel is scheduled for this morning, just before daybreak. Two tugs failed in a bid, at high tide last evening, to refloat the vessel. The ship had taken shelter in the lower harbour against Wednesday night's storm when it was swept on to rocks. The Kinsale harbour-master dismissed reports that seepage from the ship presented a threat to wildlife. Capt Phil Davitt said a slight amount of marine oil was discharged after the ship ran aground. The seepage would have evaporated quickly yesterday due to tidal actions in the harbour. The harbour-master said the ship was monitored throughout yesterday to ensure there was no risk to the environment or wildlife. The ship, with a mainly Polish crew, was Rotterdam-bound when the master decided, due to worsening weather conditions, to seek shelter at the Lower Cove in the harbour. Earlier in the week, the vessel discharged a cargo of animal feed at Kinsale pier.

London, Oct 29 — Following received from Dublin MRCC, timed 0950, UTC: General cargo *Seebriase* was towed off the ground about 0715, local time, today and is now anchored in Kinsale harbour. Vessel has been detained by the survey office as ballast tanks and fuel tanks breached.

London, Nov 1 — General cargo *Seebriase*, which grounded in stormy weather at the entrance to Kinsale harbour Oct 28, was subsequently towed to Cork and is presently undergoing inspections in dry dock there.

Cork, Nov 2 — General cargo *Seebriase* is currently in Cork dockyard for repairs after grounding. Damage is being assessed at the moment. Damage was more serious than initially thought. — Lloyd's Agents.

SHIZHNYA (Russia)

Tallinn, Oct 30 — General cargo *Shizhnya* (2829 gt, built 1988), St Petersburg for Rotterdam, with 3,761 tonnes of steel bars, had fire in engine-room off Hanko Oct 28. The fire was extinguished by the crew but damage

was caused to the port main engine, rendering it non-operational. The vessel, using its starboard main engine only, proceeded for Tallinn, where arrived Oct 29 for inspection and repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

STARLITE PACIFIC

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Thirty-five passengers were hurt and six vehicles were damaged when ferry *Starlite Pacific* struck a port wall as the ship was docking in Calapan, Mindoro, last night. The incident was attributed to engine trouble, according to the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). At the time of the incident *Starlite Pacific* skippered by Capt. Petronilo Mando was carrying 146 passengers and 14 vehicles. It had set sail from Batangas earlier yeasterday and arrived at the Calapan port at 2130 hrs. According to the Coast Guard report, the vessel was about to dock when engine trouble caused it to lurch forward and hit the wall of the pier. The impact sent some of the passengers bumping into walls and chairs and the vehicles crashing into each other. The injured passengers suffered mostly bruises and cuts; the vehicles were mostly dented. Also damaged in the incident was a two-metre portion of the port wall that the vessel had hit.

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Some 50 passengers were injured when ferry *Starlite Pacific* struck a pier at the Calapan City Port in Oriental Mindoro late on Tuesday night, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) reported yesterday. Coast Guard Commandant Vice Admiral Arthur N. Gosingan said *Starlite Pacific*, 448.76 gross ton, carrying 146 passengers and 14 rolling cargoes, was en route to Calapan from Batangas City when the incident happened. Six of the 14 rolling cargoes were damaged. The PCG said that at about 2230 Tuesday, the vessel was manoeuvring to dock at the Calapan City port when an "engine malfunction" caused the vessel to hit the jetty. Apparently, the malfunction shattered the controls of the ship, pushing the vessel at breakneck speed into the pier. The ship's bow sustained an ugly gash after the incident. According to Cdr. Athelo L. Ybanez, Coast Guard Action Centre command duty officer, Capt. Petronillo Manalo, master of *Starlite Pacific*, will be investigated. All the deck and engine officers on duty at the time of the accident will also be summoned to face an inquiry on what really happened to the ship. "Personnel of PCG Calapan station immediately rendered assistance by providing transportation and took the injured persons to the Oriental Mindoro Provincial Hospital in Barangay Libis, Calapan City, where they were treated," said Ybanez. The victims suffered bone fractures, wounds and other injuries, none of them life-threatening. The PCG Calapan station advised Captain Manalo to file a marine protest. Ybanez added that all damages and medical expenses will be shouldered by Makati City-based *Starlite Ferry, Inc.*, the owner and

operator of *Starlite Pacific*. Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro R. Mendoza immediately directed the Board of Marine Inquiry to probe the incident.

STENA EXPLORER (United Kingdom)

See "United Kingdom and Ireland" under "Weather & Navigation."

SUK JEONG NO.505 (South Korea)

Busan, Oct 29 — General cargo *Suk Jeong No.505* sailed Mokpo in tow last week, bound for Fuzhou. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

SVEN OLTSMANN (Antigua & Barbuda)

Bilbao, Oct 29 — C.c. *Sven Oltsmann* is still at the port of Bilbao without carrying out repairs. According to information received the owners are looking for a tug to tow the vessel to Hamburg to be repaired. — Lloyd's Agents.

THOR R. (Denmark)

Esbjerg, Nov 4 — Trailing suction hopper dredge *Thor R.*'s situation is being revised by owners and their insurance company, awaiting news regarding future plans for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

TOR III (North Korea)

Mersin, Nov 2 — Kemer Port Management advises that general cargo *Tor III* is still aground and its cargo not salvaged yet. *Tor III* was sold to Messrs. Alp Denizcilik and they will salvage the vessel in a few days, after some formalities completed. The cargo on board the vessel was abandoned by the receivers. After the vessel's salvage, the cargo of 1870 tonnes of limestone will be sold and the vessel will be demolished for scrap. — Lloyd's Agents.

TRAKYA (Italy)

Genoa, Oct 29 — Ro/ro *Trakya* is expected to sail on or about Nov 10. — Lloyd's Agents.

TRANS ASIA I (Philippines)

London, Oct 29 — A press report, dated today, states: All the 426 passengers of Cebu-bound ro/ro *Trans Asia I* (3797 gt, built 1972) were safely back in Cagayan de Oro City after the vessel's engine-room caught fire at around 0130 yesterday. It left Cagayan the other night at 2000 hrs. The cause of the fire has not been determined yet. Its sister ship, *Asia China*, ferried passengers back to Cagayan de Oro city. In a statement, Trans Asia said the fire gave the ship no serious damage, but since some electrical wirings were affected, the main engines could not be restarted. The shipping line said the ship has passed stringent government and extensive independent class safety inspection valid up to Jun 14, 2006.

London, Oct 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Ro/ro *Trans Asia I* of Trans Asia Shipping Lines caught fire yesterday off Minalunan Point, Siquijor. No one was hurt among the

426 passengers and 42 crewmen of *Trans Asia I*, according to the officials of the shipping company and the Coast Guard. The vessel left the port of Cagayan de Oro City at about 2000 Wednesday and was expected to arrive at Pier 5 in Cebu City between 0600 and 0800 yesterday. Cebu CG Station Commander Elson Hermogino said fire broke out in the engine-room at about 0125 hrs, but it was placed under control after 30 minutes. Lilibeth Tabanag, Trans Asia vice president for capital management division, clarified that the fire damaged only the auxiliary engine. It did not spread to other parts of the engine-room because the crew was able to put it out immediately, she said. Tabanag said the main engine was not damaged although the crew decided to turn it off as several wires of the auxiliary engine were connected to it. Tabanag said that when the lights went off due to the fire, the passengers remained calm as the emergency lights were functioning. The passengers were transferred to another Trans Asia vessel, *Asia China*, which came from Cebu and was bound for Cagayan de Oro City. They were expected to board *Asia China* for Cebu last night.

London, Oct 29 — A press report, dated today, states: All 426 passengers of Cebu-bound ferry *Trans Asia I* (3707 gt) were safely back in Cagayan de Oro after the vessel's engine-room caught fire at around 0130, local time, yesterday. The vessel had left Cagayan the previous night. The cause of the fire has not been determined yet. Sister ship, *Asia China*, ferried passengers back to Cagayan de Oro. Trans Asia management has already issued an apology to the ship's passengers and to their families for the inconvenience the incident had created. Trans Asia has assured the public of its commitment to safe, comfortable and quality marine transport services. In a statement, Trans Asia said the fire caused the vessel no serious damage, but since some electrical wirings were affected, the main engines could not be restarted.

UAL AMERICA (Bahamas)

London, Nov 2 — Part c.c. *UAL America* sailed Houston Oct 21.

UTSTEIN (Norway)

See *Kilstraum*

VAN GOGH (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Nov 3 — Passenger *Van Gogh*, Gibraltar for Falmouth, passed Cape Finisterre Oct 28. Vessel subsequently arrived Liverpool Oct 31 from Falmouth and sailed same day for Lisbon.

VIRGIN EXPRESS (Panama)

Santo Domingo, Nov 1 — General cargo *Virgin Express* sailed Santo Domingo Oct 28 for Haiti. — Lloyd's Agents.

WEST (Mongolia)

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *West*

(1427 gt, built 1970), under the Mongolian flag, sent distress signals yesterday evening from the northern coast of Primorye but soon the radio connection with the vessel was lost, the rescuers said. The vessel, with 27 Russian crew members on board, loaded with timber, was heading to Japan when the vessel started to heel over in rough seas. Three vessels were sent to the area to carry out rescue operation.

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated today, states: The search for general cargo *West* is being impeded by a storm off the coast of Russia's Maritime territory, and strong winds with the gusts reaching 20 metres per second. A Mi-8 helicopter is also participating in the search despite adverse weather conditions. According to the emergencies ministry, there are 27 Russian seamen on board *West*, Nakhodka for Japan, with 1,078 tons of timber on board. Yesterday, its master radioed that the storm had swept into the sea a large batch of timber and damaged the deck, and that the vessel developed a leak. The ship was battered by 7.5-metre waves, the master said. After the first distress signal, the master radioed to the Japanese rescue service that there was no emergency situation on board. However, several hours later, it sent a distress signal once again. All attempts to establish communication with the missing ship failed.

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated today, states: An Antonov An-26 aircraft serving with the Russian Navy's Pacific fleet spotted a lifeboat with sailors 120 km from the Primorye coast. The plane was trying to locate missing general cargo *West*. The Pacific fleet's press-centre officials noted that the pilots saw the sailors wave their hands in joy. The An-26 crew promptly radioed the lifeboat's coordinates to ground control. Tug *Grifon* is already heading into the vicinity.

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A Mil Mi-8 helicopter's crew picked up a sailor from an inflatable raft at 1710 today, while looking for the missing crew of general cargo *West*. The rescued man was a member of the ship's crew. The helicopter is now headed toward Nakhodka. Talking to RIA Novosti, people at the national Emergency Situations Ministry's Far Eastern regional centre noted that the search-and-rescue operation still continued, involving aircraft, helicopters and ships. According to different sources, the crew descended into four liferafts; two capsized rafts were eventually found; one sailor was picked up from the third raft; and the fourth one is still missing. According to the ship's master, its consignment had shifted in a storm; and the ship began to list. The master ordered his crew to dump all timber overboard. However, communications with the ship were subsequently lost.

WINNER I (Panama)

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



BANGLADESH

Karachi, Nov 1 — A group of pirates entered into lightering vessel *Al-Samit-3* and looted accessories and undisclosed cash injuring its 13 crew at the outer anchorage of the Chittagong port in Bangladesh yesterday evening. The vessel was on its way to outer anchorage for lightering cement clinker from a mother vessel. According to port and shipping industry sources, a group of about 20 pirates entered the vessel about 1900 hrs and looted ropes, tents, gas cylinders, mobile phones and cash from the crew at gunpoint. The pirates injured the 13 crew as they tried to resist. The injured crews were later shifted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital for treatment. Police has registered a case and starting investigation. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.



NETHERLANDS

London, Oct 28 — Following received, dated today: Firefighting tug *Otton*, which arrived Flushing from a port in South America and was arrested by custom officers after finding cocaine hidden in the vessel, had been detained in Flushing harbour since. Last month the vessel was sold for scrapping to Spain. Tug *Facal Diecisetete* arrived Flushing early October to tow *Otton* to Spain but *Otton* was not ready for the voyage and the needed papers were not ready so tug sailed again Oct 5 without *Otton*. Yesterday, tug *Amstelstroom* arrived in Flushing harbour. It should sail for Spain at 1300, local time, today but due to the strong winds the departure has been postponed and the tow will sail for Bilbao in Spain for demolition at 0500, local time, tomorrow.

London, Nov 2 — Firefighting tug *Otton* sailed Flushing Oct 29, in tow of tug *Amstelstroom*, for Bilbao.

UNITED STATES

See *Ibuki* under "Marine."



AFRICAN PRIDE (Panama)

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated Nov 2, states: The court martial

of three senior Nigerian navy officers over product tanker *African Pride*, which went missing after being impounded by the military, began here yesterday, state-run NTA television reported. The accused, navy rear admirals Babatunde Kolawole, Francis Agbiti and Anthonio Bob-Manuel, pleaded not guilty to the charges of conspiracy in the disappearance of the vessel, said NTA, which showed footage of the open trial. The officers appeared in military uniform, wearing their ranks in the court room. The trial followed the recommendation of a board of inquiry which investigated the trio and other officers and found them triable for the offence. The trial, originally scheduled to start last Wednesday (Oct 27), could not begin due to the objections raised by some of the accused officers against the composition of the seven-man military panel. These objections were later dismissed. The vessel was seized in October last year by the Nigerian navy, along with its crew of 13 Russian sailors. The crew is on trial in a civil court accused of attempting to smuggle 11,300 tonnes of crude oil worth naira 345 million (\$2.6 million) out of Nigeria. The vessel was brought to Lagos in January and placed in the custody of security agents, including the navy and police, pending the trial, but later disappeared. The lower house of parliament committee, which is also investigating the case, has described the mysterious disappearance of the vessel as a national embarrassment.

ALEXANDER THE GREAT (Greece)

See under "Marine."

GISELA OLDENDORFF (Liberia)

Maassluis, Oct 24 — Bulk *Gisela Oldendorff* sailed from Rotterdam on Oct 23. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

HYUNDAI SPRINTER (Panama)

Karachi, Nov 4 — The Karachi based shipping agent-United Marine Agencies (Pvt) Ltd said this afternoon that Honorable Sindh High Court (SHC) has allowed sailing of c.c. *Hyundai Sprinter* (21611 gt, built 1997), and is scheduled to leave Karachi Port today for Malaysia. The vessel took berth No 29/30 at 0925, Nov 3, alongside Karachi International Container Terminal and later was barred by a local court to leave port. However, with swift action and submission of a bank guarantee by United Marine, the vessel is being allowed to go. Earlier, Mr. Justice Atta Ur Rehman of SHC in an order asked vessel not to leave port until hearing of the case filed by a local exporter/textile mill- M.S.C Textile, is completed. The Pakistani exporter is seeking justice and compensation against loss it incurred due to selling of their goods by vessel's owner last year in August 2003. The applicant through its lawyer has stated that goods were booked by a businessman of Bangkok who could not take delivery of the goods and the vessel's owner auctioned it instead of returning it to shipper, it was alleged. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

ISLA DEL REY

Balboa, Nov 2 — General cargo *Isla Del Rey* (971 gt, built 1965) was arrested by the Panamanian Coast Guard on or before Nov 2, 2003, and was moored in the vicinity of Pier 3S at Rodman, part of the former US Navy Base, now used by the Panamanian Coast Guard. The vessel is lying on its port side, slowly settling into the mud and visible at low water. Attempts to refloat or remove are unlikely. — Lloyd's Agents.

KOSTIS T. (Greece)

London, Nov 2 — General cargo *Kostis T.* arrived Thessaloniki Oct 20 and sailed same day for Chalkis. (Note — *Kostis T.* was seized at Volos in May 2003 by a private creditor in pursuit of a claim against the registered owners.)

NASR (Malta)

London, Nov 1 — Bulk/c.c. *Nasr* sailed Tees Oct 29 and subsequently arrived Antwerp Oct 31.

OCEAN BOOMER (Panama)

London, Nov 1 — Oceanographic research *Ocean Boomer* (1619 gt, built 1966), which arrived Gibraltar Oct 24, is currently under arrest in the port.

London, Nov 3 — Oceanographic research *Ocean Boomer* was released at 1200, today. The vessel remains in port.



HOUSTON, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A natural gas pipeline in a suburban area of Houston exploded early today, shaking homes and generating a vapour cloud large enough that law officers advised some residents to evacuate and others to stay indoors. No one was injured. The line in the Cypress-Fairbanks area ruptured shortly after 0130 hrs. It ignited near an unmanned compression unit, according to broadcast reports.

KAZTALOVSKII, KAZAKHSTAN

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A gas pipeline ruptured, exploded and caught fire in western Kazakhstan, killing three workers and injuring three others, emergency officials said today. The incident on the Soviet-built Central Asia-Centre pipeline occurred midmorning yesterday in the Kaztalovskii district of West Kazakhstan region, interrupting gas supplies from Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan to Russia, the Emergencies Agency said. Three workers of the Kazstroyservis company who were repairing a parallel gas pipeline at the time of the accident died from severe burns as a result of the explosion and three others were hospitalized with burns, the agency said. The fire was distinguished

yesterday evening and repair work is under way, it said. The cause of the rupture is being investigated.

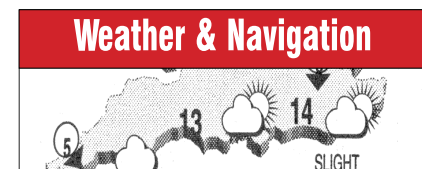
KIRKUK, IRAQ

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



HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 1 — A press report, dated Oct 31, states: Some Huntington residents will remain out of their homes until tomorrow as crews continue working to clear the remnants of 22,000-gallons of a hazardous oil that leaked from a railroad tanker. "The areas that have been quarantined will be closed until in the morning. They are going to reevaluate the air quality," a Wayne County emergency services dispatcher said this afternoon. The state's Regional Response Team has been concerned over air quality levels in at least two areas, the site of the spill and a spot along Krauts Creek where crews were vacuuming up sludge. About 500 homes, several businesses and at least one school within a two-mile radius of a chemical company in the Wayne County section of the city were evacuated Thursday (Oct 28) after the coal tar light oil leaked from a Marathon Ashland-leased tanker. The spill occurred as workers at TechSol Chemical Co. attempted to transfer the oil, which is used at a refinery in nearby Catlettsburg, Ky., into trucks. One of the tanker's valves was apparently defective, a TechSol employee said. The oil leaked into the creek and a sewer system, prompting initial fears that the concentrated vapors could explode. By mid-Friday morning, emergency crews had removed about 42,000 gallons of contaminated material and were no longer concerned about an explosion. Regional Response Team officials said that by late Friday, at least 80 percent of the affected area had tested free of benzene, a chemical contained in the spilled oil that can cause dizziness, drowsiness and unconsciousness when breathed in.



AUSTRALIA

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Large trees have been blown across powerlines and on to homes in Sydney's north-west as a series of wind storms pounded parts of eastern New South Wales today. The NSW State Emergency Service had so far received 75 calls for help across the

state today, with the majority coming from the north-western Sydney suburb of Normanhurst and surrounding areas. SES spokesman Phil Campbell said requests were also received from Newcastle, Singleton in the Hunter Valley, and Cootamundra in the state's south-west. "The calls have especially come in from around the Normanhurst area in Sydney and at the moment that is where the most concern for us is," he said. "The requests we are getting seem to be quite large trees down on cars and homes, particularly in that Normanhurst area. "We are also getting reports of power lines down and traffic lights not working as well." Mr Campbell said two crews from Queanbeyan had also been despatched to the ACT to assist local crews. He said a series of squally wind bursts was responsible for the damage. "The storms are moving very quickly and as a result there is not a lot of rain; it is more the wind as it pushes through the system," he said. Mr Campbell expected the number of calls for help to continue rising as people returned home from work. About 4000 homes in suburbs including Thornleigh, Westleigh, Turramurra and West Pymble were without power at the height of the storm this afternoon, EnergyAustralia spokesman Alec Brown said. Mr Brown said work was immediately started to remove the trees. He said about 2000 homes had power restored with the rest expected to come back on line later this evening.

HAWAII, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Heavy rain sent water as much as eight feet deep rushing through the University of Hawaii's main research library, destroying irreplaceable documents and books, toppling doors and walls and forcing a few students to break a window to escape. Ten inches of rain fell in 24 hours starting Saturday morning (Oct 30) in the Manoa Valley near Waikiki. Several cars were carried downstream when Manoa Stream overflowed its banks and a school and church that were supposed to serve as polling places for tomorrow's election were also damaged. Gov Linda Lingle toured the university yesterday and declared Manoa Valley a state disaster area. About three dozen university buildings, including dormitories, lost power and today's classes were cancelled. The damaged items contained mostly maps, some 90,000 aerial photographs, a government document collection and about 100,000 new books that had not been catalogued, she said. Two refrigerated trucks were brought to campus yesterday to help salvage the soaked documents.

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Saturday's (Oct 30) "50-year rain" deposited 1.29 inches of water in just 15 minutes at its worst point and nearly 4 inches in just one hour according to the National Weather Service. The flooding - the most serious in years in this quiet residential area - trashed at least 60 homes and caused

an estimated \$1 million in damage, Civil Defense officials said yesterday. The figure doesn't count the far more costly destruction at the UH-Manoa campus. Damage at UH was still being assessed but will be in the millions of dollars. Cleanup efforts intensified yesterday with city, state and National Guard crews along with residents working to clear mud-caked streets, school grounds and parking lots. Noelani Elementary School received major damage, and a dozen National Guard troops spent the day cleaning the parking lot and removing debris while the exhausted school staff set up temporary offices in the library because the administration offices were flooded.

Honolulu, Nov 3 — Extensive flooding occurred in Manoa Valley, Oahu, on Oct 30. The National Weather Service reported four to six inches of rain an hour over the Ko'olau range. Approximately 30-40 homes were affected, along with the University of Hawaii, Mid Pacific and Noelani schools. Damage to the university is extensive and school is still cancelled as of today. The Hamilton Library, Bio Medical Science Building, Sherman Laboratory, and Athletic Complex were among the buildings affected. It was reported that priceless artifacts housed in the library basement were affected, along with ongoing research projects. The university campus apparently flooded because Manoa Stream was blocked by debris. — Lloyd's Agents.

HURRICANE "FRANCES"

Setubal, Nov 2 — Crude oil tanker *Nysa* arrived Setubal Oct 31 from Freeport, Bahamas, in tow of tug/supply *Maersk Bonavista*. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

HURRICANE "JEANNE"

Freeport, Bahamas, Nov 1 — Cement *Conrader*, which sank at Clifton Pier, Nassau, during hurricane "Jeanne" on or about Sep 24, has been successfully refloated by a team from Titan Maritime (Florida), using their jack-up rig salvage vessel *Karlissa A*. We understand that the vessel has been handed over to its owners at Clifton Pier. Owners' intentions unknown at present. — Lloyd's Agents.

ROMANIA

Bucharest, Nov 1 — Constantza, Midia and Mangalia ports were closed between 0100-0900 today, due to dense fog. — Lloyd's Agents.

RUSSIA

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Shipping operations at Russia's largest oil port, Novorossiysk on the Black Sea, were halted for a second day by high winds and rough seas, local ship agents said. Vessels haven't been able to moor at the Sheskhari oil terminal since 1930, local time, yesterday. Northeasterly winds up to 90 kilometres an hour closed in, causing sea-swells as high as 1.5 metres, the agents said. Three oil tankers that had already docked at the terminal continued to load their cargoes, according to an agent, who

declined to be identified. Two vessels are scheduled to arrive at the facility today.

THAILAND

London, Oct 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Two bombs exploded today near a tea shop and wounded 20 people in southern Thailand, police said, as violence continued unabated in the Muslim-majority region where residents are seething over the deaths of 78 men while in military custody. Today's attacks appeared to have targeted the police, accused by some in the south of corruption, criminal activities and discrimination against Muslims. Many of the wounded were policemen, officials and reporters at the scene said. Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra planned to explain the situation in the south in a televised address today. His government was under severe criticism for its handling of the growing violence, with some fearing that predominantly Buddhist Thailand has a full-blown Islamic insurgency in the making. The 78 Muslim detainees suffocated or were crushed to death on Monday (Oct 25) when security forces jammed them into military trucks — along with more than 1,200 others — after a protest turned violent in the southern province of Narathiwat. At least nine others died during the riot, some of them apparently shot by security forces. The first explosion today took place as morning customers crowded tea shops. It was planted at the foot of tree in the provincial capital of Yala, 1,200 kilometers south of Bangkok. Maj-Gen Parinya Khwanyuen, Yala's police chief, said eight persons, including three police officers, were injured by the time-bomb. About 40 minutes later, while a bomb squad was clearing the cordoned-off area, a second explosion injured 12 policemen, four of them critically, Parinya said. The police chief said it was unclear whether the second bomb was triggered by a timer or a mobile telephone signal.

TYPHOON "CHABA"

London, Oct 28 — Following notice to mariners issued today: Tug towing deadship, general cargo *Winner I*, departs Himeji, Shikama, section No.1, 0800, JST, Oct 29 for Guangzhou, where estimated time of arrival 2015, JST, Nov 8. Speed six knots. Length of tow 236 to 300 metres.

UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND

London, Oct 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Storm-force winds battered coastal towns across the South West for a second night last night. High tides and winds combined to create flooding in coastal areas, but Coastguards said it was nowhere near as bad as the night before. There was flooding in Falmouth, Flushing and Cawsand in Cornwall, but Looe had fewer problems than before. The Environment Agency has now stood down flood watches in the north and south Devon areas. In Penzance, the sea road was flooded as waves broke 50

ft high over the harbour wall which was damaged on Wednesday night (Oct 27). The seafronts at Torquay, Paignton, Exmouth and Sidmouth in Devon were all closed because of high waves and debris. Train services remain severely disrupted following the breakdown of two trains at Dawlish on Wednesday night after waves swamped the coastal line. Replacement bus services are operating between Newton Abbot and Exeter St Davids and St Erth and Penzance. Network Rail is working to repair the Newton Abbot line, but have given no guarantee that the line will reopen today. Until the line does reopen, the region has no direct rail service to London.

London, Oct 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro *Stena Explorer* (19638 gt, built 1996) had to turn back to port after a wave damaged the vessel's hull. The vessel, carrying 400 passengers, returned to the Holyhead yesterday after sustaining damage 30 minutes into its journey to Ireland. Stena Line said that the ferry returned to port as a precaution and the passengers were not in any danger. Two sailings were cancelled today while the vessel awaited repair. The 1345 BST and the 1830 BST Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire crossings were cancelled and Stena Line warned that more sailings would be affected over the weekend. The company added that passengers would be moved to other crossings. The damage to the vessel was caused 30 minutes into the sailing from Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire. In a statement, Stena Line said: "Following the 0855 hrs departure from Holyhead, the *Stena Explorer* sustained some minor damage, on passage, approximately 30 minutes out of port to its upper forward section. "Whilst there was no risk to the vessel or persons on board, the captain decided to return to Holyhead Port to enable a full assessment of the repairs to be carried out. "There were no injuries to passengers or crew."

London, Nov 1 — Passenger ro/ro *Stena Explorer* remains under repair at Holyhead, with completion of same hoped for the middle of this week.

Liverpool, Nov 3 — Repairs to passenger ro/ro *Stena Explorer* are underway and vessel is expected to return to service on Nov 5. — Lloyd's Agents.

UNITED STATES

London, Nov 1 — A press report, dated Oct 31, states: Winds gusting to 55 mph whipped much of southern Michigan yesterday, dropping trees and power lines and knocking out power to about 250,000 electric customers. About 145,000 Detroit Edison Co customers were without power last night, utility spokeswoman Lorie Kessler said. More than 104,000 Consumers Energy customers were without power at some point yesterday, but only about 60,000 were affected last night, the utility said. "We'll undoubtedly be working the rest of the weekend" to fully restore service,

Kessler said. High wind warnings were in effect for most of the southern two-thirds of the Lower Peninsula, the National Weather Service said. A gust of 54 mph was recorded yesterday at Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of residents were left without electricity and motorists were slowed by icy roads yesterday after a storm blanketed Colorado with as much as 14.5 inches of snow. In Boulder County, some brief power outages were reported; snow ranging from about 2 inches to more than 9 inches fell across the area. Most weather advisories were lifted by late morning yesterday, with the exception of a winter storm warning in parts of southern Colorado. Central Boulder, Gunbarrel and Louisville saw 3 inches of snow. Nederland received a total of 4.5 inches of snow from the storm, while Allenspark received 1.75 inches. Wondervu received a total of 9.4 inches from the storm. Between 30,000 and 50,000 Xcel Energy customers lost electricity during the peak of the storm, which moved into metropolitan Denver Sunday evening (Oct 31), Xcel spokesman Steve Roalstad said. Interstate 25 was closed during the morning rush hour near the El Paso-Douglas County line, about 30 miles south of Denver, because of numerous accidents.

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated Nov 3, states: Wet snow blanketed parts of Texas, closing roads and cutting power to thousands. The heaviest accumulation yesterday was more than a foot in the Lubbock area, where the storm closed at least four roads and left 10-15,000 homes without electricity. The Texas Panhandle saw as many as eight inches, according to the National Weather Service. "The snow is extremely wet and heavy, and it came with bad wind," National Weather Service meteorologist Shawn Ellis said. Many of the outages came when wind gusts up to 45 mph caused tree limbs to break and knock out power lines, Ellis said. Three shelters were opened in Lubbock for elderly people stranded in their homes without power, said Lubbock County Judge Tom Head. Power was not expected to be restored until this afternoon, Head said. Lubbock itself received only three inches, but Dimmitt, to the north, reported 13 inches and had snowdrifts up to eight feet high. Muleshoe received 10 inches with drifts as high as six feet. The Texas Department of Transportation said several roads were closed. In Oklahoma, more than two inches of snow in the state's Panhandle caused about 100 electric poles to collapse, resulting in the loss of power to about 5,000 customers on Monday night (Nov 1), said Roy Smothermon, spokesman for the Tri-County Electric Cooperative. Electricity was restored to all but about 500 customers in Adams and Optima by yesterday afternoon. The storm was expected to delay the cotton harvest in the region, said Roger Haldenby, vice president of Plains Cotton Growers Inc.

Earthquakes



CANADA

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A series of earthquakes, including one of considerable force, were recorded early today beneath the Pacific Ocean west of Vancouver Island, scientists said. No damage was reported. The quakes were recorded on Canadian and U.S. seismographs starting about 0130, PST and were centred about 150 miles west of Ucluelet. The largest was felt at Alert Bay near the northern tip of the island shortly after 0200 hrs, authorities said. That tremor was recorded at magnitude of 5.6 by the Pacific Geoscience Centre north of Victoria on the island and at 6.5 by the U.S. National Earthquake Information Centre in Golden, Colo.

London, Nov 2 — A report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 1002, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.7 event has been located in Vancouver Island, Canada region, lat 49.26N, long 128.88W, depth 186 km.

GREECE

London, Nov 4 — A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0622, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.5 event has been located in Crete, Greece, in lat 35.90N, long 23.29E, depth 70 km.

INDIA

London, Nov 1 — A report, dated Oct 31, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0602, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.6 event has been located in north-western Kashmir in lat 35.32N, long 74.39E. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 21 km.

INDONESIA

London, Oct 28 — A report, dated Oct 25, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0150, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.5 event has been located in Kepulauan Alor, Indonesia, in lat 08.84S, long 124.33E, depth 2 km. The hypocentral depth was poorly constrained.

London, Oct 28 — A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0832, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.6 event has been located in southern Sumatra, Indonesia, in lat 04.89S, long 103.23E, depth 41 km.

JAPAN

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated Nov 1, states: Two moderate earthquakes rattled an area in northern Japan still recovering from last month's magnitude 6.8 earthquake, the Meteorological Agency said today. No injuries were reported. A magnitude 5.0 jolt struck at 0450 hrs, followed by a magnitude 4.0 temblor about an hour later, the agency said. Both earthquakes, aftershocks to last

month's quake, were centred about six miles below the earth's surface in a rural part of Niigata prefecture, about 160 miles north of Tokyo. The Oct 23 earthquake and several large aftershocks in the days that followed killed 36 people and injured over 2,000. The Meteorological Agency said there was no threat of tsunami, potentially dangerous waves triggered by seismic activity. More than 68,000 people remain in emergency shelters in Niigata because their homes were completely or partially destroyed in last month's quake. Many were too afraid to go home as aftershocks continue.

London, Nov 2 — A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0846, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.7 event has been located in the Bonin Islands, Japan region, lat 28.77N, long 143.26E. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 33 km

NEW ZEALAND

London, Nov 3 — A report, dated Nov 2, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1032, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.9 event has been located in the Kermadec Islands, New Zealand, in lat 30.95S, long 178.88W, depth 19 km.

PHILIPPINES

London, Nov 1 — A report, dated Oct 29, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1928, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.6 event has been located in Luzon in lat 15.57N, long 119.11E. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 40 km.

ROMANIA

London, Oct 28 — A report, dated Oct 27, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 2034, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.9 event has been located in Romania in lat 45.70N, long 26.56E, depth 96 km.

ROTA REGION, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

London, Nov 3 — A report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 0831, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.0 event has been located in the Rota Region, Northern Mariana Islands, lat 14.50N, long 146.79E, depth 10 km.

RUSSIA

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A Richter 5.5 Force earthquake was registered this morning in Magadan and its environs. According to Larisa Gunbina, director of the Magadan regional methods seismological department of the geophysical service of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the epicentre was in the Sea of Okhotsk 20 km south of the city. No destruction or victims have been reported. Magadan seismologists predict more quakes, which are expected to be weaker than the first one. Magadan is located in a seismic zone and hence minor quakes are sometimes registered there.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

London, Oct 28 — A report, dated Oct 26, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0724, today. The magnitude 5.5 event has been located in the Solomon Islands in lat 09.63S, long 160.65E, depth 116 km.

SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS REGION

London, Oct 28 — A report, dated Oct 26, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 2048, today. The magnitude 6.0 event has been located in the South Sandwich Islands region in lat 57.11S, long 24.01W, depth 10 km.

London, Oct 28 — A report, dated Oct 26, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 2253, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.4 event has been located in the South Sandwich Islands region in lat 57.11S, long 24.71W, depth 10 km.

London, Oct 28 — A report, dated Oct 26, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 2325, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.5 event has been located in the South Sandwich Islands region in lat 57.04S, long 24.65W, depth 10 km.

VANUATU

London, Nov 2 — A report, dated Oct 30, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1326, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.6 event has been located in Vanuatu in lat 15.52S, long 168.03E. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 60 km.



VATNAJOKUL, ICELAND

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A new volcanic eruption was brewing on Iceland today, forcing air traffic controllers to re-route flights between Europe and the US. Many trans-Atlantic flights, including connections from Oslo, normally fly over the dramatic landscape of the island nation. Iceland's meteorological institute and other officials reported "massive turbulence" in the volcanic area near Grimsvatn under the glacier Vatnajokul. Icelandic residents were warned of a pending eruption last night, but there was no immediate danger to human life.

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated Nov 2, states: A volcano erupted in a remote area of Iceland yesterday, setting off tremors across the area and prompting officials to warn pilots to avoid flying through gasses being emitted by the blast. No evacuations were needed in the unpopulated area around Grimsvotn mountain in eastern Iceland, the Meteorological Office said, but visual confirmation of the damage being done was impossible because heavy winds and rains reduced visibility in the area. The eruption was believed to have been caused by the expansion of a lake underneath the

Vatnajokul glacier. "The water is under extreme pressure from the glacier. We believe it could open a part of the Grimsvotn mountain, causing the release of some magma, though this cannot be confirmed without visual identification," said Oli Thor Arnarsson at the Meteorological Office. His office issued the warning to pilots yesterday evening. Grimsvotn last erupted six years ago. It also erupted in 1995 and 1993, causing flooding.

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Flights over Iceland had to be rerouted to avoid clouds of black smoke and ashes from a volcanic eruption under Europe's largest glacier, officials here said yesterday. "We had to reroute transatlantic flights because of the volcanic plume. We have a several hundred kilometre-wide danger zone between Iceland and northern Norway," Bergthor Bergthorsson, an official at the Icelandic Aviation Authority told AFP. The subglacial eruption broke out beneath the Grimsvotn glacial lake in the western part of the Vatnajokull glacier in central Iceland at 2150, Monday (Nov 1) and was preceded by a series of earthquakes, according to the Icelandic Meteorologic Institute (IMI). So far, the smoke-spewing volcano, which is located in a sparsely populated part of the island, has not caused any damage, though police did temporarily shut down a large national highway. Monday morning there were continuous earthquakes of up to 3.0 on the Richter scale, and then it was just a question of time," she added. Air traffic controllers have had to reroute all flights over Iceland, including 10 transatlantic flights. The wind has so far been blowing north and northeast, but if it starts blowing in a southern or western direction, at least 50 flights a day could be affected.



AFGHANISTAN

Kabul, Nov 1 — An Afghan militant group threatening to kill three kidnapped foreigners said it was involved in negotiations through a mediator but denied extending the Wednesday (Nov 3) deadline for their execution. A defence ministry spokesman earlier said the group had delayed its deadline until Friday but a spokesman for the kidnappers called the report "a lie" and said the hostages had been split up to thwart any rescue attempt. "We have separated the three hostages and are keeping them far from each other so that in case one is discovered by the authorities we have the chance to kill the other two," spokesman Mullah Ishaq Manzoor said. The two women and a man were snatched from a busy street in the capital, Kabul, on Thursday by the Jaish-e-Muslimeen (Army of Muslims), which threatened to kill them by noon

Wednesday unless the United States released all its Taliban and al-Qaeda prisoners. "I get the impression that there is confusion among the kidnapers which is why we can't take their deadline seriously," defence ministry spokesman General Zahir Azimisaid earlier. "We are optimistic that the hostages will be released," Azimi said, declining to elaborate for fear of jeopardising the investigation. The government has previously negotiated the release of several foreign nationals kidnapped by Taliban fugitives, apparently in return for ransom. The militant group, which had said some members of the government had helped in the kidnapping, said it was negotiating through a "tajir" — an influential trader with a good network of contacts. Authorities said they were investigating whether some government figures helped the group to carry out the abductions. "The defence ministry is of the belief that without internal cooperation this work may have not been possible," Azimi said. — Reuters.

Kabul, Nov 2 — An Afghan militant group threatening to kill three foreign U.N. workers unless the United States frees all Taliban and al-Qaeda prisoners said today a deadline for their execution may be extended if talks with a mediator progress. But Mullah Sayed Mohammad Akbar Agha, leader of the Jaish-e-Muslimeen (Army of Muslims), told Reuters that tomorrow noon's deadline remained for the moment, and he said Afghan President Hamid Karzai was interfering in the negotiating process. "I am chief of the organization and have the right to extend or not to extend the deadline," Agha said. "The decision will depend on the progress of the negotiations." Agha said Karzai had tried to prevent a mediator working with the U.N. from negotiating with his Taliban splinter group. The group has released a video of the two women and a man, flanked by a masked militant, in which a series of demands are made that are unlikely to be met. Disquiet has been growing among Afghans over the kidnappings and former president Burhanuddin Rabbani — still an influential figure — said the abductions were un-Islamic. Agha said the U.N. negotiator had asked for more proof of life from the hostages and the group would provide it shortly. The government has previously negotiated the release of several foreign nationals kidnapped by Taliban fugitives, in return for a ransom, and some security sources say a ransom could be the best hope in this case. — Reuters.

ALGERIA

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A general amnesty is being considered for Algerians implicated in violence and murder during the past 12 years. The conflict between the government and Islamist militants has claimed at least 100,000 lives since it started in 1992, but it now seems to have abated and President Abdelaziz Bouteflika believes the time

is right to try to move to the next stage to bring peace to Algeria. He was speaking during events to mark the 50th anniversary of the start of the war of independence against France. But the president said such a decision could not be taken by his government alone, despite his party's overwhelming victory in April's election. He said that that vote does not give him a go-ahead to declare such a general amnesty. He suggested that a referendum would be needed, because, according to the constitution, the people are sovereign and not parliament or the president. The general amnesty is supposed to cover all those who have been implicated in the sectarian violence of the past decade, in this case not only the armed Islamists but also members of the security forces accused of torture, and summary executions. There are also those involved in the disappearance of more than 7,000 Islamist prisoners, arrested during this period. The families of the victims of both the Islamists and members of the security forces do not generally agree with each other - but they have found common ground over a possible amnesty. Both sides say it is a travesty of justice. President Bouteflika though, sees a general amnesty as being part of the country's path to dialogue that will eventually end the conflict with reconciliation.

CHINA

London, Nov 1 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 20 people were killed in ethnic clashes between the Muslim Hui minority and the Han majority in central China's Henan province with martial law declared in the area, local residents said. "There are more than 10 Hui Muslims who died and more than 10 Han died," an employee from the Zhongmou county taxi company said. He said it was the worst violence between the two groups in memory. "The two groups used farm tools to fight each other. Martial law has been declared in the village, people are prevented from getting in or out." Nanren village, near the southern bank of the Yellow River in Zhongmou county, was one of the flashpoints of the confrontation, according to the imam with the village mosque. He said at least six people died in Nanren and the unrest had yet to be quelled. He said the clash erupted late last week when Hui truck drivers from Nanren tried to pass through a village mostly inhabited by Han Chinese and one of them got beaten up over a traffic dispute. Soon after that incident, thousands of Han Chinese surrounded Nanren village, and a confrontation developed in which a number of houses were burnt down and a brick factory was destroyed, Hu said. The fatalities that Hu was informed about happened during this clash, which was only put down when troops from the regular and paramilitary People's Armed Police arrived, he said. He said he had heard vague reports of a similar clash in another nearby village Sunday, although he had no details. The New York Times reported that almost 150

people died in the violence but locals have played this figure down. Chinese state media today carried no report about the clashes, and local journalists in the region said a news blackout was in force.

INDIA

London, Nov 3 — A press report dated today, states: Indian troops killed five Islamic militants in a fierce gunbattle in insurgency-hit Kashmir after the rebels barricaded themselves inside a mosque, an army official said. The militants fled to the mosque after fighting began when soldiers surrounded Khilangund village in southern Pulwama district early today, following a tipoff that rebels were sheltering there. "We have killed all the five militants who barricaded themselves inside the mosque," army spokesman Lieutenant Colonel V.K. Batra said. "The mosque is intact and now free of militants."

INDONESIA

London, Nov 1 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 19 people died in weekend violence in Indonesia's troubled Aceh province as bloodshed continued ahead of a key review of military operations to crush a long-running separatist struggle. Aceh military spokesman Ari Mulya Asnawi says one soldier and 10 rebels were killed in separate clashes yesterday, while Indonesian troops killed eight suspected rebels in five encounters the day before. The latest deaths follow one of the bloodiest weeks for the Free Aceh Movement rebels since the May 2003 launch of a government offensive to end their 28-year fight. Clashes saw 17 guerrillas die on Thursday (Oct 28) and Friday. Later this month, Indonesia's Government under new President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono must decide whether to renew a six-month civilian state of emergency which followed a year of martial law in the impoverished region. In yesterday's violence, one soldier was killed and another hurt when their patrol was ambushed, Asnawi said. Troops also killed six suspected rebels in a clash on the same day, while retreating guerrillas wounded a teenager and an infant in random fire. Separately, two rebels were killed in a raid on a suspected rebel hideout in the province's north yesterday while two other guerrillas were shot dead in two further encounters in a neighbouring district, Asnawi said.

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated Nov 3, states: Indonesian troops have shot dead three separatist guerrillas and captured an alleged rebel leader as a recent surge in violence continues in conflict-hit Aceh province. A clash broke out in the region's Pidie district today, during which a man believed to be the local commander of the separatist Free Aceh Movement was shot dead, said Aceh military spokesman Ari Mulya Asnawi. He said eight soldiers raiding a suspected rebel hideout nearby on the same day captured a man identified as Zailani, who is believed to be a rebel

district chief. Yesterday, two suspected guerrillas were shot dead in two separate clashes elsewhere in the region, Asnawi said.

IRAQ

London, Oct 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Unidentified saboteurs carried out a bomb attack at the oil pipeline today in the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk. Huge flames covered the pipeline and dense smoke rose into the sky as a result of the explosion heard around 0600, local time. The pipeline near the Havice district of Kirkuk is still on fire and efforts to extinguish the flames are underway. Kirkuk police stepped up security measures in the region to prevent a possible second attack. Investigation is underway to find the saboteurs.

London, Oct 30 — A press report, dated today, states: An estimated 100,000 civilians have died in Iraq as a direct or indirect consequence of last year's US-led invasion, according to a new study by a research team at the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Coming just a few days before the presidential election, the finding is certain to generate intense controversy, since it is far higher than previous mortality estimates for the Iraq conflict. Editors of "The Lancet", the London-based medical publication, where an article describing the study is scheduled to appear, decided not to wait for the normal publication date next week but to place the research online yesterday, apparently so it could circulate before the election. The Bush administration has not estimated civilian casualties from the conflict and independent groups have put the number at most in the tens of thousands. In the study, teams of researchers led by Dr Les Roberts fanned out across Iraq in the middle of last month to interview nearly 1,000 families in 33 locations. Families were interviewed about births and deaths in the household before and after the invasion. Although the authors acknowledge that thorough data collection was difficult in what is effectively still a war zone, the data they managed to collect is extensive. Using what they described as the best sampling methods that could be applied under the circumstances, they found that Iraqis were 2.5 times more likely to die in the 17 months following the invasion than in the 14 months before it. Before the invasion, the most common causes of death in Iraq were heart attacks, strokes and chronic diseases. Afterward, violent death was far ahead of all other causes. "We were shocked at the magnitude but we're quite sure that the estimate of 100,000 is a conservative estimate," said Dr Gilbert Burnham of the Johns Hopkins team. Burnham said the team excluded data about deaths in Fallujah in making their estimate, because that city was the site of unusually intense violence. In 15 of the 33 communities visited, residents reported violent deaths in their families since the

conflict started. They attributed many of those deaths to attacks by US-led forces, mostly airstrikes, and most of those killed were women and children. The risk of violent death was 58 times higher than before the war, the researchers reported. The team included researchers from the Johns Hopkins Centre for International Emergency, Disaster and Refugee Studies, which has conducted similar mortality studies about North Korea and Congo. It also included doctors from Al Mustansiriya University Medical School in Baghdad. There is bound to be scepticism about the estimate of 100,000 excess deaths, since that translates into an average of 166 deaths a day since the invasion.

London, Nov 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Fifteen people were killed and about eight wounded in a rocket attack near a mosque in former president Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit in northern Iraq, the US military said. "The rocket was one of two fired by anti-Iraqi forces," a military spokesman said in a statement, using the military's terminology for insurgents. "The round struck near the mosque in northern Tikrit following evening prayers," he added. An Iraqi emergency centre responded to the attack, sending in ambulances to ferry away the victims while police secured the area. "It is believed that friends and family also assisted in evacuating some of the wounded, particularly those with minor wounds," the spokesman said. The attack happened at about 1652 GMT. No US soldiers were wounded in the attack.

Baghdad, Nov 1 — US forces battled rebels in Ramadi and pounded Falluja today but there was no sign that an all-out American-led offensive to retake the insurgent-held cities had begun on the eve of the US presidential election. Kidnappers armed with assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades seized an American, a Nepali and two Arabs from their Saudi company's office in Baghdad, the Interior Ministry said. A spokesman said the attackers killed a guard when they stormed the company villa in the affluent Mansour district. The US military said it had begun to increase its troop strength in Iraq ahead of nationwide elections due in January. "The Second Brigade Combat Team has been informed that its departure has been delayed for 30 to 60 days to provide a secure environment for this election," a military spokesman said. While the 1st Cavalry's Second Brigade will stay longer than planned, new troops have begun arriving, he said. The United States already has about 138,000 troops in Iraq. Three people were killed in the Ramadi fighting, including an Iraqi cameraman, apparently killed by a sniper after fierce clashes had died down. — Reuters.

Kirkuk, Nov 2 — Saboteurs have blown up three main oil pipelines in north Iraq, halting exports to Turkey and flows to refineries, oil officials said today. Sabotage against oil facilities in

north and central Iraq has intensified in the past few weeks as U.S. forces attacked Sunni Muslim cities where insurgents have support. The first pipeline attack last night destroyed a section of the Iraq-Turkey export pipeline southwest of Kirkuk. It was followed by two further attacks, including one in the Qoshqaya region northwest of the city on a pipeline connected to the Bai Hassam oilfield, officials said. "We cut off all flows for now. The Qoshqaya fire is covering around one square kilometre. The export pipeline fire is also big," one official said. He said there was sufficient Iraqi crude held in storage at Turkey's Mediterranean coast Ceyhan terminal for tanker liftings to continue. The Iraq-Turkey pipeline carried 300,000 barrels per day before the attacks. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Nov 2 — A car bomb exploded outside the Education Ministry in central Baghdad today, killing at least six people and wounding about eight, the Interior Ministry said. The blast in the Iraqi capital's mainly Sunni Muslim Adhamiya district badly damaged the ministry building and destroyed 31 nearby vehicles. Smoke poured from the building as firemen fought a blaze set off by the blast. Education Minister Sami al-Mudhaffar said the bombing, which occurred on U.S. presidential election day, showed attackers would stop at nothing to derail those dedicated to rebuilding Iraq. There were hundreds of employees in the block at the time of the blast, the minister said in a statement. The bomb exploded in a side-street near the ministry building wall at about 0930 hrs (0630, UTC) gouging a big crater in the tarmac. Water from burst pipes flooded the street. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Nov 2 — Two Iraqi security guards said today they were freed by kidnappers overnight but that the gunmen were still holding an American and a Nepali also seized from a villa used by a Saudi company in Baghdad. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for yesterday's kidnapping. The two Iraqis, initially described only as Arabs, returned to the villa after being freed during the night. The American and Nepali work for the Saudi Arabian Trading and Contracting Company (Satco), a Riyadh-based company owned by Saudi and Lebanese businessmen that supplies U.S. forces in Iraq, according to executives who know the firm. — Reuters.

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A new videotape of kidnapped Iraqi aid worker Margaret Hassan has been sent to Arabic TV station Al-Jazeera, the Irish prime minister Bertie Ahern has said. He said the content of the tape was "distressing", and that Al-Jazeera had not shown it on humanitarian grounds. Mr Ahern also said there were "a number of very dangerous and very serious timescales stated". Appealing to the kidnappers, Mr Ahern said: "Your

quarrel is not with Margaret Hassan, nor is it with the Irish people who have been a firm friend of the Arab nation”.

Baghdad, Nov 3 — Iraqis traumatised by violence have barely heeded the US election as a suicide bomber attacked a US checkpoint near Baghdad airport and kidnappers seized five more foreigners, including an American. Hungary and the Netherlands said they would withdraw their troops from a US-led multinational force in Iraq by March. Bulgaria said it would cut its military presence by 10%. Attacks and kidnappings have intensified as Marines step up pressure on Falluja and Ramadi before an expected offensive to retake rebel cities to enable elections to go ahead in January. US warplanes hit Falluja, sending plumes of black smoke rising from the eastern edge of the city. Seven explosions shook the area and a hospital official said a woman was seriously wounded and a teenage girl lost one leg. A roadside bomb killed a US soldier and wounded another at Salman Pak, just south of Baghdad, the military said. A suspected suicide bomber blew up his vehicle on the main road to Baghdad airport, killing an Iraqi security man and wounding seven civilians, witnesses and hospital staff said. An Interior Ministry spokesman said river patrol police had found three unidentified bodies under a bridge across the Tigris yesterday. He said they were mutilated but could not confirm an earlier report that they had been decapitated. Al Jazeera said militants had beheaded three Iraqi National Guards that a previously unknown group accused of spying for US troops in Iraq and helping arrest insurgents. A US embassy spokesman said he had no word on the three bodies, or on a US-Lebanese contractor named Radim Sadiq who was seized in Baghdad's western suburb of Mansour yesterday. He also had no information on a US national abducted along with Filipino accountant Roberto Tarongoy, 31, and a Nepali from their Saudi company's office in Mansour on Monday (Nov 1). Four Jordanian truck drivers were kidnapped in western Iraq yesterday, a Foreign Ministry official in Amman said. Another militant group said it beheaded an Iraqi officer in the northern city of Mosul and posted a video of the killing on its Web site. The Army of Ansar al-Sunna accused Major Hussein Shunun of helping US forces against insurgents. The Care International charity that employs British-Iraqi captive Margaret Hassan said it was distressed by the latest video issued by her kidnappers and urged them to free her. Hassan's captors threatened in the tape yesterday to give her to a group led by al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi within 48 hours unless British troops quit Iraq, Al Jazeera said. "We are not going to make a public response," a British embassy spokeswoman said of the latest video. Zarqawi's group has claimed responsibility for hostage beheadings and some of Iraq's bloodiest suicide attacks. Gunmen killed an Oil Ministry official, Hussein Ali, as he left

his home in Baghdad, the Interior Ministry spokesman said. No Iraqi oil was flowing from a northern pipeline to Turkey after this week's sabotage attacks, shipping sources said. — Reuters.

ISRAEL

Gaza, Oct 31 — Israeli soldiers killed three Palestinian gunmen, two who tried to infiltrate a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip and another in a gunbattle in the West Bank town of Jenin, Israeli military sources said today. They said troops shot dead one gunman today, then chased and killed another who tried after dark to infiltrate the Kfar Darom settlement in the central sector of the coastal strip. Palestinian witnesses heard at least two explosions caused by mortars being fired by militants at the settlement, which apparently caused no injury. A Jewish settler was wounded in a mortar shelling earlier today. There were no immediate Palestinian claims of responsibility for the shooting near Kfar Darom. Earlier today soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian militant in the northern West Bank town of Jenin during a gunbattle as the troops were searching for militants, military sources and witnesses said. — Reuters.

London, Nov 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up in a crowded outdoor market in central Tel Aviv today, killing at least three bystanders and wounding 32, medics and police said. Paramedics treated dazed shoppers on the pavement. Police searched the market for additional explosives. Channel Two TV said authorities were also searching for a car believed to be carrying a person involved in the attack. Witnesses said the ground shook when the blast went off near a dairy shop. The attack came after Israel said it would exercise restraint in its battle against militant groups while Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is being treated in France for a mysterious illness. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri, whose group has carried out dozens of suicide bombings, said he did not know who was behind the attack. But he praised it as proof that "resistance is alive." Police said four people were killed, including the bomber. They said the attacker packed at least 11 pounds of explosives, about half the amount normally used by suicide bombers.

LIBERIA

London, Oct 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Gunshots were heard until early today as angry youths carrying stones and sticks roamed the streets of Monrovia, two days before the scheduled end of a United Nations campaign to disarm fighters from the West African state's civil war. A riot, begun late yesterday in the densely populated red-light district, spread throughout the night across the city. Mosques and churches were burned and countless houses were looted and torched, chief police Inspector Chris Massaquoi said. "We are not in a

position to take a count of the casualties," he said. Roads throughout the capital were jammed with people, who closed the junction that leads through Paynesville to the national police academy. In the downtown Broad Street area, hundreds of young people were seen running in the same direction, grabbing sticks and other projectiles from the filthy streets of the capital. Massaquoi said there were several possible causes for the riot, the latest popular uprising in the war-torn capital teeming with former fighters from the back-to-back civil wars that raged here since 1989. The UN campaign to disarm fighters from Liberia's second civil war is to wrap up on Sunday (Oct 31), having registered about 85 000 people associated with the three warring factions. Many of the former fighters have complained that they have yet to receive the benefits they were promised under the programme and have threatened reprisals should the UN mission in Liberia fail to deliver. Massaquoi said the Liberian national police was deployed around the capital, backing up the international military and police forces on the ground as part of the UN peacekeeping operation.

Monrovia, Oct 29 — At least four people died and 17 were injured in rare religious riots in Liberia's capital today before UN troops quelled mobs of stick-wielding youths rampaging through the city. A petrol station was ablaze and smoke rose from a torched building. Witnesses said a dispute between Muslim and Christian residents near the suburb of Paynesville late yesterday had mushroomed into a full-scale riot by this morning and then spread to the hilly centre of the coastal port city. An aid worker at a Paynesville hospital said they had taken in 17 injured people, some with gunshot and machete wounds. A resident in the town of Kakata, which is north-east of Monrovia, said two mosques had been set ablaze before peacekeepers restored order and arrested a number of people. UN spokesman James Boynton said that, by 1730 today, 168 people had been arrested in connection with the riots. He said that the curfew was being respected on the whole and that 3,000 troops would patrol overnight to keep order. — Reuters.

Monrovia, Oct 31 — One person has been killed as mobs of youths rioted on the streets of the Liberian capital, carrying out apparent revenge attacks for killings during religious sectarian violence on Friday (Oct 29), according to witnesses. UN peacekeeping troops fired warning shots and used armoured vehicles to seal off an area of the Paynesville suburb today where gangs of Christian and Muslim youths armed with sticks and knives fought running battles in the streets. Witnesses said some of the Muslim youths were carrying AK-47 rifles. Sporadic shots could be heard as residents fled, raising their hands above their heads as they ran to show they were unarmed. One man was carried away from the fray bleeding from a wound in his neck. The

cause of the clashes was not immediately clear. Religious strife has been relatively uncommon in Liberia, where battle lines during almost 14 years of civil war have traditionally been drawn along loose ethnic or regional lines. The riots happened on the Oct 31 cut-off-date for a UN disarmament programme for tens of thousands of former fighters from two rebel groups and loyalist militias which started in earnest in April. At least seven people were killed in similar clashes on Friday in the coastal capital of the West African country of roughly three million people. The rioting youths emerged in defiance of a curfew imposed after the rioting on Friday, when mosques and churches were burned before UN troops deployed to restore order. Witnesses said Ghanaian and Nigerian peacekeepers arrested about 80 men today, after searching a house and finding weapons inside. Other young men were arrested carrying petrol bombs. African Union Commission chairman Alpha Oumar Konare issued a statement condemning the violence. "He is particularly disturbed at the fact that this development has come just before the scheduled end of the disarmament process," the statement said. The UN mission said on Sep 15 it had disarmed 76,560 Liberian ex-combatants, a number which has increased since then. However, some rebels said last month there was little chance all their weapons would be handed in by today's deadline. — Reuters.

London, Nov 1 — A press report, dated today, states: United Nations peacekeepers in the Liberian capital have arrested up to 250 people following days of unrest in which at least 14 people died. UN envoy Jacques Klein said the deaths and injuries, which left more than 200 people in hospital, were caused by clubbing, beatings and machete wounds. Some 95,000 fighters have handed over weapons in a UN disarmament programme. The violence is the worst in Monrovia since former president Charles Taylor was forced into exile. Following the passing of the deadline to disarm yesterday, UN peacekeepers are conducting door-to-door searches for weapons, and attempting to reimpose their authority.

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 18 people have died and more than 200 were injured during riots in Liberia's capital last week, the worst outbreak of violence in the west African country since the end of civil war last year. "As of this morning we had 12 dead in the hospitals, four people were found dead in the street and two were found dead in the lagoon," interim leader Gyude Bryant told a news conference. Mobs of Christian and Muslim youths armed with sticks and knives fought running battles in a suburb of the capital Monrovia on Sunday, carrying out revenge attacks for deaths in riots there on Friday. United Nations troops in armoured vehicles patrolled the quiet streets on Monday alongside Liberian police officers. A curfew first

imposed on Friday to quell the violence came back into force at 1600, local time, and would last until 0700 hrs, Mr Bryant said. James Boynton, chief spokesman for the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), said 208 people had been injured in the riots, 47 of them seriously, and 250 arrested for crimes ranging from murder, curfew violation, arson to weapons violations.

NEPAL

London, Oct 29 — A press report, dated Oct 28, states: A nine-day truce between the Nepalese government and the country's Maoist rebels has ended. Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba has ruled out unilaterally extending the ceasefire. Both the rebels and the government suspended armed operations to coincide with Nepal's biggest Hindu festival. National and international human rights groups, the media and Nepalese citizens have urged the government and the rebels not to resume hostilities. They say extending the truce could create a favourable atmosphere for the resumption of peace talks. The rebels have not commented on their next move. A key coalition partner, the United Marxist-Leninist (UML), wants the truce extended to force the rebels to reciprocate the gesture.

Kathmandu, Nov 1 — Hundreds of Maoist rebels stormed a remote town in Nepal and set government buildings on fire, an army officer said today, in the first major attack after a short truce ended four days ago. The rebels, fighting since 1996 to topple the Himalayan nation's constitutional monarchy, attacked Gamgadi, capital of the remote Mugu district, late yesterday and fought pitched battles with government troops. "They set several empty government buildings on fire and fled to nearby jungles," said the army officer. The army sustained no casualties but soldiers recovered the body of a rebel killed in the fighting, an army statement said. In a separate incident, soldiers shot dead five Maoist guerrillas. Gamgadi, about 375 miles north-west of the capital, Kathmandu, is surrounded by mountains with no proper road and with poor communication links. Mugu district is a stronghold of the Maoists, who are fighting to convert Nepal into a single-party communist republic. The attack comes after a nine-day truce between the rebels and the government for the Hindu festival of Dasain that ended on Thursday (Oct 28). — Reuters.

London, Nov 4 — A press report, from Australia, dated today, states: Nine Maoist rebels died in separate clashes with security forces across Nepal in fresh violence after the end of a temporary ceasefire, an army official said. Security forces killed six rebels as they hurled homemade bombs at troops in the Nawalparasi district south-west of Kathmandu, the Royal Nepal Army official told AFP. Two others, including a senior Maoist, died in a clash in far south-western Nepal. "One more was killed in a clash in Rautahat district also in the far south-west," the army official said. The violence came after

hundreds of rebels stormed a village on Sunday in Nepal's north-west in their first big attack since last week's end to the truce. The Army said security forces repelled the raid and suffered no casualties but the body of a Maoist rebel was found. The government and the rebels declared a nine-day truce for the Hindu kingdom's biggest religious festival, Dasain. The ceasefire officially ended last Thursday.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, Oct 28 — Several people were injured when a bomb blast occurred at a five star hotel-namely Marriott, in Islamabad-the capital city of Pakistan, this evening. The hotel is located near parliament house and mostly the foreigners and oil magnets stay. All casualties including two foreigners were shifted to nearby polyclinic hospital for treatment. The Islamabad police, Ambulance, bomb disposal squad and fire brigades immediately reached the hotel and started rescue operations. According to private news channel, the blast occurred in the hotel's lobby, was so severe that window glasses of the hotel were smashed and it was heard in distant areas of the city. Federal Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Sherpao and other high officials reached the blast site immediately after it went off. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Oct 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Pakistan's government has insisted an explosion at a hotel in Islamabad was not a terrorist attack but was probably caused by a short-circuit. At least seven people were hurt, including a US diplomat, when the explosion shattered the ground floor of the Marriott hotel last night. An interior ministry spokesman said there was no evidence of sabotage. However, an injured top security officer told Pakistan's The News he was 99% sure it was a bomb blast. The blast blew out nearly all the windows of the ground floor and could be heard a kilometre away. A US State Department official in Washington said 11 US embassy staff were having an evening meal at the Marriott at the time. The embassy has barred its staff from going to the hotel until further notice. At least two Italians and the prime minister's chief security officer were among the injured. One hotel employee was reportedly in a critical condition. The News named the security officer as Syed Pervez Zahoor and said he told journalists at hospital "it was 99% a bomb blast". An hotel employee, Khurram Ahmed, told the AFP news agency: "It seems to be a bomb explosion. The bomb was apparently hidden in one of the flower pots near the entrance of the hotel. The blast was huge. It shook everyone in the hotel." Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said reports of a bomb were "not true." "It was just an accident caused by short-circuiting and nothing else," he said. Brigadier Javed Cheema of the interior ministry's national crisis management unit told AFP: "We haven't found any evidence that would suggest that it was an act of sabotage.

“The evidence indicates the blast was caused by short-circuiting. At the moment we rule out the possibility of any act of terrorism.” Brigadier Cheema said there could have been an air vacuum in the hotel.

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Four people, including a woman and a policeman, have been hurt in a car bomb blast in the Pakistani city of Quetta. The bomb went off near the office of the chief minister of the south-western province of Balochistan of which Quetta is the capital. Police officials say they suspect that “nationalist” groups opposed to the government carried out the attack. Quetta has been hit by a string of low-intensity attacks in recent months but no arrests have been made. Police officials say about 20 kilogrammes of explosive was packed into a car parked behind the office of Chief Minister Jam Mohammad Yousuf.

PHILIPPINES

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated Nov 3, states: Four Muslim separatist rebels were killed today in clashes with government troops in the southern Philippines, an army spokesman said. Three pro-government militiamen and a civilian were also injured in the fighting in the towns of Shariff Aguak and Mamasapano in Maguindanao province, 960 kilometres south of Manila. The fighting broke out despite a ceasefire agreement between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the government, which is being monitored by 60 peacekeepers from Brunei and Malaysia. Lieutenant Colonel Buenaventura Pascual said the clashes erupted when about 30 MILF rebels attacked a military detachment manned by militiamen in the boundary of Shariff Aguak and Mamasapano. “Mortar fires started the attack, wounding a civilian,” he said. Pascual said the fighting spilled over to two villages in Shariff Aguak, where four MILF rebels were killed and three militiamen wounded. MILF spokesman Eid Cabalu initially blamed the military for starting the fighting, but later admitted the hostilities were the result of a feud between MILF commanders and militiamen. “This incident did not involve the MILF as an organisation,” he said. Pascual said the ceasefire committees of the MILF and the government were able to halt the fighting.

SRI LANKA

Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka, Nov 1 — Sri Lanka’s Tamil Tiger rebels today dismissed a new government blueprint for peace after two decades of civil war without even seeing it, dashing hopes that stalled peace talks will resume soon. Even as visiting Japanese peace envoy Yasushi Akashi voiced optimism both sides would soon return to talks, Tiger political wing leader S.P. Thamilselvan said the rebels would settle for nothing less than interim self-rule in the war-torn north and east. “We shall not accept any alternative proposals, neither will our people accept any alternative proposals

discarding the interim self-governing authority,” Thamilselvan said after talks with Akashi in the rebels’ northern stronghold of Kilinochchi. — Reuters.

SUDAN

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The Sudanese army and police have surrounded refugee camps near Nyala in Darfur denying humanitarian agencies access, the United Nations says. “They were surrounded by army and police. We fear the people could be forcibly relocated,” World Food Programme’s Simon Pleuss told Reuters. The move comes as fighting is reported 20km north of Nyala. “Agencies have been denied access to these camps since this morning,” the WFP’s Christiane Berthiaume told AP news agency. She said she feared for the security of the refugees if they were relocated by government forces back to their villages, where there is less protection from Arab militias. Fighting was reported yesterday in the Darfur region of western Sudan between the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) rebels and government forces. Travellers arriving in Nyala yesterday afternoon said that they have spotted several bodies lying on the road. Some were wearing uniforms, others the traditional jalabia robe. Earlier, as a precautionary measure, UN agencies banned their staff from travelling on that road. Further on, road blocks set up by Arab militiamen are preventing commercial and humanitarian vehicles from travelling. The senior African Union (AU) officer in Nyala, Lieutenant Colonel Henry Mejabi, said that the ceasefire, agreed in April, was being violated every day by the government and both rebel sides in Darfur. Acts of banditry are also on the rise. Civilians have been attacked at roadblocks in the villages and even inside displaced camps. Meanwhile, AU mediators have presented the Sudanese government and rebel groups with a new security deal at talks taking place in the Nigerian capital, Abuja to end the conflict. The draft includes a proposal to make Darfur a no-fly zone - a key demand of the rebels. Spokesmen for each side said the new draft was better than a previous one. The SLM have threatened to quit the peace talks in Nigeria, if government attacks against villages are not halted.

UGANDA

London, Oct 29 — A press report, dated today, states: The Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF) has killed 12 Lords Resistance Army (LRA) rebels following bombardment of their hideout in Pader district in northern part of the east African country, reported local press today. UPDF spokesman based in north Paddy Ankunda was quoted by local press as saying that LRA chief technician Major Osinga was killed during the attack at Palenga, east of Pajule in the northern district. He said several fleeing rebels drowned in River Ajam. Ankunda said rebel leader Joseph Kony commanding

the rebels together with Brigadiers Bogi and Abudema when the government army launched a blistering raid in Aruu county. “Reporters have confirmed that the LRA’s chief technician Osinga was killed by the army when the UPDF attacked them at Palenga, east of Pajule in Aruu county,” Ankunda said. He said they recovered two rifles from the 12 dead rebels, adding that a grenade, seven loaded magazines for AK 47 with 200 bullets and one 82 mm mortar gun were also recovered.

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The Ugandan rebel group whose attacks have driven more than one and a half million people from their homes says it wants peace talks with the government. A spokesman for the Lord’s Resistance Army, Brigadier Sam Kolo, said the group believes there is no military solution to the 18-year civil war. The rebels want President Yoweri Museveni to say the government is looking for a peaceful end to the war. The LRA has been severely reduced in recent months. From an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 fighters in 2002, the army now claims there are less than 200 armed fighters remaining though this claim is impossible to verify. Earlier this year Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said he would order a ceasefire if LRA rebels were willing to hold direct peace talks, but he has always placed most emphasis on trying to inflict a military defeat on the rebels. The United Nations have described the situation in northern Uganda as the most neglected humanitarian crisis in the world with 20,000 children caught up in the war. Meanwhile, the Roman Catholic Church in Uganda says the Ugandan authorities have arrested a leading priest on suspicion of collaborating with the LRA. Archbishop Jean Baptist Odama said Father Matthew Ojara was detained yesterday, and his computer, cell phone and documents were confiscated. The archbishop said Father Ojara was a member of an interfaith initiative which is seeking to mediate between the government and the LRA. The Ugandan army confirmed the arrest, but refused to comment further.



AFGHANISTAN

See under “Political & Civil Unrest.”



BANGLADESH

Karachi, Nov 2 — Workers in eight jute mills under Bangladesh Jute Mill

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Corporation in Khulna and Jessore region have called a 72 hours strike from yesterday to press for their eight-point demands. Major demands include payment of arrears and salaries, medical allowances and provident fund from their the mills. The workers of the jute mills including Crescent, Platinum, Star, Alim, Eastern, ZI, Carpeting and Peoples Jute Mills also staged demonstrations in their mill premises yesterday. They said they would call another strike in the mills and stage demonstrations on Nov 9 if their demands are not met. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated today, states: The Bangladeshi capital Dhaka ground to a halt for the 20th time this year by an anti-government general strike called by the main opposition Awami League. Security was tightened for the half-day shutdown called by the League in protest at the verdict in a 29-year-old court case in which 20 former army officers and politicians were accused of killing four heroes of the country's liberation war. The streets of the capital Dhaka were largely deserted, with only rickshaws and some buses on the roads. Most schools, colleges and businesses remained closed. Police and paramilitary troops were patrolling the city but there were no reports of any disturbances, Dhaka Additional Police Commissioner Mizanur Rahman told AFP. The southeastern port city of Chittagong was peaceful today but with little traffic on the streets, witnesses said. Extra police and paramilitary troops were deployed in the city. Harbour officials said deliveries to the port had been halted but work was otherwise normal. The strike, which began at dawn, was due to end at 0800, GMT. The opposition has accused the government of interfering in the verdict to spare some of the accused with links to the Bangladeshi government.

FINLAND

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 3,000 workers walked out of 22 UPM-Kymmene forest industry plants throughout Finland today, in a 24-hour strike to protest the timber and paper products company's planned layoffs and closures. Last week, UPM said it had completed talks to lay off more than 670 workers and close two plywood plants and a sawmill in Finland. UPM said restructuring costs caused by the closures and layoffs amount to about 35 million euros (\$45 million) and will be booked during the last quarter of 2004. Some 7,500 UPM workers belonging to the leading paper workers union are planning a 24-hour protest walkout on Thursday (Nov 4) in support of those who are being laid off.

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Some 7,500 workers walked out today in a 24-hour strike protesting layoffs and closures by UPM-Kymmene, halting all production at the company's Finnish paper and pulp plants two days after similar action by workers at its sawmills and plywood plants. The

strike, which began at 0600 hrs, is estimated to cost some euro10 million in lost earnings for the company, the world's largest magazine paper maker. On Tuesday (Nov 2), sawmill and plywood workers walked off the job at 22 UPM plants nation-wide demonstrating against plans to lay off some 700 workers and close three plants in Finland, despite increased revenues and profits in the third quarter. The action by UPM workers coincides with the start of labour negotiations between main unions and employers' organizations aimed at achieving a centralised wage agreement in Finnish industry. Strikes are relatively rare in Finland where more than 80% of wage-earners are members of unions, and centralised agreements have guaranteed calm on the labor front. However, when companies announced major cutbacks and layoffs last year, tens of thousands of workers held similar protests closing banks, post offices and halting public transport.

GERMANY

London, Nov 1 — A press report, dated today, states: The powerful IG Metall labour union staged further warning strikes at car maker Volkswagen as deadlocked wage talks were set to enter their sixth round. Around 600 workers on the night shift downed tools at VW's factory in Brunswick, north Germany and IG Metall said it expected around 3,000 people to take part in a demonstration later in the day. Walkouts were also planned for the sites at Kassel, central Germany, and the northern German plants of Salzgitter, Emden and Wolfsburg. The so-called "Friedenspflicht" deadline banning industrial action during wage negotiations ended last Thursday and already on Friday 4,000 workers walked off the job temporarily. And as management and unions meet for a sixth round of wage talks today, both sides showed signs of digging their heels in. Europe's biggest car maker is seeking a two-year wage freeze for the 103,000 staff on German assembly lines and a 30-percent reduction in labour costs by 2011. IG Metall, for its part, is demanding job guarantees for 10 years and a four-percent increase in wages. But it has signalled it is willing to review its demand for higher wages if it can obtain an "acceptable" solution with regard to the job guarantees. IG Metall's deputy chief Berthold Huber said in a newspaper interview today that there was no question at the present moment of workers going on an all-out strike.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland, Oct 30 — Ports of Auckland said that a four-day strike had cut its cargo volumes in September. Total container volumes for the 12 months to end-September 2004 were up 1 percent to 658,315 TEUs compared with the previous September year, but down 18 percent on the September 2003 month. Full import container volumes rose 3 percent and full export container

volumes were down 1 percent for the 12 months to end-September 2004. For the month of September, full import and full export container volumes were down 9 percent and 15 percent, respectively, on September 2003. "The September volumes were significantly adversely affected by strike action and the disruption to some shipping services caused by events in other parts of the world," the company said. — Reuters.

NIGERIA

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated Nov 1, states: Nigeria's main trade union body is planning a second general strike over fuel price rises, and has warned it will target oil exports. Leaders of the Nigeria Labour Congress have branded oil giant Shell an "enemy of the Nigerian people" and called for action against the Anglo-Dutch firm. Shell has tried to bar two unions from striking, blaming internal issues. The threat of a industrial action sent crude prices higher as Shell accounts for about half of Nigerian oil exports. The firm is not the source of the price rises, which stem from the Nigerian government's cuts to fuel subsidies. But NLC leaders now seem to see disrupting oil production as the best way to increase pressure on President Olusegun Obasanjo's government after a four day national stoppage in October failed to reverse the price rises. NLC president Adams Oshiomhole said that the next strike - due to start on Nov 16 - would be indefinite and total, hitting both the production and export of crude oil. "Last time there was no disruption of the upstream oil sector. Now the only way for the government to listen is to interrupt the oil flow," he said. He accused Shell of taking legal action to prevent a white-collar oil union from joining the strike. A Shell spokesman in London said the firm was seeking a restraining order to stop two local unions from striking, but that this was unrelated to the planned NLC action. Shell said its court case was brought about because two in-house unions walked out on an earlier occasion, contravening a collective agreement, the spokesman said. The judge adjourned the case until Nov 18, two days after the start of the planned general strike, Agence France Presse reported. The issue of fuel subsidies has become the major battleground between the NLC and the government. The NLC has dismissed government measures to help alleviate the impact of the increased fuel costs, saying they fell short of its demand for a drop in petrol prices. Any block to Nigerian oil exports may inflate already high global prices. On Friday (Oct 29) the Nigerian government introduced a number of grants and tax reductions to help offset the recent 23% rise in fuel prices.

RUSSIA

London, Oct 28 — A press report, dated today, states: One hundred and fifty miners of the Rozhestvenskaya open-cast mine, which is situated seven kilometres away from the city of

Prokopyevsk, have gone on strike. Miners refused to begin working because they haven't been paid wages since August, as the mine's dispatcher told Itar-Tass today. The leadership of the mine said that they would pay off wage arrears before Nov 10. However, it doesn't suit the participants in the action of protest. The Rozhdestvenskaya mine began extracting coal about three years ago. The mine annually produces 100,000 tons of fuel, however, this index is 2.5 times lower than its designed capacity. And this fact aggravates the economic and financial position of the mine.

Awards & Settlements



ASBESTOS-RELATED ILLNESS, JAPAN

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated Nov 1, states: The Japanese government and about 20 former Japanese workers at a US naval base in Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, reached a settlement today in which the state will pay the workers yen 305 million (£1.5 million) in compensation for failing to protect them from asbestos dust. The two sides agreed to the settlement pact recommended by the Yokosuka branch of the Yokohama District Court for the government to pay yen 14 million each to 20 of the 22 plaintiffs in the case. The beneficiary of another plaintiff who died after the suit was filed in 2002 will receive yen 25 million, while the remaining plaintiff will not be compensated as his 10-year statute of limitation has expired. "The settlement is a great achievement as the average age of the plaintiffs is now over 79 years old," said the plaintiffs' lawyer. This is the first settlement among three damages lawsuits filed against the government by former workers who developed pneumoconiosis, also known as black lung disease, from inhaling large amounts of asbestos dust while working at the base. The plaintiffs said they believed today's pact raises the chances of another settlement for the remaining third lawsuit filed in July last year by 15 other plaintiffs. The court said today it would present a settlement recommendation on Jan 17 next year.

ASBESTOS-RELATED ILLNESS, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated Nov 3, states: A California state court jury on Oct 20 awarded a mesothelioma victim and his wife \$36,668,496 in compensatory and punitive damages against Garlock Sealing Technologies Inc and Kelly-Moore Paint Co for asbestos exposure that occurred during naval service and home construction projects. A Los Angeles County Superior Court jury awarded former naval machinist Robert Treggett and his wife, Linda Treggett,

\$18,688,496 in compensatory damages and \$18 million in punitive damages against Garlock and Kelly-Moore. The jury assessed 40% fault to Garlock and 14% to Kelly-Moore and allocated the remaining 46% to nonparties, including 39% to the US Navy. Robert Treggett was a nuclear trained machinist mate, first class, on board nuclear submarine *Marshall* from 1965 to 1972. While working on the submarine during his naval service, Treggett's primary duties involved the overhaul and maintenance of the primary and secondary nuclear propulsion plant equipment. Treggett, 60, was diagnosed with mesothelioma on Oct 1, 2003, and subsequently sued Garlock and Kelly-Moore, alleging that the two companies were responsible for causing his asbestos-related disease. Treggett alleged that he was often exposed to tremendous amounts of asbestos dust during his time on board *Marshall*, including Garlock gaskets used on steam lines and inside valves, pumps and other equipment. Treggett also alleged that he was exposed to asbestos for six months between 1975 and 1976 while performing home remodeling construction work on his father's home in Tarzana, California. Treggett alleged that he worked with Kelly-Moore's asbestos-containing "Paco Quik-Set" joint compound and was exposed to asbestos while mixing and sanding the product during the course of his work.

BAD FAITH, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated Nov 3, states: A South Dakota federal judge on Sep 30 reduced a \$12 million punitive damages award entered against an insurer to \$2 million in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the US Supreme Court. The \$12 million punitive damages award consisted of \$8.5 million against Travelers Insurance Co, \$2.5 million against Constitution State Services and \$1 million against Insurance Company of the State of Pennsylvania. All served as insurers or claims administrators for Beverly Enterprises. The jury awarded the damages after finding that the insurers acted in bad faith while handling a workers' compensation claim filed by Alice Torres. US Judge Karen E. Schreier of the District of South Dakota reduced the award to \$1.4 million against Travelers, \$160,000 against ICSP and \$420,000 against CSS. Judge Schreier reconsidered the punitive damages award in response to the insurers' renewed motion for judgment as a matter of law or for a new trial or remittitur. Alice Torres was a cook at a nursing home owned by Beverly Enterprises. In 1999, she filed a workers' compensation claim, seeking reimbursement of medical bills and lost time because of carpal tunnel syndrome. Torres had to have surgery on her hand; her doctor reported that her injury was work related. Torres also submitted a letter by a former workers' compensation judge saying the claim was payable. After her claims were denied, Torres filed a claim with the South Dakota Department of

Insurance. The department ruled in favor of Torres. Torres sued Beverly Enterprises, Travelers, CSS and ICSP for bad faith. Beverly Enterprises reached a settlement with Torres before trial.

BID-RIGGING, JAPAN

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated Nov 1, states: Fifty-two makers of electronic traffic information display boards were today ordered by the Metropolitan Police Department to pay about yen 1.6 billion (£8.2 million) in compensation for bid-rigging, which raised the cost of installation, the MPD said. The companies have already been ordered by the Fair Trade Commission to pay surcharges in accordance with the Antimonopoly Law. There have been cases in which municipal governments have sought compensation from companies for fixing bids for public works projects, but the MPD is the first police organisation in the country to demand compensation for public works projects. The MPD found 57 firms liable for damages, but as five had gone bankrupt, it ordered 52 firms, including Kawasaki-based Shingo Kizai Co, Nohara Sangyo Co in Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo, Hoan Kogyo Co in Chuo Ward, Tokyo, and Hiroshima-based Miyagawa Kogyo Co, to pay damages. Based on estimates of the extra costs caused by bid-rigging of about 10% of the contracts awarded, the MPD is seeking about yen 1.6 billion in compensation, or 10% of contracts worth about yen 16 billion for 545 public works projects awarded to the companies during the three years to November, 2001. Each company will have to pay between yen 950,000 and 210 million. In July, 2002, the FTC issued warnings to 74 companies over bid-rigging in contracts worth yen 21 billion for 746 public works projects awarded between April, 1998, and November, 2001. In October, 2003, the fair trade watchdog ordered 57 of them to pay yen 620 million in surcharges, or 3-6% of the contract prices. As the FTC also has asked 16 companies, including major electronic firms, to pay surcharges for the installation of signal machines commissioned by the agency, the MPD also plans to seek compensation from such firms in the near future. The MPD said Shingo Kizai and Nohara Sangyo took the initiative in bid-rigging involving 56 companies in the installation of electronic traffic display board systems. Sixty-three companies, led by Shingo, Nohara, and Miyagawa Kogyo, also decided in advance the winning bidders and bid prices for road-marking projects, such as pedestrian crossings and speed restrictions. Forty-five firms were involved in bid-rigging for the two types of contracts. After inspections by the FTC, bid prices for the installation of electronic traffic display boards plunged by as much as 22.8%. The MPD has traditionally ordered the installation of thousands of traffic signboards in one contract worth a huge amount of money, thereby giving a boost to the winners and dealing a heavy financial blow to the losers. As

the practice could encourage firms to rotate the winning bidders among themselves, the FTC believes the MPD should review its tender process.

BREACH OF CONTRACT, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated Nov 3, states: GameTech International, Inc, a leading supplier of electronic bingo equipment, announced today that a Phoenix jury found in favour of Trend Gaming Systems LLC in its breach of contract claims against the company. The jury awarded Trend, the company's former Texas distributor, \$3.53 million in compensatory damages, but \$735,000 of that award will be offset by an award to GameTech. Trend is entitled to ask the Court for an award of attorney's fees and costs. The final award is subject to approval of the Court and entry of judgment. Andrejs Bunkse, GameTech's General Counsel, stated, "We are obviously very disappointed by the jury's findings, which we do not believe were supported by the facts or the law. We will immediately file an appeal." GameTech International, Inc. is a leading supplier of a comprehensive line of electronic bingo equipment, including hand-held bingo units, fixed base units and turnkey accounting and management software. The company supports its customers with products that increase play, revenues and profits, and software customised to enhance management and operations.

BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated Nov 2, states: A federal jury ordered NBA star Vince Carter to pay his imprisoned former agent, William "Tank" Black, nearly \$4.7 million in lost commissions and damages. The panel said today that Carter breached his contract with Black's company, Professional Management Inc, when the Toronto Raptors guard dissolved the agreement in 2000. It awarded Black \$4,675,640.45 in actual damages. The jury also found that Black violated his fiduciary duties to Carter and ordered the one-time sports agent to pay \$800,000 to Carter. That was the total of two loans Carter made to Black. "Obviously, we're unhappy with it," Carter's attorney, Jake Moore, said. "It's hard to understand. One thing I know about juries, figuring out the rationale behind decisions is sometimes very hard to do." The decision brought a temporary end to the court case. Carter spent several days away from his NBA club as he fought Black, a federal prisoner. Black, who signed Carter after he left North Carolina in 1998, sued his former client for \$9 million in commissions for endorsement deals the former agent said he landed for Carter, as well as \$5 million in damages. Carter countersued, demanding Black pay him the \$15.9 million Carter lost when Puma sued him over a failed shoe deal, and a \$3 million penalty for

breaking the contract. The jury said Black and his company were negligent in handling the Puma contract, but decided Carter was not harmed financially by the negligence and gave him no damages. Black pleaded guilty to money laundering, fraud and other charges for his role in a car-title-for-cash scheme that bilked millions of dollars from sports stars, including Carter, who lost \$130,000.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, AUSTRALIA

London, Nov 1 — A press report, dated today, states: An Australian Capital Territory family has won a near-record compensation payout for a botched birth at the Canberra Hospital in 1999. The family has been awarded \$9 million plus costs to care for their severely disabled son. Five-year-old Ryan Patrick Galea was born with cerebral palsy after his mother experienced birthing difficulties at the Canberra Hospital. The family has successfully sued the Territory after ACT Health and Community Services admitted to medical negligence. The court heard the \$9 million payment may increase by another million over time, depending on Ryan's ongoing treatment and life expectancy. Outside of court, the family have said that if the Canberra Hospital was better funded and resourced, the incident may never have happened.

MEDICAL SUPPLY FRAUD, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated Nov 3, states: Medical supply company PolyMedica Corp. reached a \$35 million settlement today with the federal government over alleged Medicare fraud. The settlement was tentatively announced this afternoon, then finalised in the evening. Under the settlement's terms, the company would make a single lump sum payment to the U.S. government, and would not have to admit wrongdoing, according to a statement from the company. "It is important for the company and for our investors to put this matter behind us, so that we can focus all our energies on serving our patients and continuing to grow and develop our business," said PolyMedica chief executive Patrick Ryan, who replaced former CEO Samuel L. Shanaman last week. The federal government began investigating PolyMedica in August 2001, when dozens of FBI agents, including 19 computer specialists, raided offices in Florida of two PolyMedica subsidiaries, Liberty Medical Supply and Liberty Home Pharmacy, and the homes of two employees. At the time, ex-employees said the company shipped diabetes test strips to people who didn't order them and did not reimburse Medicare for returned packages. A spokesman for the company declined to comment about the allegations against the company. Liberty Medical Supply promotes itself as a leading national Medicare provider of home-delivered diabetes testing supplies, marketing primarily to seniors over the Internet

and from a call centre in Port St. Lucie, Fla. Liberty Home Pharmacy also touts itself as a leading Medicare provider of home-delivered liquid respiratory medications and supplies to tens of thousands of customers each month.



BARCELONA, SPAIN

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated Oct 31, states: More than 50 people were injured this afternoon when two subway trains collided in Barcelona, Spanish media reported. A train carrying around 100 people swerved onto a track to a garage area and hit an empty train that was stopped there. The driver of the train with passengers was trapped inside the wreckage for more than five hours. About 30 of the injured passengers were treated in nearby hospitals. The driver of one train was reported to be in serious condition. Barcelona Mayor Joan Clos rushed to the spot immediately to oversee the rescue work. The cause of the accident was being investigated.

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated Nov 3, states: A train derailment, on the Canadian National line through downtown Jackson, was quickly cleaned up today. Larry Fisher, Director of Emergency Operations for Hinds County said, "Some of the cars do contain acids, some contain products that are environmentally hazardous, but we have no leakage whatsoever." Fisher said there were two minor injuries when the engineer and conductor on a Kansas City Southern Railroad locomotive jumped to the ground when their engine was hit by the derailed cars. They were treated and released. Six cars, five tankers, and an empty hopper car left the rails on the bridges over Pearl and Pascagoula Street, near the old King Edward Hotel. By this afternoon, service was fully restored on both the Canadian National and Kansas City Southern railroads.

LITTLE FALLS AREA, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 1 — A press report, dated Oct 30, states: Two passing freight trains were involved in an early morning derailment near Little Falls, New York, today that left 25 cars off the track and the rails closed for at least 24 hours, authorities said. A single car began to derail as the trains passed Little Falls at 0520 hrs, CSX spokesperson Misty Skipper said. As the car lost its grip on the track, it took other cars from its train off with it. CSX was working this morning to determine whether cars from the second train also left the tracks, she

said. A Little Falls Fire Department spokesman said that no physical injuries were reported from the accident. A single tanker in one of the trains had residue from a chlorine-based material it had previously transported, but there was no immediate indication the car was leaking, Skipper said. With the tracks closed, Amtrak was forced to cancel two trains that would have passed through Little Falls today.

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A train carrying more than 600 commuters crashed into the buffers at Charing Cross station today. Many passengers were standing but, amazingly, there were no injuries. The 0828 from Dartford was arriving at platform two when the incident happened. The eight carriage train and buffers were damaged. A spokeswoman for operator South Eastern Trains said: "One of our trains hit the buffers but there were no injuries." Network Rail, which is responsible for rail infrastructure, launched an immediate investigation. "It was a very low speed collision," said a spokesman. "The train was travelling at between two and five miles an hour." Tests are being carried out to see if a greasy track was to blame. The driver was tested for both drink and drugs - a standard procedure after an accident. The outcome is not yet known. Currently only two of the station's eight platforms are in use and engineers are working to repair the damage before the evening rush-hour.

TARKWA, GHANA

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated Nov 2, states: A goods train carrying bauxite from Awaso to the Takoradi Port was involved in an accident at Tarkwa yesterday. The engine of the train, which had 19 coaches filled with bauxite fell off the rails leaving the coaches and their contents on the line. Mr. Charles Bossman, the driver said that he heard an unusual noise and when he stopped to investigate, the engine fell off the rails. Mr. J.K. Emill, Tracks Superintendent attributed the derailment to a mistake by the Signal Man who placed the train on a wrong track. The driver and his assistant who were the only people on board escaped unhurt. Mr. Emill said the Ghana Railway Company would spend millions of cedis to repair the damaged engine and track.

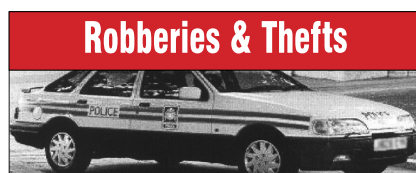
WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 1 — A press report, dated Oct 31, states: Eight cars on a CSX freight train with 61 cars derailed yesterday morning, delaying Amtrak service for dozens of passengers, authorities said. The cars, carrying the rock ballast used to level railroad tracks, jumped the tracks at 0508 near the intersection of Rhode Island Avenue and Fourth Street in northeast, according to Gary Csease, spokesman

for the Richmond-based rail company. Three of the cars landed on their side and lost all or part of their contents. One track was restored at 1900 and the other is expected to be fixed today, Csease said. No one was injured. Some passenger who were confronted with delays had to use buses to get from Pittsburgh to Washington. Investigators were trying to find out what caused the derailment, Csease said.

WOODLEY PARK NATIONAL ZOO METRO STATION, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated today, states: An empty subway train rolled backward into a train full of passengers near the National Zoo, injuring at least 20 people, transit officials said. The second train, carrying about 70 passengers, had pulled into one of Washington's busiest stations moments before the empty train backed into it yesterday afternoon. Most of the 75-foot-long rear car of the empty train came off the tracks and about one-third of its aluminum shell was pulled apart. Witnesses said the operator of the occupied train began screaming for people to get off a few seconds before impact. None of the injuries was life-threatening, said Alan Etter, a fire department spokesman. He said it was "astounding," given the force of the crash, that more people weren't more seriously hurt. The worst injury appeared to be a broken leg, he said. The crash happened after a loaded six-car train pulled into the Woodley Park-National Zoo Metro station around 1249 hrs, spokesman Steven Taubenkibel said. Each train has an automatic control system to keep trains a safe distance from each other, deputy general manager for operations James Gallagher said. Officials were looking into whether the system failed.



Robberies & Thefts

JEWELLERY FROM MUSEUM, LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Nov 1 — Thieves have stolen 15 rare items of medieval Chinese jewellery from the British Museum, including historically important gold earrings, amulets and hairpins, a museum spokeswoman said today. The items, dating from between 700 and 1400 AD, were taken from a glass cabinet in the Oriental Antiquities Gallery on Friday (Oct 29) but their loss was only spotted by security staff on Saturday. "The items are rare and easily portable and of great historical importance," the spokeswoman said. She declined to put a monetary value on the missing items. — Reuters.



BAGLE VIRUS

London, Oct 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A virus that disguises itself as a joke is spreading rapidly across the net. Anti-virus firms are issuing high-level warnings about the new version of the Bagle e-mail program that seems to be catching a lot of people out. The Windows virus grabs e-mail addresses from Microsoft Outlook and uses its own mail sending software to spread itself to new victims. When it infects a machine, the Bagle variant turns off security measures that usually protect PCs. The new variant is called Bagle.AT, Bagle.BB and Bagle.AU and the attachment bearing the virus code is labelled as either "joke" or "price". The body of the virus usually contains nothing but a smiley or emoticon. The virus can strike computers running Windows 95, 98, ME, NT, 2000 and XP. Users will be infected if they open the attachment that travels with the e-mail. As well as plundering Microsoft Outlook for e-mail addresses to send itself to, Bagle.AT also tries to turn off the firewall and security centre services on Windows XP machines. Finnish company F-Secure gave the virus its second highest threat level. "We've had several reports all over the world," said Mikko Hypponen, director of anti-virus research for F-Secure. Security firm Network Box said that it stopped more than 30,000 copies an hour of the virus as the outbreak reached a peak. Black Spider said it had stopped more than 1 million copies of Bagle.

London, Nov 1 — A press report, dated Oct 29, states: At least one new variant of a worm spread rapidly from Asia and Europe to US computers this morning, filling up people's e-mail accounts, but otherwise causing little apparent damage. Alex Shipp, senior antivirus technologist at the e-mail filtering company MessageLabs Inc, said the variant of the so-called Bagle worm was "comparable in size to MyDoom," the virus that slowed Google and other Internet search sites in January. MessageLabs had recently received about 900,000 e-mails containing the virus. Shipp estimated that MessageLabs receives about 1% of the e-mails containing a given virus or worm. "We were seeing 165,000 an hour, but it's levelled off at 100,000 an hour, if you can call that levelling off," Shipp said. Since multiple e-mails containing a worm or virus are often sent to one computer, it's difficult to estimate the number of affected users, said Shipp. One software security company, McAfee Inc, said another variant of the Bagle worm was also quickly spreading today, but similarly did not seem to be destroying files or damaging software. Both versions can be transferred through shared network

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files as well as through e-mail. They attach themselves to files and then send themselves to e-mail addresses that they find on infected machines. Viruses or worms often use e-mail addresses from computers they infect to fool the recipients into opening an attachment. If a recipient opens the attachment, the worm creates a so-called back-door, "a small program that sits on your machine quietly listening for someone to contact it," said Kevin Hogan, senior manager of security response at Symantec Corp. A computer user who contacts the backdoor can transfer files between his machine and the infected one, Hogan said. The worm variants can also disable security software, experts said. "It's pretty much a vanilla mass-mailing worm," said Hogan. "It does a lot of the things that we've seen these sorts of worms do in the past." McAfee first received reports of the worm variants from Europe. Symantec said the first complaints it fielded were from Japan. Antivirus providers received a rash of reports of a worm in the United States at the start of the working day today. Symantec, McAfee and Computer Associates International Inc's eTrust division had received no reports today of disabled files or other damage. Much of the standard security software can readily detect and protect against these latest variants of the Bagle worm, which spreads through shared network files as well as e-mail messages, experts said.

London, Nov 1 — A press report, from Australia, dated Nov 2, states: One of the world's largest anti-virus companies is warning that two new worms are wriggling their way into Australia's computer systems. Trend Micro Australia senior systems engineer Adam Biviano said the company has issued a medium-level alert that two strains of the BAGLE virus - WORM_BAGLE.AT and WORM_BAGLE.AU - had been detected in 150 Australian computer systems as of today. A worm is a computer virus that propagates through network systems, such as email. Mr Biviano said the two viruses can be harmful to both home computer users and corporations. "They (the viruses) have the potential to crash your network if left unchecked," he said. "These two particular viruses will search your computer's file for any email addresses that it can find and then email itself out to those people." The new BAGLE variants will send emails with a spoofed name in the sender window of an email and a greeting such as 'Re Hi' or 'Re Thank you!' in the subject window. The email will also have an attachment called 'Price' or 'Joke'. Home computer users should update their anti-virus software to guard against infection from these new viruses, Mr Biviano said. "Corporations (also) need to be making sure that their internet gateway scanning is fully up to date," he said. "If the anti-virus software doesn't pick it (a virus) up first, the virus will in fact disable the anti-virus software."

Miscellaneous



COLLAPSE OF COAL MINE, BARTIN, TURKEY

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Three workers were rescued from rubble of a coal mine that collapsed in Amasra town of north-western city of Bartin, officials of the Turkish Charcoal Agency, TTK, said yesterday. TTK officials told the A.A correspondent that the coal mine collapsed due to a landslide this evening, trapping some workers. Three workers who were stranded in the coal mine were pulled alive from the rubble, the officials said. They noted that two of the injured workers were hospitalised in Bartin while one worker who was slightly injured was discharged from the hospital. TTK officials stated that efforts were under way to rescue six more miners who were believed to have been trapped beneath the debris. On the other hand, Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Hilmi Guler was on his way to the scene of the coal mine collapse.

COLLAPSE OF GOLD MINE, HUAXIAN COUNTY, SHAANXI PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Three people were confirmed dead and another three are missing after a gold mine collapse in Huaxian County in north-west China's Shaanxi Province, according to the local work safety administration. The accident happened around 1800 on Monday (Nov 1) at a small private mine affiliated with the county's Taoyuan Gold Mine, the administration said. Local farmers said that by yesterday afternoon, the death toll had risen to six. But the information could not be confirmed because of poor telecommunications at the scene. Rescue work is continuing, and the cause of the accident is still under investigation.

INFESTATION OF LOCUSTS, CYPRUS

London, Nov 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A swarm of locusts spread across Cyprus today, leaving farmers hurrying to protect their crops. Cypriots described the insects as "big, pink locusts". Rare in Cyprus, they are thought to have been carried on winds from north Africa. The invaders were first spotted in the Akamas nature reserve in the west of Cyprus but quickly spread east. They are reported to have devoured potatoes and bananas, although the damage has yet to be assessed. Farmers have been advised to spray their crops with pesticide and to seal their greenhouses. A spell of unseasonably warm weather may have helped attract the locusts to Cyprus, the Agriculture Ministry

suggested. After first appearing in the west, they were reported to be moved swiftly eastwards towards the southern coastal town of Limassol.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The Thai government killed 147 tigers during last month's operation to wipe out the bird flu virus, the Thai News Agency reported today. According to the report, the tigers were killed at the Sri Racha Tiger Zoo where several tigers died from bird flu after being fed raw chicken. The government also killed more than 1.5 million chickens in the operation, the report said. The destroyed fowls were mainly from farms and villages in the country's central and lower northern regions, where most of the bird flu cases both in poultry and human have been found since the virus re-emerged in July, the news agency quoted a report of the National Centre Fighting Bird Flu as saying. The report cited the lack of awareness and protective equipment among rural villagers and insufficient numbers of monitoring officials as main obstacles to effectively preventing the spread of the disease. The centre suggested that the government pay more attention to enhancing villagers' awareness of the disease and speed up compensation payment to farmers whose fowls had been culled to stop spread of the disease.

POWER OUTAGE KUWAIT

London, Nov 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Kuwait's three oil refineries, which have an output of 920,000 barrels a day, halted production yesterday due to a country-wide power outage, a Kuwait National Petroleum Company spokesman said. "The three refineries at Al Ahmadi, Mina Abdullah and Shuaiba stopped operating after the power cut," said Mohammad Al Hajeri. Power, however, was restored in about 50% of the country by late afternoon and officials said it was expected to return to the rest of Kuwait within hours. There were traffic jams across the city, but no accidents were reported.

London, Nov 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A nation-wide blackout hit Kuwait yesterday, forcing it to shut its three oil refineries and halt exports of refined products like gasoline, but crude production and exports were proceeding normally, top energy officials said. The power cut hit traffic lights across the country, causing bumper-to-bumper traffic jams on some roads leading out of the capital. "The production and exporting of petroleum from Kuwait is proceeding normally and (crude) production operations were not impacted at all," Hani Hussain, the deputy chairman of Kuwait Petroleum Corp (KPC), told state news agency Kuna. Reuters witnesses said power began returning to some areas of the capital by mid-afternoon but other areas were still without current. Some mobile telephone communications were also affected. Energy Ministry

Undersecretary Saud Al Zaid told Kuna that the ministry was investigating the causes of the malfunction.

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Kuwait's three domestic oil refineries have reopened their crude distillation units as they begin to restart following Sunday's (Oct 31) forced shutdown, caused by a nationwide power failure, managers at the plants said yesterday. Output from the 450,000-barrel-a-day Mina al-Ahmadi refinery is now up to around 300,000 bpd and output from the 200,000-bpd Shuaiba refinery is back to around 120,000 bpd. The 270,000-bpd Mina Abdulla plant's output is back to near full capacity of 250,000-bpd, the managers said. Other peripheral units, such as the conversion system, are being gradually restarted, the operation managers added. The three refineries have a combined processing capacity of more than 900,000 bpd and output is expected to return to full capacity either late yesterday or today. The managers said crude oil and petroleum exports from the refineries have resumed after a brief suspension during the power cut. Kuwait News Agency said the power cut was caused by maintenance work at the main station of al-Amriyah, which affected most of the country including the oil plants which take their power supply from the national grid.

RELEASE OF TOXIC GAS, COAL MINE, FUSHUN, CHINA

London, Nov 1 — A press report, dated Oct 31, states: A burst of poisonous gas in a coal mine in north-east China killed 15 miners, the government said today. The rush of gas occurred yesterday at the Xilutian Mine in Fushun, a city in Liaoning province, when 50 miners were working underground, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. The miners were about 1,300 feet from the entrance of the shaft, Xinhua said, citing Li Sen, an executive with Fushun Coal Industry Corp, which owns the mine. Fifteen workers were killed instantly, while the rest managed to escape, Li said. The accident was still being investigated.

VIOLATION OF SOUTH KOREAN SEA BORDER

London, Nov 1 — A press report, dated today, states: South Korean naval ships have fired warning shots to drive away North Korean vessels violating their border in the Yellow Sea, the joint chiefs of staff (JCS) office said. Three North Korean patrol boats intruded into southern waters near Yeonpyeong Island at 1054 hrs, 0154, GMT, despite radio warnings, the office said. It said the boats sailed back only after the warning shots were fired. The border breach lasted 83 minutes and the standoff ended without casualties, the office said. "Our navy ships fired 10 rounds of shells in warning shots to drive away those North Korean boats violating the Northern Limit Line (NLL) sea border," said a JCS official who identified himself as Major Lee. "They retreated. There were no

casualties." The North Koreans denied any border breaches. "We are not violating the border. We are in the middle of checking fishing boats from a third country," a North Korean patrol boat was quoted by the JCS as radioing back. The JCS confirmed some 80 Chinese boats were fishing nearby. The sea border is not recognised by the North. Earlier this year military authorities from both Koreas agreed to open radio contacts and share communications signals between their navy vessels in an effort to prevent clashes. But border violations by North Korea continue, according to the JCS.



Fires & Explosions

COAL MINE, BELOV, KEMEROVO REGION, SIBERIA, RUSSIA

London, Oct 29 — A press report, dated Oct 28, states: Rescue operations have been completed at the Listvyazhnaya Mine, Kemerovo Region. A special commission started investigating reasons for the accident, Tass learnt at the Russian Ministry for Emergencies. The blast took place at 0545 today. A total of 103 miners were in the colliery at that time. The operation of the mine was stopped immediately after the explosion. According to the latest information, 60 miners came to the surface independently. Later, rescuers found and brought to the surface another 30 people, 23 of whom were hospitalised. The rest were checked up by doctors and were released. As a result of the blast, 13 people died, and their bodies were found by rescuers. An accident center, headed by Governor of the Kemerovo Region Aman Tuleyev works at the place of the tragedy. Incidentally Governor Tuleyev stated that the families of 13 miners, killed by the explosion at the Listvyazhnaya Mine, will receive material aid of at least 500,000 roubles each. This money will be appropriated by owners of the mine or the Belon joint stock company, the authorities of Belovo city as well as by the regional authorities.

COAL MINE, XINMI, HENAN PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Oct 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Experts began their underground investigation yesterday afternoon into the cause of last week's deadly gas explosion at the Daping Coal Mine in central China's Henan Province. Twenty-four investigators, dispatched by the State Council to the state-owned coal mine in Xinmi City, entered the mine. So far, 141 bodies of trapped miners have been recovered. Li Jiucheng, an investigator and head of the provincial coal industry safety supervision bureau, said that all hidden dangers underground were under control. The rescue work will continue, Li said, as seven miners are still missing, and the "face fall" at the

No 13121 operation platform has not been cleared. Of the 141 bodies, 108 have been identified.

COURTHOUSE, UPPER MALBORO, MARYLAND, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 4 — A press report, from Upper Malboro, dated today, states: A wind-blown fire gutted the nearly 300-year-old Prince George's County courthouse yesterday, but it was beat back before reaching a modern wing where records are kept and trials are held. "Firefighting crews took a defensive posture from the beginning to protect the new courthouse," built in 1991, said Marc Bashoor, a county fire commander. More than 100 firefighters battled the blaze for more than 90 minutes, stopping the flames from moving beyond a series of connecting corridors that joined the unoccupied 19th-century red-brick courthouse and the modern wing, which houses the county's court system, criminal and land records and other documents. The old courthouse had been undergoing a \$27 million renovation; hose taps and sprinklers had been disconnected by workers. The fire, whipped by wind gusts of more than 20 mph and fueled by construction materials, erupted on the roof. There were no injuries. Employees had anticipated moving back into the renovated section of the courthouse in mid-January; all the old files and historical paintings had been removed, county officials said. "We will rebuild this building," County Executive Jack Johnson promised. He said he planned to meet with Gov. Robert Ehrlich.

FACTORY, BURY ST EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Ten fire crews are tackling a major blaze at a food factory in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. Firefighters were called to the fire at Direct Table Foods on Lamdin Road early on this morning. Police say Lamdin Road has been closed, but the main Mildenhall Road is unaffected.

FACTORY, HUNAN PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Oct 29 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion in a Linli County fireworks plant in central China's Hunan Province left 13 people dead and 3 injured on Wednesday (Oct 27). Seven people died at the site and six others after being taken to the hospital. An explosion in the finished products warehouse about noon apparently set off a chain reaction that demolished the entire 3,000-square-metre plant. Windows were blown out of houses more than a kilometre away. A local resident told the "Xiaoxiang Morning News" that he was taking lunch to his wife, a plant employee, and had just entered the packaging room when he heard an explosion. Before he could take cover, he said, the entire room collapsed around him. The blast ignited a fire that destroyed more than half a hectare of forest before it could be contained. A source identified by the "Hunan Daily" as "a person in charge"

said that the plant had finished and semi-finished fireworks stored on the premises, as well as about 150 kg of gunpowder. Authorities are investigating and have detained one of the owners, who was also in charge of production.

GODOWN, KARACHI, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Oct 30 — A huge fire broke out in exportable cotton bales stored at a godown of Karachi Port Trust (KPT) at Queens Road in Karachi yesterday evening, according to port and central fire brigade sources. The fire started at 1945 hrs and soon spread to all cotton bales. The dozen fire vehicles of KPT fire brigade and Karachi City Central Fire Brigade in a joint effort have extinguished the fire around 0400 today. The fire was controlled before it could engulf other stored rice and other items and property of KPT. About 12,000 cotton bales, worth million of rupees, owned by two different local private parties, were reportedly burnt to ashes in the blaze. The KPT ordered an inquiry into the accident to find out the cause of the fire. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

NORTH SEA OIL PLATFORM, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire has caused production to be shut down on a North Sea oil platform. Workers on the Forties Charlie were called to muster at about 0445, GMT, today but were stood down two hours later when the fire was put out. A spokeswoman for owners, Apache, confirmed a fire had broken out on the platform which is 150 miles north-east of Aberdeen. The cause of the fire and extent of the damage is not yet known. No-one was injured in the incident.

REFINERY, BARODA AREA, INDIA

London, Oct 29 — Sixteen workers have been injured in an explosion at an oil refinery near the western Indian city of Baroda. The early morning blast at the Koyali refinery, in a gasoline refining unit, could be heard several kilometres away and started a fire. The cause of the blast was not yet known, police said. Only a small number of employees were on site as the plant was undergoing maintenance, officials said, adding that the fire was brought under control within two hours of the blaze. The injured maintenance workers have been taken to hospital. A statement from the Indian Oil Corporation, which owns the refinery, said 13 employees had been treated and released and three were being kept under observation. BN Bankapor, executive director of the Indian Oil Corporation, said the blast occurred in a fluidised catalytic cracker unit, which refines the crude oil. The company hopes to restart the unit within three days. Sudhir Sinha, police commissioner in Baroda, said an investigation was under way. "The economic losses will run into millions of rupees," Mr Sinha said.

REFINERY, DAQING, CHINA

London, Oct 30 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion at an oil refinery in China's north-east killed seven workers, the government said today. The explosion occurred Wednesday (Oct 27) when a vat of hydrogen sulphide caught fire during maintenance work, the official Xinhua News Agency said, citing rescue officials. The disaster occurred at a refinery in the Daqing oil field, China's main petroleum-producing area. The last of the bodies were found late yesterday after the fire was extinguished and rescuers wearing oxygen masks against the fumes entered the vat, the report said.

REFINERY, KINGSTON, JAMAICA

London, Oct 29 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An explosion and fire at the government's Petrojam oil refinery in Kingston put the plant out of commission and raised the prospects of scarcity in the local market. Officials could not immediately give the cause of the explosion and what was described as a "small fire" in one of the refinery's processing towers, but said that the incident happened at about 0010, yesterday morning. Although the fire was quickly extinguished by employees, with some assistance from the Jamaica Fire Brigade, it forced the indefinite closure of the refinery's operation. No one was hurt in the incident. Phillip Paulwell, the energy minister, said that existing stocks of refined petroleum products would not satisfy domestic demand beyond next week, so Jamaica had appealed to Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela for supplies. An oil tanker was already on its way to Venezuela for refined products, which should reach the market by weekend, Paulwell said.

SHOPPING COMPLEX, SOUTH NORMANTON, DERBYSHIRE

London, Oct 29 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 80 firefighters have been dealing with a blaze at a shopping complex in Derbyshire. The alarm was raised at McArthur Glen in South Normanton off Junction 28 of the M1 just after 2200 last night. Nineteen fire engines were called in to tackle the blaze which is thought to have started in Marks and Spencer's but spread quickly along the roof space. The damage is thought to be extensive but no-one has been hurt. The centre is expected to be closed for some time. An investigation into the cause of the fire is due to start. Staff are being turned away and eyewitnesses say the centre part of the building's roof has collapsed.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 1 — A press report, dated today, states: The bill for Alaska's fire season could come to more than \$106 million to be split between the state and federal government, according to fire officials' preliminary estimates. That would be a record amount on top of the record-setting 6.7 million acres that burned across the state between June and October. "I

would say without a doubt this is the most expensive fire season for the state," said Rick Dupuris, the state Division of Forestry coordinator at the Alaska Interagency Co-ordination Center on Fort Wainwright. About 15 fires are still burning, although the fire season has been declared over. Only recently have fire officials been able to assess the damage, and the amount will likely fluctuate before the final cost is known, said federal and state fire officials. But preliminary estimates show the state will pay about \$48 million and the federal Department of the Interior about \$58 million. This year, many fires burned near roads and homes, making it necessary to protect communities and the tourism industry and driving up the costs, said Joe Stam, chief of fire and aviation for the state Division of Forestry. "We fought just portions of the fires to protect structures and communities," Stam said. "If we had tried to put them out, it would have been much more higher." After the final 2004 cost is totaled, federal and state agencies will exchange bills charging each other for fighting fires that encroached onto the other's lands and for the cost of using crews or aircraft.



CRASH, BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES

See N611JC.

CRASH, KHANTY-MANSIISK, RUSSIA

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated today, states: One person died and 10 were wounded, three of them seriously, as a result of a Mi-8 helicopter crash in Khanty-Mansiisk, Urals Federal District, Western Siberia, RIA Novosti was told in the main department of civil defence and emergency situations of the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area. The helicopter of the KhantyAvia airlines was making a flight from Khanty-Mansiisk to Batovo and went off the air after a landing made for refuelling, the department said. For reasons that have not been established so far, the crew was making a crash landing when the helicopter turned over. It has 20 people on board; 17 passengers and three crew. A commission is working at the site to investigate the reasons for crash.

CRASH, KUGAARUK AREA, NUNAVUT, CANADA

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated Nov 1, states: One person was killed and four others injured when a Bell 212 helicopter crashed in the high Arctic on Saturday (Oct 30). Two pilots for Canadian Helicopters Ltd. and three contractors were on board at the time of the crash south of Kugaaruk,

Nunavut. Officials said the group had just finished servicing the North Warning System station at Shepherd Bay, when their helicopter crashed at take-off.

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Bad weather in the high Arctic may have been partially responsible for a weekend helicopter crash that claimed the life of a Kamloops pilot. The pilot died Saturday after a Canadian Helicopters Ltd. Bell 212 crashed about 150 kilometres south of Kugaaruk, Nunavut, a remote spot north of Hudson Bay. Another company pilot and three passengers, technicians with another company survived the crash. They were rescued yesterday and flown to Winnipeg after a blizzard in the area of the crash subsided enough to allow a rescue aircraft access. Investigators with the company and Transport Canada will interview the survivors and examine the crash site in the coming days in an attempt to find out what happened.

CRASH, MUDGE, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

London, Nov 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A man has been flown to hospital after a helicopter crash at Mudgee in central-western New South Wales. An Ambulance Service spokesman says the accident happened this morning while the man was spraying for locusts. He says the helicopter brought down powerlines and then burst into flames. The pilot received cuts to his head.

CRASH, RICHLAND COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated Nov 3, states: A single-engine aircraft crash landed in the parking lot of a Northeast Richland shopping centre yesterday night, hitting power lines and leaving about 2,000 people without electricity, Sheriff Leon Lott said. The aircraft's pilot, who was not identified, was flying from North Carolina to Columbia Metropolitan Airport when he ran out of fuel, Lott said. The pilot was able to land the aircraft in the parking lot of the Sparkleberry Square shopping centre in the 10000 block of Two Notch Road about 1945 hrs. No one on the ground was injured and no cars were struck. The pilot was airlifted to the trauma centre at Palmetto Health Richland in good condition, said Richland County EMS spokesman George Rice. The aircraft, a Cessna 172 Skyhawk, is registered to Pegasus Air LLC of Statesboro, Ga., according to Federal Aviation Records. Pegasus Air offers aircraft for rental, scenic tours, photography and flight instruction. Representatives from Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board were on their way to the scene, Lott said. SCE&G workers arrived shortly after the crash and had started restoring power by 2130 hrs.

CRASH, TRUNDLE, PARKES AREA, AUSTRALIA

London, Nov 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A helicopter, spraying for locusts, crashed at Trundle near Parkes on Saturday (Oct 30). No-one was injured.

EMERGENCY LANDING, MT. ISA, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

London, Nov 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A Qantas aircraft has made a safe emergency landing without its brakes at Mt Isa in north-west Queensland. The 737 jet with more than 100 people on board took the entire length of the runway to stop. The aircraft from Brisbane was followed down the runway by ambulance and fire crews. One of the passengers says the pilot told them the aircraft's braking system had failed and that he planned to circle the airport to enable him to dump fuel before attempting to land. Qantas says an engineer is being flown from Cairns to inspect the aircraft.

EMERGENCY LANDING, NAGASAKI AIRPORT, JAPAN

London, Oct 29 — A press report, dated today, states: An All Nippon Airways flight bound for Naha, Okinawa Prefecture, made an emergency landing after takeoff from Nagasaki airport this morning but no one was hurt, according to airport officials. Flight 471, a Boeing 737-500 service with 96 passengers and crew members aboard, reported a fall in cabin pressure at around 1130 hrs, releasing oxygen masks.

EMERGENCY LANDING, O'HARE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CHICAGO, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An American Airlines jet made an emergency landing today at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport after a bird was sucked into an engine. Fort Worth-based American says the afternoon incident happened just minutes after takeoff. Flight 1353 bound for New Orleans when the aircraft was about 200 feet in the air — at least one bird was sucked into its right engine. American spokeswoman Mary Frances Fagan says the MD-Super 80 turned around and landed safely at O'Hare 13 minutes later. Nobody was hurt.

EMERGENCY LANDING, ROANOKE, VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 29 — A press report, dated today, states: An American Airlines jet bound from Dallas to Reagan National Airport made an emergency landing in Roanoke this afternoon after the aircraft developed engine problems. The aircraft landed safely, but passengers gave accounts of smoke on board. The flight was American Airlines 1240.

FORCED LANDING, NEWSTEAD, BENDIGO AREA, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A pilot has escaped with

minor injuries after his aircraft made a forced landing at Newstead near Bendigo in central Victoria. The aircraft came down on a property beside the Pyrenees Highway. Rural Ambulance Spokesman Paul Bird says emergency services were prepared for the worst after receiving calls from witnesses. "Certainly our communications centre at Bendigo took a number of calls ranging from a serious crash to a situation where the pilot walked away," he said. "Now paramedics have arrived on scene, it's the latter that's the case."

HI-6875P

London, Nov 3 — Bolkow BO-105LS, HI-6875P, was substantially damaged during a forced landing following a loss of engine power during a cruise flight near Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, its intended destination, at approximately 1040, EST, Oct 31. The pilot and one passenger were seriously injured, and the other two passengers sustained minor injuries.

N2588X

London, Nov 1 — A press report, dated Oct 31, states: A Cessna 206 carrying skydivers crashed at a small airport yesterday, killing one person on board and injuring five others, one critically, police said. The aircraft, operated by Skydive Jacksonville, crashed shortly after noon, Jacksonville police spokesman Ken Jefferson said. Investigators said one person died at the scene, but four of those on board suffered only minor injuries, Jefferson told The Florida Times-Union. Officials said the aircraft crashed at Herlong Airport, which is where Skydive Jacksonville is based. The National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Aviation Administration were investigating.

London, Nov 2 — Cessna P206, N2588X, crashed near Jacksonville, Florida, at 1612, Oct 30, while on a local flight from Jacksonville. One of the six persons on board was killed, one was seriously injured and the other four suffered minor injuries.

N2706D

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated Nov 2, states: A small aircraft crashed at North Perry Airport this afternoon, killing one person. The crash occurred at around 1230 hrs on the north runway at the airport. The downed aircraft was reported to be a single-engine aircraft that was used for skywriting and was taking off when problems were discovered. The aircraft was owned by Van Wagner Aerial Media, which flies banner aircraft, and was based at North Perry Airport. The National Transportation Safety Board said they had an investigator en route from their Miami office. Dave Raines, of Pembroke Pines Fire Rescue, confirmed the victim was the male pilot and the only one on board the aircraft.

London, Nov 4 — Rawdon T1, N2706D, crashed near Hollywood, Florida, at 1715, Nov 2, while on a local flight from Hollywood. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N2922C

London, Oct 28 — Cessna 180, N2922C, crashed near Freedom, Pennsylvania, at 2132, Oct 27. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. One of the four persons on board was killed, two were seriously injured and one suffered minor injuries.

N53161

London, Nov 1 — A press report, dated Oct 31, states: A 20-year-old pilot from Vancouver died early yesterday when her Cessna 172 went down in a forest east of Olympia, Washington. Kai Hetschel contacted air-traffic control shortly before midnight on Friday (Oct 29) and said she was having weather-related problems. At 0200 yesterday, the Thurston County sheriff's office received a call from the Federal Aviation Administration stating it lost communication and radar contact with the aircraft. The sheriff's office was initially unable to use its helicopter to search for the aircraft because it lacked lighting needed to fly at night, Sgt Debbie Mealy said. Deputies searched by car for the aircraft early yesterday morning. Using last-known radar co-ordinates, deputies in the helicopter found the wreckage at 0800 hrs, three miles south-east of Rock Candy Mountain in the Capitol Forest. Mealy said deputies used the helicopter to pull Hetschel's body from the aircraft, which crashed in steep terrain. The National Transportation Safety Board will investigate the crash.

London, Nov 2 — Cessna 172P (Skyhawk), N53161, crashed near Olympia, Washington, at 0655, Oct 30, while on a flight from Everett, WA, to Portland, Oregon. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N53505

London, Nov 1 — A press report, dated Oct 31, states: Engine icing led to a New Year's Day aircraft crash near Cave Junction, Oregon, that killed a Seattle man and injured three others, federal accident investigators said this week. An ice build-up caused the engine on the Piper PA-44-180 (Seminole) (N53505) to lose power, the National Transportation Safety Board said. The aircraft tried to make an emergency landing in Cave Junction but slammed into fir trees just short of the runway during a snowstorm. Copilot Jeff McLain died at the scene. Pilot Mark Ritchie of Olympia and passengers Ruri Murikani and Jacqueline Westfall, both of Washington, survived the accident. The aircraft was traveling from Oakland, California, to North Bend, Washington.

N55448

London, Nov 1 — A press report, dated Oct 31, states: The head of the Indiana office of the Drug Enforcement Administration was among three people killed in the crash of a small aircraft in Missouri, officials confirmed late yesterday. The four-seat Beechcraft Bonanza A36 crashed on Friday night (Oct 29) near Bible Grove in north-western Missouri, officials said. "We

were advised last night. Our FBI evidence response team was called out to the wreckage," FBI agent Wendy Osborne said Saturday night. The aircraft was flying through a thunderstorm when it crashed, said Tony Molinaro, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration in Chicago. The single-engine aircraft was on its way from Winter, South Dakota, to Anderson, Molinaro said. National Transportation Safety Board investigator Ed Malinowski, who was at the scene in a rural field, said investigators would study three main areas while trying to determine the cause of the crash: the pilot, the aircraft and the weather.

London, Nov 2 — Beechcraft Bonanza A36, N55448, crashed near Downing, Missouri, at 0140, Oct 29, while on a flight from Winner, South Dakota, to Anderson, Indiana. The aircraft was destroyed. The three persons on board were killed.

N6108Y

London, Oct 28 — Cessna T210N (Centurion II), N6108Y, operated by Flight Express Inc, made an emergency landing near Jackson, Mississippi, at 1448, Oct 27, while on a flight from Jackson to Houston, Texas. The aircraft was destroyed by fire after landing. The one person on board suffered minor injuries.

N611JC

London, Oct 28 — Beechcraft Duke B60, N611JC, crashed near Asheville, North Carolina, at 1558, Oct 27, while on a flight from Asheville to Greensboro, NC. The aircraft was destroyed. The four persons on board were killed.

N7852P

London, Nov 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people were sent to area hospitals with serious injuries yesterday night after their aircraft crashed near Ogden, police said. The pilot had reported engine problems to the Ogden airport tower as he crossed the Ogden divide, police said. Witnesses told police they saw the four-passenger Piper Comanche flying low and circling the Business Depot Ogden - an industrial park at a former Defence Department supply depot - around 1650 hrs. The aircraft rapidly lost altitude and crashed into a ditch on Ogden Nature Centre property near 500 West 12th Street, according to Ogden Police Lt. David Tarran. The aircraft was on a training flight and originated from the Ogden airfield, police said.

London, Nov 4 — Piper PA-24-250 (Comanche), N7852P, crashed near Ogden, Utah, at 2348, Nov 2, while on a local flight from Ogden. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board were seriously injured.

N95902

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated Nov 1, states: The bodies of four people were found today in a small aircraft that crashed Sunday (Oct 31)

in a remote area near Tejon Ranch about 60 miles north-west of Los Angeles, authorities said. The names of the victims were withheld by the Kern County coroner pending notification of relatives. The aircraft was believed to be registered in Palmdale and the people on board were believed to have been en route to Harris Ranch, the Sheriff's Department said. Harris Ranch is an inn and dining complex with an airstrip in the San Joaquin Valley near Coalinga. The single-engine, six-seat Cessna 182 apparently went down about 1530, Sunday, said Donn Walker, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration. The crash triggered the aircraft's emergency locator transmitter, and state officials asked the county and the Civil Air Patrol to look for the source of the signal somewhere between Santa Maria and Gorman. The transmission source was pinpointed at 0300, today, to an area three miles north-east of Frazier Park and searchers found the craft crashed on a hillside there, the Sheriff's Department said. Walker said the pilot did not file a flight plan.

London, Nov 3 — Cessna 182Q (Skylane), N95902, crashed near Lebec, California, at 2330, Oct 31. The aircraft was destroyed. The four persons on board were killed.

Product Recalls



BASKETBALL SHOES, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Nov 3 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of about 187,000 pairs of adidas Superstar Ultra and Pro Team Shoes in voluntary co-operation with Adidas America Inc., of Portland, Ore. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. A portion of the sole of the heel can separate or tear during use, which can result in injuries. Adidas America has received two reports of injuries involving these shoes, including one sprained ankle and one strained Achilles tendon. The Adidas Pro Team and Superstar Ultra basketball shoes come in various colour combinations. The recalled shoes have a six-digit article number on the inside part of the shoe tongue. A complete list of the article numbers of the shoes involved in the recall can be found at www.adidas.com/recall or by calling the firm's recall hotline. Sold at Adidas stores, major athletic shoe stores, independent shoe stores nationwide, and at thestore.adidas.com. The Superstar Ultra shoes were sold between January 2004 and October 2004 for about \$120. The Pro Team shoes were sold between July 2004 and October 2004 for about \$80. Manufactured in China. Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled shoes, and contact Adidas

America to receive a prepaid mailing label and a refund or gift certificate. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

CELL PHONE BATTERIES, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Kyocera Wireless Corp. is recalling about 1 million cell phone batteries because some may be counterfeit, which could cause them to short-circuit, overheat and burn users. The San Diego company has received 10 reports of battery failures - eight resulting in smoke and property damage and two that caused minor burn injuries, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said yesterday. The recalled batteries, manufactured by Hecmma Group of El Paso, Texas, and made in China, involve three different cell phone models: Σ Slider Series: phone model SE44/SE47; battery models CV90-L305N-01, CV90-L305P-01, CV90-L305T-01, CV90-L349T-01. Σ K400 Series (Phantom, Blade and Rave): phone models KE413, KE433, KE/KX414, KE/KX424, KE/KX434; battery models CV90-K3040-03, CV90-K3040-09, CV90-K3040-10, CV90-K3040-11. Σ 3200 Series: phone models 3225, 3245, 3250; battery models same as K400 Series.

CHRYSLER MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Chrysler Group said today it is recalling 240,000 minivans because the radios may short circuit and cause a fire. Dodge Caravan and Chrysler Town & Country minivans from the 2001 and 2002 model years are affected in the recall. Chrysler said the short circuit may result from water seeping into the

radio. The defect is most likely to occur in vehicles driven in hot, humid areas, Chrysler said. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration began investigating the defect in July after receiving reports of three fires and one injury. Chrysler also announced it would recall 11,100 Chrysler Sebring and Dodge Stratus sedans from the 2005 model year after an internal audit revealed that bolts in some rear seat belt retractors may be improperly installed. Chrysler will perform repairs for free in both cases.

HONDA MOTOR VEHICLES, AUSTRALIA

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Japanese vehicle producer Honda has recalled its 2003 and 2004 Accord Euro cars sold in Australia. Honda wants to repair or replace the wiring harness in the boot which it says could result in the failure of the rear lights. The company said through the operation of the boot the harness might be subject to stress. "In the worst case scenario, the boot harness may fracture and cause an open circuit," Honda said. "It this condition was to occur, it may result in the loss of operation of the licence plate lamp, reversing lamps or tail lamps." The company said it would repair or replace the electrical harness as required.

TOSHIBA PERSONAL COMPUTERS, WORLDWIDE

London, Nov 2 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Toshiba's laptop exchange program will run worldwide from Nov 1 to April 30. The company said 650,000 PCs could be affected. It stressed that the recall will not affect the projected recovery of its PC business. Toshiba said it will launch

a worldwide recall to exchange a memory module which may cause data corruption in 26 notebook PC models. According to Toshiba, the components, procured from unidentified third parties, may potentially lead to users' computers showing blue screens, lockups or undetected memory corruption under certain conditions, including automatic start-up from sleep mode.



ITALY

Genoa, Nov 2 — Port situation Oct 26: Genoa: Two general vessels waiting for berths, average berthing delay is between half and one day. Savona and La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOUTH KOREA

Busan, Nov 1 — Berthing congestion/delays: Busan: One hundred and twenty-one vessels in port, 89 at berth and 32 at anchorage. No delays. Ulsan: One hundred and sixteen vessels in port, 91 at berth and 25 at anchorage. No delays. Pohang: Forty-two vessels in port, 40 at berth and two at anchorage. No delays. Incheon: Eighty-eight vessels in port, 50 at berth and 38 at anchorage. No delays. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

SYRIA

Lattakia, Oct 23 — Waiting time is presently 24 hours at Lattakia and six days at Tartous. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Port Delays

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	01-03-Nov-2004	Coal: 12 vessels due by 29/11; no delays expected.
Brisbane	01-03-Nov-2004	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 4 vessels due by 15/11; up to 1 day's delay expected subject to port congestion and cargo availability. Grain: 3 vessels due by 12/11, all to load wheat; 1-3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Dalrymple Bay	01-03-Nov-2004	Coal: 3 vessels berthed, 15 anchored; 48 vessels due by 26/12; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability; up to 10 days berthing delay subject to cargo availability and berth congestion can be expected, although vessels with other stems are experiencing longer berthing delays.
Dampier	01-03-Nov-2004	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 8 vessels due by 13/11; up to 5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; there will be a two day maintenance shutdown starting ca. 2/11; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 9 vessels due by 9/11; 1-10 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shippers will always consider a shift to a lay-by berth for loaded vessels awaiting HW; cargo shortages are evident, delays are anticipated and vessels may berth out of turn.
Gladstone	01-03-Nov-2004	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 1 vessel berthed, 6 anchored; 34 vessels due by 5/12; up to 8 days berthing delay expected subject to port congestion and cargo availability; shiploader No. 1 will be shut down for maintenance until 03.30 hrs. 5/11; Barney Point: 1 vessel

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		berthed; 8 vessels due by 1/12; up to 1 day's delay expected due to port congestion and cargo availability. Grain: 1 vessel berthed loading sorghum; no delays expected.
Hay Point	01-03-Nov-2004	Coal: 2 vessels berthed, 6 anchored; 8 vessels due by 9/11; up to 8 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion.
Newcastle	01-03-Nov-2004	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessels berthed, 2 anchored; 28 vessels due by 15/11; Dykes 4+5: 4 vessels berthed, 1 anchored; 12 vessels due by 15/11; 2 unallocated vessels due by 15/11; 1-4 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal and cargo receipt. Grain: Maintenance work is being carried out from 1/11 to ca. 1/12; during this time, there will be no loading but towards the end of this period, 1 vessel will be used for testing etc.
Port Adelaide	01-03-Nov-2004	Grain: No. 27 berth: 6 vessels due by 1/11, 4 to load barley, 1 barley/wheat, 1 wheat; 2-9 days delay expected due to berth congestion.
Port Hedland	01-03-Nov-2004	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 3 vessels due by 11/11; no delays expected; shiploader No. 2 will be closed for maintenance from 00.01 hrs. 6/11 to 00.01 hrs. 9/11; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 3 vessels due by 8/11; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shiploader No. 1 will be closed for maintenance from 00.01 hrs. 7/11 to 12.00 hrs. 8/11; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 3 vessels due by 11/11; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shiploader maintenance will take place 4-5/11; Westyard "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 3 vessels due by 7/11; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Due to heavy demand for product, acute cargo shortages are still being experienced at wharf stockpiles. Vessels will continue to berth as product becomes available.
Port Kembla	01-03-Nov-2004	Coal: 1 vessel berthed; 14 vessels due by 26/11; CB1: no vessels; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Grain: 1 vessel berthed loading wheat; 5 vessels due by 11/11, all to load wheat; up to 4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Walcott	01-03-Nov-2004	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 4 anchored; 14 vessels due by 24/11; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Every effort will be made to ensure that vessels berth in order of arrival; however, due to product constraints, this may not be possible. Shippers advise that stores, air freight and crew baggage can no longer be delivered to vessels or taken off at berth. With immediate effect, all stores, airfreight and bags must be delivered/removed by launch.
Portland	01-03-Nov-2004	Grain: 1 vessel berthed to load barley; 5 vessels due by 15/11, 3 to load wheat, 1 wood-chips, 1 barley; up to 8 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	01-Nov-2004	Ten vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading (1 cigarettes, 3 coils, 1 containers), 4 discharging (1 containers, 2 billets, coal), 1 under repairs; 5 vessels waiting in roads, of which 2 to load (1 coils, 1 cigarettes), 3 to discharge (1 equipment, 1 coal, 1 zinc concentrate); 2 vessels due, both to load, of which 1 copper anodes, 1 coils.
Varna	01-Nov-2004	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 25-31 October: Forty-four vessels in port operating of which 23 loading (2 bran, 2 cigarettes in packing cases, 2 sunflower seeds, 2 bulk maize, 1 bulk wheat, 3 scrap, 1 packed hardboard/miscellaneous cargo, 1 bulk silica sand, 6 soda, 2 bulk sulphuric acid, 1 bulk clinker), 11 discharging (1 bulk copper slag, 3 bulk coal, 4 bulk copper concentrates, 1 metal packets, 2 raw phosphate), 10 discharging/loading (9 containers, 1 equipment in packing cases/containers); no vessels waiting in roads.
Chile		
Valparaiso	02-Nov-2004	Three vessels berthed, 5 berths vacant; 3 vessels anchored; 12 vessels due this week.
Egypt		
Alexandria	01-Nov-2004	Thirty-nine vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 26 general cargo, 8 bulkers, 2 containers, 3 tankers; 5 vessels at inner anchorage, 19 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	01-Nov-2004	Twenty-six vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 16 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 6 containers; 8 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.
	Suez Canal	01-Nov-2004 Twenty-two vessels transiting Northbound, 30 Southbound.
Israel		
Ashdod	02-Nov-2004	No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 12 vessels discharging at berth (10 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 4 vessels loading/discharging at berth (3 containers, 1 car carrier); 7 general cargo vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge, 3 container vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge; 1 vessel awaiting orders; 14 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.

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Haifa	02-Nov-2004	No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 5 vessels discharging at berth (4 general cargo, 1 bulker), 10 vessels loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 1 car carrier, 3 tankers, 1 passenger vessel); 4 vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge (3 containers, 1 tanker); 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 15 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Mozambique Maputo	29-Oct-2004	Twenty-four hour berthing/sailing. Some restrictions to berthing at certain badly-lit wharves. Vessels have to be geared for general cargo berths as no shore cranes available. The Port is working normally and is expected to remain so, hence vessels should berth on arrival, daylight, draft and weather permitting. No berthing delays envisaged. A shortage of equipment is being experienced (except at the Container terminal). Shed space is currently available. Safe draft for transiting the channel is 9.1 metres plus the tide of the day. Density of water varies from 1.020 to 1.023. Vessels with ramps on starboard side can berth with the ebbing tide. Should ramps be portside, vessels to berth with the flowing tide. Pilot launch is operational. Both tugs are operational. Leading lights are lit. Both container gantries are operational. Matola coal terminal is operational. Ressano Garcia, Goba and Limpopo railway lines are all operational. Five vessels are currently in port berthed, of which 3 loading (2 ferro chrome, 1 coal), 2 discharging bulk wheat; 1 vessel due 29/10; 24 vessels due by 28/11 of which 9 to load (2 aluminium, 1 minerals/coal, 1 gas, 3 ferro chrome, 1 bulk sugar, 1 bagged sugar), 10 to discharge (3 aluminium, 1 bulk wheat, 1 vehicles, 2 bagged rice, 1 pitch, 1 cooking oil, 1 heavy machinery), 5 to discharge/load containers.
Pakistan Karachi	01-Nov-2004	Three vessels loading at berth (1 chemicals, 2 rice), 7 discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 1 coal, 1 steel coils, 1 general cargo, 2 DAP, 1 urea), 3 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (1 containers, 1 rice), 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 1 DAP, 1 fuel oil); no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 3 vessels due (2 containers, 1 crude oil), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	01-Nov-2004	One project cargo vessel loading at berth, 2 vessels discharging at berth (1 HSD, 1 seeds), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at QICT berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 5 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 1 LPG, 1 fuel oil, 1 palm oil, 1 wheat).
Russia Novorossiysk	01-Nov-2004	Twelve vessels in port operating, of which 10 loading (1 coils/WRIC, 1 bulk urea, 1 scrap, 1 WRIC, 2 wheat, 2 copper, 1 steel sheets, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate), 2 discharging bulk sugar; 2 vessels waiting in roads, both to load, of which 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 diesel oil; 63 vessels due, of which 62 to load (1 pig-iron, 7 copper, 1 HBI, 2 scrap, 4 DRI, 1 steel sheets, 5 aluminium, 1 zinc/lead, 9 bulk ammonium nitrate, 10 bulk NPK, 7 coils, 2 steel billets, 1 bulk cement, 1 coils/WRIC, 1 pipes, 1 WRIC, 1 equipment, 3 bulk urea, 1 diesel oil, 1 coils/steel sheets, 1 slabs, 1 wheat), 1 to discharge zinc ore. Oil terminal: 1 tanker berthed loading crude oil; 2 tankers in roads, both to load crude oil; 10 tankers due, all to load, of which 9 crude oil, 1 fuel oil.
Taupse	01-Nov-2004	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, both loading, of which 1 crude oil, 1 naphtha; 2 vessels in roads of which 1 gasoil, 1 naphtha; 8 vessels due by 3/11, of which 5 gasoil, 1 fuel oil, 1 naphtha, 1 crude oil.
Slovenia Koper	02-Nov-2004	Port working normally; no berthing delays. Thirteen vessels berthed of which 4 bulk carriers discharging coal/grain/minerals/ore, 2 bulk carriers loading coal/grain, 1 barge loading coal, 4 vessels loading steel products/sawn timber/general cargo, 2 car carriers harging/loading vehicles; 17 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 3 to discharge/load containers, 2 bulk carriers to discharge coal/cement, 3 bulk carriers to load coal, 5 vessels to load sawn timber/general cargo, 2 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 1 tanker to discharge mineral oils, 1 vessel to load livestock.
Spain Bilbao	01-02-Nov-2004	Forty-one vessels operating (5 tankers, 36 others), of which 6 loading, 20 discharging, 15 loading/discharging.
Sagunto	01-02-Nov-2004	Twenty-four vessels in port operating of which 14 discharging (13 steel products, 1 logs), 4 loading (1 steel products, 1 baled scrap, 1 cement, 1 machinery), 5 Ro/Ros discharging/loading general cargo, 1 vessel loading/discharging steel products; no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays.
Sri Lanka Colombo	01-Nov-2004	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Six container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 13 vessels discharging at berth (8 containers/feeders, 2 bagged fertiliser, 1 bulk

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fertiliser, 1 bulk cement, 1 bagged cement); no vessels waiting at anchorage; 6 vessels dry-docked, 1 under arrest, 1 awaiting orders from principals, 1 at new tanker berth; 8 vessels due (7 containers/feeders), 1 bulk cement), with no delays expected.

Ukraine

Ilichevsk	01-Nov-2004	Fourteen vessels in port operating, of which 12 loading (10 steel products, 1 oil, 1 barley), 2 discharging/loading containers; 1 vessel in roads to load steel products; 21 vessels due, of which 13 to load (12 steel products, 1 ore), 8 to load/discharge containers.
Mariupol	01-Nov-2004	Thirteen vessels in port operating, of which 12 loading (4 steel, 2 fire-clay, 3 coal, 1 coke, 2 barley), 1 discharging foodstuffs; 2 vessels undergoing survey of which 1 steel, 1 equipment; 1 vessel in roads to load fire-clay; 47 vessels due, of which 44 to load (28 steel, 1 pig-iron, 7 coal, 4 fire-clay, 1 equipment, 1 sunflower beans, 1 ammonium salt petre, 1 wheat), 2 to discharge (1 pipes, 1 heavy lifts), 1 to discharge/load containers/fire-clay/steel.
Odessa	01-Nov-2004	Fifteen vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading (7 metal, 1 wood, 1 barley), 4 to discharge (1 luggage, 1 fish, 1 oil, 1 cars/citrus), 1 loading/discharging containers, 1 passenger vessel; 1 vessel in roads to load bran; 59 vessels due, of which 27 to load (23 metal, 1 cars, 1 barley, 1 ferro alloy, 1 paper), 8 to discharge (1 metal, 1 citrus, 3 luggage, 2 oil, 1 sugar), 24 to discharge/load containers.

United States

Houston	02-Nov-2004	Channel open under normal traffic. Pilots report normal 40 ft. 0 ins. max. draft in Houston ship channel; Cargill terminal: no delays; LDC Dreyfus terminal: 2 days delay.
Kalama	02-Nov-2004	Kalama export terminal: 1 day's delay; United Harvest terminal: 1 day's delay.
New Orleans	02-Nov-2004	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 5-6 days delay expected; Cargill-Westwego: 2 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 7 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 4 days delay expected; ADM/Destrehan: 7 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 7 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 2 days delay expected; Peavey/Paulina: 2 days delay expected; Zen-Noh/Convent: 3-4 days delay expected; Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays; Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: 4 days delay expected; Mile 158.0 Cargill (K2) - Convent: 7 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: no delays. Nine-day forecast for Carrolton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to increase to 4.8 ft. by 11/11. Mississippi River recommended draft restrictions: SW Pass to New Orleans (Mile 090.0) - 47 ft. for all vessels; New Orleans (Mile 090) to Baton Rouge (Mile 233.5) - 45 ft. for all vessels; Mississippi River Gulf outlet: 36 ft. bw.; vessels with drafts up to 47 ft. have been handled up to Mile 180 in the past, but are approved by pilots on a case by case basis, based on current river conditions.
Portland	02-Nov-2004	Columbia Grain terminal: 2 days delay; CLD Irving terminal: 2 days delay; CLD, O Dock terminals: 2 days delay.

Yemen

Hodeidah	31-Oct-2004	All berths are occupied; 3 vessels berthed (1 bulk wheat, 2 general cargo); no vessels anchored; expected waiting times: general cargo: up to 2 days delay; bagged cargoes: 2-3 days delay; bulk cargoes: 3-4 days delay; no delays for containers.
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