

Sep 22 2006

Submarine theory revived over sinking of French fishing vessel

writes Andrew Spurrier in Paris — Friday September 22 2006

FRENCH investigators are to look again at the possibility that a submarine caused the sinking of a French fishing vessel with the loss of its five crew members in the English Channel, 14 miles off the Lizard, in January 2004.

The examining magistrate leading the investigation into the sinking of the Bugaled Breizh is to appoint a submarines expert to assist him in his search for the cause of the accident following the discovery of traces of titanium on one of the vessel's trawl cables.

Paint Marks

The titanium was contained in paint marks found on a cable examined by a French research laboratory, which noted that it was used in titanium dioxide form in paint manufacture.

The origin of the titanium is not known but the magazine which reported the find said that the element was present in the paint used on submarine hulls.

The parents and fishermen colleagues of the dead crew members of the Bugaled Breizh have long maintained that the most probable cause of the accident was the "hooking" of the vessel's cables by a submarine.

Submarines from a number of European countries were in the Channel for an exercise on the day of the sinking, although the British, French and Dutch authorities have all insisted that their submarines were not close to the trawler at the time the sinking took place.

The examining magistrate has indicated nevertheless that he intends to travel outside France with the submarines expert for the purposes of the continuing investigation.

- A woman sailor was killed when her 92 ft sailboat collided with a Klaveness bulker in Long Island Sound outside New York.

The collision happened at Roanoke Point Shoals at 0400 hrs while the 2002-built, 49,463 dwt, Marshall Islands-registered Barkald, owned by T Klaveness Shipping, was on its way to Halifax, Nova Scotia from Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The Coast Guard ordered the Barkald back to a New Haven anchorage pending the start of an investigation.

However, the vessel was later cleared to leave, and was said to be heading for its destination yesterday morning.

Frontline VLCC runs aground in Suez

A very large crude carrier, Front Vanguard ran aground in the Suez Canal yesterday, while a crude oil tanker, Anna PC collided with a bank of the waterway, spilling oil.

The Marshall Islands-flagged 274,998 dwt Front Vanguard, owned by Norway's Frontline, ran aground at 10am local time after suffering engine problems.

Suez Canal Authority official Mohamed Abdel Wahab said the incident had forced shipping to be rerouted.

The VLCC was only part loaded and was en route to the Canadian port of Come by Chance while the 147,253 dwt Liberian-flagged Anna PC grounded in the Kabrit Channel, in the vicinity of the Great Bitter Lake.

It is believed that another vessel ahead of Anna PC, which was carrying 84,000 tonnes of oil, slowed down and accordingly, was manoeuvring to drop anchor in a bid to stop when the grounding occurred.

Both vessels have since been refloated and are now anchored in Great Bitter Lake.

All northbound and southbound transits of the Suez Canal are now back to normal.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
AL KHATTAB	dredger	EGY	LR	2,892	793	1980	Sank at Km 79 in the Suez Canal due water pump explosion Sep 13. Two dead and 6 injured, searching for 2 others.
ALTAIR	bulker	LBR	NV	35,687	64,120	1981	Grounded at Umm Qasr prev Sep 1. LOF signed with Tsavliris. Refloated Sep 8 and redelivered to owners at Umm Qasr Sep 10. No leakage or pollution.
GOOD INTENT	fishing	GBR	—	70	—	1978	Reported Sep 12 drifting 14 miles east of Sunderland after sustaining a gearbox failure. Towed to Hartlepool by <i>Spirit of Northumberland</i> and lifeboat.
GURISES	trawler	ARG	—	110	114	1987	Reported Sep 13 in lat 40 39S, long 58 32W, in tow of fishing <i>Gran Capitan</i> , bound Mar del Plata.
JOHN SHERWIN	bulker	USA	ABS	15,995	31,750	1958	Towed into Milwaukee as a dead vessel Sep 6. Generator loaded on board. To load and depart for Chicago Sep 7.
KARTAL C.K.	general	TUR	—	1,480	1,220	1966	Grounded at Kilitbahir in lat 40 08N, long 26 22.4E, while transiting Dardanelles Sep 8. Refloated by own means same day & anchored Karanlik Liman/Canakkale.
KINGSTON LACY	tug	GBR	—	108	—	1960	Had main engine problems in lat 51 05.01N, long 01 34.78E, Sep 11. Tug <i>Nord Challenger</i> chartered by <i>Kingston Lacy</i> to assist into Ramsgate. Arrived Ramsgate Sep 11.
LEIF ERIKSON	ro-ro	CAN	NV	18,523	4,598	1991	Reported Sep 8 to be out of service between Port aux Basques and North Sydney until Sep 10 due to Mechanical problems.
RED NACRE	bulker	SGP	NK	38,364	73,739	1999	In collision with container carrier <i>Sky Duke</i> off Kobe Sep 8. Sustained a 1 metre crack in starboard side took on water causing list. Towed into port by tug. Sailed Sep 11.
STEPHEN B. ROMAN	cement	CAN	LR	6,936	7,600	1965	Struck the loading dock at Oswego, New York Sep 10. 1.37m crack to starboard bow, 1.7m above the waterline.
TAXIARCHIS SIERRA	bulker	CYP	NK	12,296	21,644	1985	When brought to Kolkata under arrest on Sep 6, hit the pontoon and the launch Jaljatra. Jetty, gangway and Jaljatra damaged. Repairs ETC 7 days.
TRADER	general	GEO	LR	5,420	7,884	1977	Reported not under command due engine failure north of Cavo Doro Straits between Evia & Andros in lat 38 08.72N, long 24 45.79E, Sep 9. Anchored 0.8 nautical miles north of Andros. Taken in tow by tug <i>Matsas Star</i> Sep 9 and arrived Piraeus Sep 10.

CONTENTS

Reports appear in alphabetical order under the following headings and relevant page number:

Marine, including Overdue & Missing Vessels	1
Port State Control	12
Seizures & Arrests	13
Pipeline Accidents	14
Pollution	14
Weather & Navigation	15
Earthquakes	18
Volcanic Activity	18
Political & Civil Unrest	18
Labour Disputes	24
Awards & Settlements	26
Railway Accidents	27
Robberies & Thefts	28
Miscellaneous	28
Fires & Explosions	29
Aviation	32
Space Vehicles	34
Product Recalls	34
Port Conditions	35
Port Conditions charts	36

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Lloyd's
Marine Intelligence Unit



The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AL KHATTAB (Egypt)

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Egyptian dredger *Khattab* (cutter suction dredger *Al Khattab* (2892 gt, built 1980) has sunk in the Suez canal, leaving one person dead and up to five others missing. Security sources said one body was found and four other people were injured in the accident, which took place near the city of Ismailiya at 0100, GMT. Traffic was interrupted both ways in the canal as a rescue operation was under way to find between three and five missing crew members. The other 50 people on board the vessel were safely brought back to shore. The exact cause of the incident was not immediately clear but a collision with another ship was not ruled out, a canal authority official said.

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A dredger (cutter suction dredger *Al Khattab*) sank in the Suez Canal today, killing at least two people and injuring at least six others. About 50 people were on board the dredger, which was working on deepening the canal from 66 feet to 72 feet deep when it sank around 0300 hrs, police said. Egyptian state television said authorities were still searching for two crew members. Four tugs were sent to move the vessel. Engineers were able to keep the waterway open by altering the route vessels use to pass through the canal, the official news agency MENA reported.

Cairo, Sep 13 — An Egyptian dredger (cutter suction dredger *Al Khattab*) sank in the Suez Canal, killing two of the 45 crew and prompting a brief closure of the waterway as rescuers searched for two others, officials said. The two missing crew were feared dead, Suez Canal Authority sources said. The other 41 had been rescued, including six who were injured in the accident near Ismailiya. Both dead crew members drowned, the sources said. A Canal Authority official said a technical fault was the apparent cause of the sinking. Authorities said the canal was closed for an hour after the accident but shipping traffic had since been diverted to the waterway's western channel and was flowing normally. The eastern channel remained closed. — Reuters.

Port Said, Sep 13 — S.C.A. cutter suction dredger *Al Khattab* sank at Km 79 in Canal at the west side of the Tamsah Lake at 0500 this morning, due to water pump explosion. Two of the crew members died and three were lost. S.C.A is investigating the matter. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 14 — The Suez Canal Authority turned away 10 large vessels this morning because they

were too big to go through the western channel activated since a dredger (cutter suction dredger *Al Khattab*) sank in the waterway yesterday. "Ten ships which were supposed to go through weren't allowed to enter today as part of the southern convoy coming in from the Red Sea," said an authority official, who asked not to be named. The ships had a draught of more than 44 feet, the maximum possible in the western channel of the canal, he said. The eastern channel of the canal, which can take ships with a draft up to 62 feet, will reopen when the wreckage of the sunken dredger has been salvaged.

AL MIRQAB (Kuwait)

London, Sept 11 — Following notice to mariners broadcast at 0400, July 3: India west coast - inner approaches to Mumbai: Fourteen 40 ft container fallen overboard from container carrier *Al Mirqab* (32534 gt, built 1983) in lat 18 45.8N, long 72 31.1E. Two containers are empty and 12 containers full with general cargo, and dangerous for surface navigation. All vessels operating in vicinity are to keep a sharp look out and render assistance and exercise extreme caution. (Note — *Al Mirqab* arrived Jawaharlal Nehru July 3, from Mediterranean and US ports, and subsequently passed Port Said July 18 for Mediterranean and US ports.)

AL MOUBARAK (Comoros)

London, Sep 12 — Following Navigation Warning, timed 1207, UTC, Sep 10: Vessel *Al Moubarak*, 45 metres, 75 persons on board, overdue Comoros Island, last known position lat 13 39S, long 44 58E at 0430, UTC, Sep 9. Red flare sighted in lat 13 00S, 44 20E at 1540, UTC, same day.

Antananarivo, Sep 11 — A Comorian ship carrying 53 passengers sank on its way from Madagascar to Comoros and there were at least 22 survivors, a police source said today. The *Al Moubarak* left the Madagascan port of Mahajanga on Friday (Sep 8) bound for the Comorian capital of Moroni, Roland Andreas, director of investigations at Madagascar's state secretariat for public security, said. "We lost contact with the boat when it was between the islands of Moheli and Mayotte," he said, adding that 17 of the passengers were Malagasy citizens. French sailors, requested to help by the Comorian government, found one survivor before rescuing a further 21 from a lifeboat, he said. They then found another lifeboat, but it was not clear how many passengers were in it, he said. A senior official at the Comorian Transport Ministry told Reuters that the vessel had been due to arrive in Moroni on Saturday, and that the French sailors were based on the nearby island of Mayotte. The type of ship and the reason for its loss were not immediately known. — Reuters.

London, Sep 12 — Following Navigation Warning, timed 1802, UTC, Sep 11: Vessel *Al Moubarak* shipwrecked vicinity of lat 12 30S,

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long 45 00E. Vessels in vicinity requested to keep sharp look-out and assist if possible. Reports to La Reunion MRCC.

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Thirty-three people are missing after Unknown *Al Moubarak* sank in the Indian Ocean in bad weather. Of the 76 people on board, 43 people were rescued after the boat sank on Saturday (Sep 9). The boat may have been overloaded, a possible reason for the sinking. The commander and three crew members of the vessel were taken into police custody for questioning. The rescue effort was led by officials from Reunion Island, which contributed three boats. Five people are still in hospital with fatigue. Search efforts continue.

ALKIONI (Greece)

London, Sep 14 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0915, UTC: Passenger ro/ro *Alkioni* (2282 gt, built 1994) drifted in heavy weather and ran aground while leaving Laurium for Chalkis about 0830, local time, yesterday. Winds on scene were force 7 (near gale) and it is believed vessel may have experienced mechanical problems. A tug quickly proceeded to the scene and refloated the vessel same day. It has been detained by Laurium port authorities for inspections, investigations, etc.

ALTAIR (Liberia)

Piraeus, Sep 12 — Lloyd's Standard Form salvage contract was signed with the owners of bulker *Altair* (35687 gt, built 1981) on Sep 1 after the vessel grounded at Umm Qasr. Vessel was successfully refloated Sep 8 and redelivered to its owners at Umm Qasr on Sep 10. There was no leakage or pollution. — Tsavliris Salvage (International) Ltd.

AMALIA (Greece)

Piraeus, Sep 7 — Navigator Management SA, managers of chemical tanker *Amalia*, report that the vessel sustained a small fire on one flat of the engine-room on Sep 6, while works were underway during repair in the Perama Shipyard. The localized fire was quickly brought under control by the crew's prompt reaction and fire brigade investigating the incident. There would appear to be no damage in the engine-room or to equipment. There were no injuries or pollution. Managers wish to thank the Fire Brigade and the Hellenic Coast Guard for their timely and professional intervention and will be co-operating fully with any investigation into the causes of the fire.

AMANAT SHAH (Bangladesh)

Colombo, Sep 8 — General cargo *Amanat Shah* had taken fuel oil from Malaysia. However, due to a problem with the quality of the fuel oil the vessel arrived off Galle, a.m. Sep 7 and taken MGO (Marine Gas Oil) to do some blending. After the above operation the generators were stopped

and the vessel could not proceed. Thereafter the vessel again approached 2.5 miles off Galle and anchored. At the same time they found a crack in the hull and contacted MS.Master Divers (A Local Salvage Company) for repairs. Master Divers refused to do any repairs due some problem with regard to the payments. The Sri Lankan Navy and a private firm rescued the crewmembers. At 1500 hrs, the Galle Harbour-master decided to pull the ship from the anchored location to deep sea. An unofficial report this morning stated that the vessel sank at 0145 hrs, Sep 8, 12 miles off Galle. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Oil leaking from general cargo *Amanat Shah* near the Galle Harbour is polluting the southern coast, say the reports from Galle. Police with the support of fishermen and volunteering environmentalists are in an effort to collect the floating oil layers in polythene bags and dump them elsewhere on the land. Some of the timber that being transported by the ship is also reaching the shore and the police is collecting them to be handed over to the State Timber Corporation. She was bound for Mumbai from Yangon and sank three kilometers away from the Galle harbor on Sep 6 and its crew was rescued by the Sri Lanka Navy.

London, Sep 11 — A press report, dated today, states: An Indian Coast Guard vessel with a complement of divers is currently engaged in clearing the Koggala coastline in south Sri Lanka of an oil slick from sinking general cargo *Amanat Shah*, Indian official sources said. The vessel, Yangon for Mumbai with a cargo of teak, had sunk off Koggala near Galle, on Thursday, causing a 200 metre slick which was threatening the beach resort of Koggala. The Sri Lankan navy based in nearby Galle, rescued the 34 member crew but international help had to be sought to tackle the oil slick. At the request of the Sri Lankan government, India promptly sent a Coast Guard vessel with a team of divers to clear the mess.

Karachi, Sep 13 — Sri Lanka with the help of the Indian government is trying to contain the oil spill that has occurred general cargo *Amanat Shah* off the coast of Koggala. According to local media, in a prompt response to the request received from the Sri Lanka Government, the Indian Government has despatched its naval Dornier aircraft and two Coast Guard ships to the southern coast to contain the oil spill. The aircraft and ships have been working to contain the spill over the last two days since Sep 11. Both the Indian coast guard ships, *Veera* and *Vikram*, have special helicopters on board and will be carrying out pollution control activities in the following days. A total of 260 officers and men of the Indian Coast Guard are involved in oil spill and pollution control operation. — Lloyd's List Correspondent

AMBAR (Honduras)

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

APL ITALY (Liberia)

Freeport, Bahamas, Sep 10 — Container Carrier *APL Italy* remains under repair at Grand Bahama Shipyard. — Lloyd's Agents.

AS SALAAM (Panama)

London, Sep 11 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *As Salaam* (9207 gt, built 1977) and product tanker *Ocean Neptune* (30971 gt, built 2006), at anchor in the Durban anchorage, in collision during a period of strong winds last week. The two vessels had been waiting for a berth in the port - at the time there were more than 20 vessels at anchor outside and the anchorage was crowded. One of the vessels began dragging its anchors and drifted down on the other. *As Salaam* sustained a gash above the waterline and the *Ocean Neptune* a bent anchor shank. There were no injuries on board either vessel. (Note — *As Salaam* arrived Durban Sep 6. *Ocean Neptune* sailed Durban Sep 2.)

ASDRUBAL (Tunisia)

Dubai, Sep 14 — Acid tanker *Asdrubal* (11536 gt, built 1982) (from Chennai) grounded at Km 150, Suez Canal, during its northbound transit Sep 12. The cause of the grounding was owing to failure of vessel's steering gear. It was refloated within an hour by Suez Canal Authority tugs. The convoys did stop for a brief while but overall there was no effect on the exiting times. — Lloyd's Agents.

ASSOS (Liberia)

Piraeus, Sep 12 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Assos* (27916 gt, built 2006), bound New York, cargo naphtha, was immobilised due propulsion system failure off New York Sep 2. Lloyd's Standard Form salvage contract was signed with Tsavliris Sep 2 and lightering was carried out. Vessel was subsequently shifted alongside berth at New York and redelivered to its owners Sep 4. — Tsavliris Salvage (International) Ltd.

BALSA 59 (Panama)

London, Sep 12 — General cargo *Balsa 59* (4355 gt, built 1997) reported having lost its port anchor in lat 46 03 14N, long 73 08 15W, while proceeding to the wharf off Sorel, Quebec, at 2355, EDST, Sep 10.

BIDEFORD DOLPHIN (Singapore)

See under "Pollution".

BN-3 (Russia)

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated Sep 8, states: Barge *BN-3* belonging to OJSC Yenisei River Navigation Company is in distress in the Sea of Azov, in Krasnodar Territory, Russian Ministry for Emergencies reported today. The barge left Volgograd and was supposed to reach Kerch via Rostov. It started sinking at 2150, Moscow time, Sep 7.

It had 3,800 thousand tonnes of fuel oil aboard. The vessel crew consists of nine people. No people were injured, there was no oil spillage, is said in the message. Yenisei River Navigation Company reported that the barge really belonged to the company but was leased. The river navigation company will probably take measures about the accident, but it may happen on Sep 11 or later, the press service explained. Marine rescuing tow vessel *UTA 2075* and the tow vessel *Captain Beklemeshev* are involved in the rescuing operation.

BRIGHT ARTEMIS (Singapore)

London, Sept 11 — A Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd, press release, dated Sept 1, states: Crude oil tanker *Bright Artemis*: Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd today reported that the company conducted an aerial survey to chase spilt oil on Aug 31, and received a report from oil spill control and response experts who flew on a chartered aircraft. Oil slicks are definitely being diluted and vaporized, and there is little possibility that a large volume of oil will reach neighbouring islands. While vaporization, dissolution, and diffusion of the oil and oily substance can be expected to continue, there still is a slight possibility that oily residue could reach Great Nicobar Island around Sept 10, if the slicks continue to drift toward east-southeast at their current speed. Three ocean tugs loaded with clean-up equipment and materials sailed Singapore on Aug 31. They are scheduled to reach the site on Sept 5. They will be requested to take preventive measures or removing oil slicks when necessary, under the Indian Coast Guard's instruction, while keep watching of the said oil slick, its movement and status. To liaise with the Indian Coast Guard Local Headquarter in Port Blair, which is also monitoring the area by aircraft, and to organise necessary operations under its guidance, MOL dispatched an Indian Superintendent on Aug 30 from its group ship management company responsible for *Bright Artemis*. Location of oil slicks acknowledged by aerial survey on Aug 31: Emulsified oil slicks are dotted within a range of about 10 miles long and two miles wide toward the southwest. The northeastern edge of the area is at lat 07 26N, long 91 47E.

Singapore, Sep 10 — Crude oil tanker *Bright Artemis* is presently at Hitachi Shipyard Quay 4, Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

BULOU NI CEVA (Fiji)

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger (cruise) *Bulou Ni Ceva* which ran aground on a reef at Rotuma more than two months ago was salvaged yesterday. The boat ran aground at a reef by the coast of Oinafa on Jun 14. The inter-island vessel had arrived in Rotuma two days earlier after developing engine problems on the way from Suva. Of the 12,000 litres of oil and fuel on board, half were siphoned off while the

remaining litres which were not spilled or damaged, remained on board the vessel owned by Kadavu Shipping Limited. Senator Doctor John Fatiaki said the vessel was towed to deep waters around the island yesterday and they saw cracks on the side of the ship. With the damage to the vessel, there was consideration that the vessel might berth at the wharf in Rotuma for a while so repairs could be done before it was towed to Suva. Kadavu Shipping Limited manager Ratu Sela Nanovo said the vessel would arrive in Suva within a week. Dr Fatiaki said the successful salvaging of the vessel was good news after it was stranded for more than a month. He said the people of Rotuma had hoped that because of the shortage of fuel on the island, part of the oil would be donated to them, but the fuel and oil which were siphoned off the vessel have been sent to Suva for testing. No investigation has been conducted to ascertain the extent of damage from the oil slick, Dr Fatiaki said.

Suva, Sep 11 — Passenger (cruise) *Bulou Ni Ceva* was successfully salvaged on Friday (Sep 8) and was towed to deep waters. The vessel is expected to arrive Suva within a week. No investigation has been conducted to ascertain the extent of damage yet. — Lloyd's Agents.

CALA PALMA (Italy)

London, Sep 8 — Four weeks after the blaze on board refrigerated general cargo *Cala Palma*, the vessel has left the dry dock at Lloyd Werft. Damage assessment has shown that substantial steel parts of the hull were damaged by the two-day fire. Seatrade Groningen managing director Karl-Heinz Hilbig said the inner decks and parts of the weather deck and the shell plating would probably have to be removed. A comprehensive repair programme is still being worked out. The fire was caused by welding work in the course of the vessel's lengthening operation and has delayed the conversion programme for three sister vessels.

CAMILLA DESGAGNES (Barbados)

London, Sep 8 — At 0041 hrs, Sep 7, Roll On Roll Off *Camilla Desgagnes* (10085 gt, built 1982) suffered main engine failure while in transit between Milne Inlet and Pond Inlet, Nunavut, in lat 72 25.00N, long 80 15.30W. The vessel requested a tow to a safer anchorage. The CCGS *Larsen* is enroute to her position.

London, Sep 8 — Following received from Canadian Alerting Network, timed 1910, UTC: According to the owners of Roll On Roll Off *Camilla Desgagnes*, the vessels crew are working on the bearing. They believe they will be on the way on their own by Monday (Sep 11).

CASTILLO DE SAN JUAN (Brazil)

Lisbon, Sep 14 — Bulker *Castillo de San Juan* is still carrying out repairs

at Lisnave shipyard and is expected to sail on/around Oct 10. — Lloyd's Agents.

CHATON DE FOI

Honolulu, Sep 12 — Yacht *Chaton de Foi* is effecting repairs at Kona Gentry Marina, Honokohau Small Boat Harbor, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. Estimated time for repairs is unknown at this time. — Lloyd's Agents.

CHRISSEY K (U.S.A.)

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated Sep 6, states: Coast Guard and commercial salvage crews responded today when the fishing (general) *Chrissy K* (41 gt, built 1979) from Barnegat Light, NJ, ran aground at Island Beach State Park. The boat's two-man crew radioed the Coast Guard around 0510 hrs to say the vessel was stuck on the beach, about two miles north of Barnegat Inlet. The cause of the grounding was not immediately available from Coast Guard officials, but persistent east winds today would have washed the vessel toward shore after any mechanical failure. The vessel has been safely refloated, said David Umberger, search and rescue controller for the Coast Guard. Workers are checking the hull integrity and checking to make sure all the machinery is operating properly and that the boat can proceed under its own power, Umberger said.

CMA CGM ALGER (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Sep 9 — Container Carrier *CMA CGM Alger* sailed Piraeus Aug 18.

CMA CGM VERNET (Germany)

See "Savannah River, United States" under "Pollution".

CONNECTICUT (U.S.A.)

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Tank barge *Connecticut* (3141 gt, built 1994) slammed into Amtrak's railroad bridge connecting Old Lyme and Old Saybrook, shutting down rail service for two hours and stranding boat traffic. *Connecticut* dislodged from tug *Turecamo Girls* (200 gt, built 1965) and crashed into the drawbridge's Old Lyme end about 1530 yesterday. How the barge became dislodged was not known. Coast Guard Lt. Chris Tsairis said the barge was empty at the time of the crash. The barge remained lodged in the bridge last night as Amtrak officials waited for a favourable tide to hopefully free the vessel. There were no reported injuries, the Coast Guard said. Cliff Black, Amtrak's media relations director, said the barge actually struck the bridge's fender system, designed to absorb impacts from vessels. Black reported railroad traffic over the bridge was shut down from 1530 to 1730 hrs. The bridge was reopened after an assessment by Amtrak engineering staff and the Coast Guard deemed the span safe, he said. During that time, five Amtrak trains were

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delayed from 32 minutes to 110 minutes, Black said. "The bridge is safe for train operation," Black said. Aside from Amtrak personnel, those responding to the accident scene included state police, the state Department of Environmental Protection, and police and fire departments from Old Lyme and Old Saybrook. The incident remains under investigation, the Coast Guard said. (Note — According to Lloyd'sMIU, tug *Turecamo Girls* was in lat 41 14 23.04N, long 72 23 36.24W, at 0648 today, proceeding at nine knots.)

London, Sept 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Tank barge *Connecticut* that struck an abutment of a railroad bridge over the Connecticut River Saturday was freed from the structure that night, a Coast Guard spokesman said yesterday. The Coast Guard is still investigating how the barge got loose from the tug (*Turecamo Girls*) that was hauling it downriver. The barge drifted away and struck the abutment about 1530 hrs. No one was hurt and the bridge was not badly damaged, authorities said. The bridge was closed for a couple of hours Saturday, but reopened after Amtrak officials determined it was safe for rail traffic. Coast Guard Lt. Douglas Miller said yesterday that the current pushed the barge against the bridge abutment. But the current eased later in the evening and another tug was able to pull the barge away. Miller said river traffic was back to normal yesterday and that the bridge was being used. He said the Coast Guard is warning boaters travelling under the bridge to be careful to avoid the abutment because a wooden buffer was torn away by the accident.

COSCO ROTTERDAM (Bahamas)

See *NCC Riyad*.

COUGAR ACE (Singapore)

London, Sep 8 — A press report, dated Sep 6, states: The crew of vehicle carrier *Cougar Ace* and the sea going tug *Sea Victory* are making final preparations to tow the fully righted vessel from Wide Bay near Unalaska Island today. This development comes following several weeks of work by salvage crews to right the vessel, re-secure the cargo and clean the interior to make it habitable again. The Coast Guard and Mitsui O.S.K. Lines have developed plans to tow the vessel to Portland, Ore. Unalaska inspectors have verified all of the general safety items were found to be in accordance with the riding plan and tow plans that have been developed. Welding reinforcement of bulwarks and rigging of an emergency tow line has been completed. Two individual plans to tow the vessel were developed. One plan covers the open-ocean tow, the other the Columbia River to Portland portion. The Crowley Marine tug *Sea Victory*, which successfully towed the *Cougar Ace* from the open ocean to Wide Bay, will be conducting the tow to Portland with the tug *Gladiator* as an escort. Upon reaching the Columbia River marine pilots from the

Columbia River Marine Pilots Association will come aboard to assist in the safe transit to Portland. The Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary will be assisting as well. The total transit time from Wide Bay to Portland is estimated to be 10 days. Captain Mark DeVries, Captain of the Port for Western Alaska and Commander of Coast Guard Sector Anchorage, has said that the vessel is stable and safe for transit. Coast Guard inspectors have made thorough surveys of the vessel. "The *Cougar Ace* has been properly ballasted and we have checked and secured all ballast tanks," he said. "We have adjusted the ballast to put the vessel within its established stability criteria. No additional ballast transfers will be conducted until the vessel reaches Portland and the Coast Guard and the Class Society can fully inspect the ballast system to certify that it is working properly and can again be used. No pollution has been reported from the vessel in Wide Bay. The Coast Guard in Alaska will continue to monitor the transit of the vessel until it reaches Puget Sound and the Columbia River where Coast Guard District 13 assets will take up the work and escort the vessel to Portland.

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A Coast Guard press release states: Vehicle carrier *Cougar Ace* will arrive at the Columbia River mouth at approximately 1000 Monday (Sep 11) after its tow from the waters of Wide Bay near Unalaska Island, Alaska. She left Alaska Sep 1 after Class Society, Nippon Kaiji Kyokai, and Coast Guard inspectors there determined it was safe to make the trip. As part of the plan, Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 71 vessels will escort her and provide a moving safety zone for the vessel as it transits the Columbia River between Astoria, Longview, and Portland/Vancouver, Ore. A Coast Guard representative will also board the tug towing the *Cougar Ace* to provide updates on the status of her progress to Coast Guard Sector Portland. Once the vessel arrives at Portland, it will undergo further inspections by Coast Guard Sector Portland and Vessel Class Society N.K.K. The Port of Portland has existing auto-import facilities to offload and store the 4,800 autos. The Coast Guard is working closely with the Columbia River Pilots, Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, the Columbia River Bar Pilots, Crowley, Shaver Transportation, Norton Lilly and the Port of Portland to ensure the transit up the Columbia runs smoothly and limits interference with vessel traffic.

Portland, Ore, Sep 11 — Vehicle carrier *Cougar Ace* is due to arrive in the Columbia River today. It is scheduled to commence discharge of automobiles on Sep 14. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated Sep 11, states: Mazda North American Operations (MNAO) today announced that the Mazda vehicles on

board vehicle carrier *Cougar Ace* will not be sold as new vehicles. "While we do not, at this time, know the full extent of the damage to vehicles on board, none of the Mazdas will be sold as new," said Jim O'Sullivan, president and CEO of MNAO. "It is possible that those vehicles which are undamaged or repairable will be made available for sale as used cars through Mazda's dealer network in the U.S. and Canada. We will only be in a position to decide on any used car sales once the vessel has been unloaded and each unit comprehensively inspected. Those beyond repair will be immediately scrapped." "In the interest of transparency and customer peace of mind, we will post the vehicle identification numbers (VINs) of vehicles destined for sale on our consumer Websites, www.MazdaUSA.com and www.mazda.ca, so that there is no confusion as to which vehicles were on the ship," added O'Sullivan. Slightly more than half of the cars are MAZDA3s and about one-fourth are Mazda CX-7s. The vessel is currently under tow to Portland where it is expected to arrive tomorrow. Upon arrival, its cargo will be further evaluated and unloaded.

Portland, Ore, Sep 12 — Vehicle carrier *Cougar Ace* berthed alongside at Berth No 313, Portland, at 0640, local time, today. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 13 — A Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd press release, dated Tokyo today, states: Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. (MOL, President: Akimitsu Ashida) reported that vehicle carrier *Cougar Ace* arrived under tow at the port of Portland at 2240, JST, Sep 12 and was moored at a repair berth. The ship will shift to a discharging berth after unloading an electrical power generator. The automobiles on board are slated for unloading on and after Sep 14 (JST). The hull and engine of *Cougar Ace* will be fully restored after all the cargo is unloaded.

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Vehicle carrier *Cougar Ace* is currently moored at the Port of Portland, Oregon. Its cargo will be further evaluated and unloaded in the coming days. However, the automaker already announced that not a single one of the 4,700-plus Mazdas on board will be sold as a new vehicle in Canada and the U.S. "We do not know, at this time, the full extent of the damage to the vehicles," said Jim O'Sullivan, president and CEO of Mazda North America. "Those beyond repair will be immediately scrapped. It is possible that the vehicles which are repairable would be made available for sale as used cars through Mazda's dealer network in the U.S. and Canada." For those who ordered a new Mazda3 or a CX-7 and were anxiously waiting for its arrival, Mazda will post a listing of all vehicle identification numbers on its consumer Website so that there is no confusion as to which vehicles were on the ship.

CP VALOUR (Bermuda)

Ponta Delgada, Sep 11 — Tugs attempted to refloat the Container Carrier *CP Valour* from the grounded position last weekend but with no success up to now. The refloating attempt operation is to continuing. — Lloyd's Agents.

Lisbon, Sep 12 — Container Carrier *CP Valour* is expected to be brought to Lisbon for breaking up once it has been refloated. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 12 — Following received from Ponta Delgada MRCC, timed 1015, UTC: Container Carrier *CP Valour* remains aground, with refloating efforts so far unsuccessful.

CRECIENTE (Hong Kong)

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulker *Creciente* (77655 gt, built 1990) has run aground at Port Hedland in WA's Pilbara region. The 290-metre long vessel ran aground after breaking its moorings while loading ore in the early hours of this morning. Port Hedland resident Vic Watson says tidal conditions are creating problems for the full carrier. "It was like a big bang woke us up, like someone belting a big empty drum with a sledge hammer," he said. "And then there was lots of pushing and pulling with tugs and then the next thing they actually pulled the ship back probably three of four hundred metres into the harbour. "Then the next thing they brought it back out to where it is now where it's stopped. "There's seven metres less water under it now than when it first got into trouble."

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Activity at one of Australia's biggest ports has been disrupted after bulker *Creciente* broke its moorings. The Port Hedland Port Authority is trying to refloat the 152,000 tonne carrier which broke away from a loading berth at 0240, local time. The Port's chief executive, Andre Bush, said the vessel was drifting in the harbour before being brought under control by tugs. Because Port Hedland is now experiencing a low spring tide the carrier was put aground on a sandbank. Mr Bush said there were no injuries and no environmental damage. The vessel could be refloated by midday if the tide is high enough. The vessel had been loading BHP Billiton ore. The company said it did not believe its operations would be affected by the accident so long as the vessel was refloated quickly. It is understood that around 12 carriers are moored off Port Hedland waiting to load.

London, Sept 12 — Following received from Port Hedland Port Authority, timed 1025, UTC: Bulker *Creciente* refloated at approximately 1000, local time, today and has sailed for Japan.

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated today, states: An investigation is taking place into how partially loaded iron ore bulker *Creciente* broke its moorings, disrupting activities at Port Hedland, yesterday morning. Port

Hedland is experiencing a low spring tide. Tugs manoeuvred the ship on to a sandbank close to the town before it could cause damage to vessels or port facilities. The temporary lodging meant *Creciente* became a tourist attraction yesterday morning, as work began to refloat the carrier as the tide came in. *Creciente* had been loading BHP Billiton ore and was around three-quarters full. A BHP spokesman said loading operations were not affected by the accident even though around 12 carriers were moored off Port Hedland waiting to load. This was normal, he said. The port's chief executive, Andre Bush, said the ship broke its moorings at about 0240 hrs and was drifting in the harbour before being brought under control by tugs. He said there were no injuries and no environmental damage. *Creciente* was refloated just before 1100, local time. Mr Bush said the ship left the channel leading to the iron ore berths and was moored at anchor about 24 nautical miles from the port. "*Creciente* is fully operational and in all likelihood will proceed to its next port, Kashima, after completion of surveys and investigations," he said. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority, the Port Authority and BHP will be inquiring into the cause of the incident and the Australian Safety and Transport Bureau may also become involved. Initial theories suggest a stern mooring warp broke, which allowed the carrier to swing round and then other mooring lines parted. Port Hedland resident Vic Watson testified that tugs pulled *Creciente* about 300 metres or 400 metres into the harbour.

CUMBRAE (U.K.)

London, Sep 11 — Tug *Cumbræ* was reported passing Dover on Sep 6, on a voyage Dover for Tyne.

DEALER (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Sep 11 — General cargo *Dealer* arrived at Teignmouth on Sep 7 and sailed later the same day, bound for Coleraine.

DEWI PARWATI (Panama)

Yokohama, Sep 14 — Upon completion of repairs, general cargo *Dewi Parwati* (6301 gt, built 2001) departed from Yokohama Dockyard & Machinery Works of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd, on Sep 3, on a ballast passage to Kashima. While underway at 0100 hrs, Sep 4, the main engine lubricating oil pressure of dropped and the main engine stopped. *Dewi Parwati* proceeded to Tateyama escorted by a tug and arrived there at 1133 hrs. on Sep 6. — Lloyd's Agents.

DIAS (Hong Kong)

Maassluis, Sep 8 — Bulker *Dias* arrived Amsterdam at 1855, local time, Sep 6. The vessel had rudder problems and will be repaired in Amsterdam by firm. Vd Wetering. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

EMIRATES SWAN (Singapore)

London, Sep 14 — Information received states: Dated Sep 8:

Tomorrow tug *Union Diamond* (will tow) a ship of 118 metres, (Combined chemical and oil tank *Emirates Swan*, 5776 gt, built 2006), with rudder problems, from Hook of Holland. The ship will be taken over by tug *Fighter*. The destination is provisionally Sloehaven (Flushing) where the ship will discharge. Afterwards vessel will de-gas at sea and later moor at Scheldepoort. Dated Sep 13: *Emirates Swan* has left Sloehaven to de-gas. During travel a tug will attach. The ship has a rudder problem. After de-gassing at sea it will return to Scheldepoort. (Note — *Emirates Swan* sailed Kaliningrad Aug 31, passed Skaw 0004, Sep 7, arrived Flushing 1315, Sep 9, left 1300, Sep 13 and returned 0645, today.)

ENDLESS (Panama)

See "Crew Of Panamanian Bulker Endless At Long Beach, United States" under "Labour Disputes".

EURO SOLID (Germany)

London, Sep 9 — Part containerised general car *Euro Solid* arrived Brunsbuttel Sep 3.

EUROPEAN MARINER (Bahamas)

London, Sep 12 — A report, dated Sep 10, states: Roll On Roll Off *European Mariner* is due to enter No.6 dry dock at North Western Ship Repairs Sep 11. It has been operating on one engine since one of its propeller shafts was removed for repairs.

FEDERAL ELBE (Cyprus)

Lisbon, Sep 12 — Bulker *Federal Elbe* sailed Setubal Sep 1 for San Lorenzo, Arg, on completion of repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

FIZULI (Azerbaijan)

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated Sep 6, states: General cargo *Fizuli* (3714 gt, built 1975), departing port Yeisk, cargo 3000 tons oil cakes, with two tugs assisting, pilot on board, grounded on channel edge, "Aug 6". No damages, no list, no injures. Several attempts to refloat vessel with the help of three tugs and vessel *Delphinus* failed, aborted at 2400, Moscow time, due to worsening weather. (Note — *Fizuli* arrived Yuzhnyy Aug 8 and sailed Aug 10.)

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Strong wind has cast aground general cargo *Fizuli* in Russia's southern Sea of Azov, a duty controller in the port of the city of Yeisk told Itar-Tass. The ship was press to the wall of a maritime pass and a complicated operation to take it off the ground with the use of a dredger began this morning. She was heading from Yeisk to Azerbaijan along a complex sea-and-river route with a cargo of 3,500 tons of oilcake.

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated Sep 9, states: Workers in the Krasnodar territory used a dredger to try to free general cargo *Fizuli*. She was pressed against a sea wall, a duty controller from Yeisk told Itar-Tass. Workers began using the dredger this morning.

London, Sep 14 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: At present, general cargo *Fizuli*, which earlier stranded in the Russian Azov Sea port of Yeisk, remains at the same position. Works on deepening the depth of the defined area of the sea are under way now. The deepening works are carried out by the dredge vessel *Urengoy*. Yesterday, the dredge vessel continued deepening the depth of the defined area of the sea to get the Azerbaijani vessel off, but this attempt failed. The vessel, leaving the port to the external roads, with the speed of 5.5 knots, drifted to the left kerb of the channel by the wind and underwater current. The vessel slowed down and stranded.

GENOA (Bahamas)

London, Sep 9 — Refrigerated general cargo *Genoa* arrived Piraeus Sep 6 from Volos.

GOLDEN BAY (New Zealand)

London, Sept 11 — Bulk cement carrier *Golden Bay* (3165 gt, built 1979) while approaching the berth at Auckland, on Aug 6, with one tug on the transom and one tug on the starboard shoulder and a pilot on board, the vessel turned to port and the tug on the starboard shoulder set in the bulwark approximately 20 cm and cracked/bent four stanchions. The vessel had two tugs and a pilot on board as per Ports of Auckland guidelines as the wind was over 25 knots. In the opinion of the master, contributing to the accident was the fact excessive force that was placed on the bulwark by the tug. The vessel was fully loaded. To prevent a reoccurrence, bridge procedures have been changed so that a tug is not used to push on the bulwark. (Note — *Golden Bay* subsequently arrived Tauranga 0401, Aug 9 and sailed 1952 same day.)

GOOD INTENT (U.K.)

Portsmouth, Sep 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Tynemouth lifeboat rescued fishing (general) *Good Intent* (70 gt, built 1978), hit by engine trouble. The vessel was drifting 14 miles east of Sunderland after suffering a gearbox failure. Tynemouth's *Spirit of Northumberland* was called out at 1920 yesterday. On reaching the drifting boat, which had been located with radio direction-finding equipment, the vessel towed it towards Hartlepool. The Hartlepool lifeboat later met the vessels and took over the tow back to the fishing craft's home port. — Correspondent.

GRAND MANAN V (Canada)

London, Sep 8 — At 1300, UTC, Sep 6, passenger ro/ro *Grand Manan V* (3833 gt, built 1990) was reported disabled with port and starboard engine failures and drifting north of Grand Manan Island, in lat 44 50.16N, long 66 45.53W. The vessel eventually "limped back to port" to carry out repairs.

GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS (Bahamas)

London, Sept 11 — A Royal Caribbean International press release, dated Sept 10, states: Passenger (cruise) *Grandeur of the Seas* (73817 gt, built 1996) scheduled to depart Baltimore today, Sept 10, unfortunately has experienced a mechanical problem involving its starboard rudder. Royal Caribbean regrets this unexpected development. The ship will now delay its departure until approximately midnight tomorrow, to allow time to repair the rudder, and sail an alternative itinerary. Guests booked on this sailing may embark between 1700 and 2200 today and make full use of the ship until its departure tomorrow night. Due to time, distance and weather constraints, the ship will now make a three-night sailing with no ports of call, returning Friday morning as scheduled. Guests booked on this sailing may cancel their cruise and receive a letter of credit for 125% of the amount paid to Royal Caribbean. That letter of credit may be applied to a future Royal Caribbean cruise. Guests sailing on this cruise will receive a 50% refund and a 25% discount on a future Royal Caribbean cruise.

London, Sep 12 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS passenger (cruise) *Grandeur of the Seas* was in lat 36 06 52N, long 76 23 38W, at 0958, UTC, today, speed 15.4 knots, course 181 degrees.

GULIZAR ANA (Turkey)

Bucharest, Sep 11 — General cargo *Gulizar Ana* (2500 gt, built 2005) came alongside berth No.50 of Galatz New Docks at about 2000 hrs, Sep 9, to load a shipment of 3,000 tonnes of hot rolled steel coils bound for Italy. Loading commenced around 2030 hrs, same day, in holds No.1 and 2. At about 2100 hrs, after having reportedly loaded four coils in hold No.1 and one coil in hold No.2, the vessel listed 60 degrees to starboard and finally leant onto the floating crane *Dobrinesti 2* of the stevedoring company Port Bazinul Nou SA, by which the cargo work progressed. At the time of the incident each of the vessel's holds accommodated a 31 tons SWL forklift for cargo handling and stowage. No injuries/loss of life reported. The extent of the damage is not yet known. Righting of the vessel is currently being undertaken by the divers company "Shark SRL" of Constantza. Incident under investigation by the Harbour-master and the public prosecutor. — Lloyd's Agents.

Edinburgh, Sep 11 — General cargo *Gulizar Ana* listed sharply to starboard and partially capsized adjacent to Docuri port, Galati, Mile 81, River Danube, in Romania. The incident has been initially blamed on poor stowage of the vessel. Some of the cargo of steel plate coils has been unloaded by a floating crane. On Sep 10, the Romanian Lower Danube River Administration's salvage tug *Perseus*

attempted to salve the vessel but without success and she remains in the same position. — Danube Research.

Bucharest, Sep 13 — The situation of general cargo *Gulizar Ana* remains unchanged. However, it would appear that Shark SRL, who were initially involved in the reinstatement of the vessel to an even keel, ceased works and withdrew Sep 12, apparently upon shipowners' request. A decision is now awaited from the concerned parties as to future actions. — Lloyd's Agents.

GULSUM ANA (Turkey)

Port Said, Sep 7 — Bulker *Gulsum Ana* has completed repairs and entered the Canal with today's northbound convoy. — Lloyd's Agents.

GURISES (Argentina)

London, Sep 13 — A notice to mariners issued Sep 12 states: Fishing *Gran Capitan* towing trawler (all types) *Gurises* (110 gt, built 1987) in lat 40 39S, long 58 32W, line length 450 metres, speed 7.5 knots, course 024 degrees, bound for Mar del Plata port.

GURUSAN

Londonm, Sep 11 — A press report, dated Sep 7, states: The National Sea Rescue Institute rescued 11 fishermen from 16 metre fishing (general) *Gurusan* off Mossel Bay harbour today, said spokesperson Craig Lambinon. The vessel was five nautical miles off Gouritz and 17 nautical miles from Mossel Bay harbour when it sent out a mayday at 1745 hrs, reporting a fire on board, said Lambinon. The NSRI launched two rescue craft. A fishing vessel in the area, the *Bowfaith*, also went to help. By the time they got to the stricken vessel, however, its crew had put out the fire. "They are waiting for a sister fishing vessel, the *Mary-Jo*, to come and tow the *Gurusan* back to Mossel Bay," he said. "At this stage, damage is undetermined. They have battened down the hatches to the engine-room (where the fire was thought to have started). The vessel is still floating," said Lambinon. He said all 11 crew had been taken aboard an NSRI craft safely and without injury.

Cape Town, Sep 12 — Understand that fishing (general) *Gurusan* sustained a fire in the engine-room and that damages are not considered to be extensive. The vessel is presently in Mossel Bay where understand that repairs will be conducted. — Lloyd's Agents.

HELGA (Antigua & Barbuda)

Maassluis, Sep 8 — General cargo *Helga* is now in Duisburg and expected at Rotterdam on Sep 9. The Agent does not know of any engine problems. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

HYUNDAI FORTUNE (Panama)

Dubai, Sep 13 — Understand that container carrier *Hyundai Fortune* is 20 miles off Dubai and that repairs are expected to last until the third week of September. — Lloyd's Agents.

ICE FLAKE (Cayman Islands)

London, Sep 13 — Refrigerated general cargo *Ice Flake* is still at Dormac, Durban, undergoing repairs.

JACQUES CARTIER (Canada)

London, Sep 12 — Passenger (cruise) *Jacques Cartier* (457 gt, built 1924) made contact with the rock-fill near the Point-au-Pic wharf, lat 47 37 58N, long 70 09 00W, while docking in high winds at 1440, EDST, Sep 9.

JOHN SHERWIN (U.S.A.)

Troy, Michigan, Sep 7 — Bulker *John Sherwin* (15995 gt, built 1958), towed as a dead vessel by the G tugs *Ohio* at the bow and *Arkansas* at the stern, arrived off Milwaukee's main light and breakwater entrance just before 2000, yesterday. *Ohio* brought the laker through the main gap then turned south so *Arkansas* could bring the stern around. *Arkansas* then pulled the vessel stern-first up the Milwaukee River and southward into the inner harbour. Shortly after 2200 hrs, the tow slid into place along the port of Milwaukee's heavy lift dock where a generator was loaded on board. The tow proceed across the inner harbour turning basin to the Nidera elevator after 2300 hrs. The *John Sherwin* is expected to load a half load of yellow corn at Nidera today and tomorrow before resuming its journey to Chicago. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

KARTAL C.K. (Turkey)

Istanbul Sep 8 — General cargo *Kartal C.K.* (1480 gt, built 1966), Kartal for Izmir, 2300 tonnes of clay, grounded at Kilitbahir while transiting Dardanelles at 0600, local time, Sep 8. — Lloyd's Agents.

Istanbul, Sep 8 — General cargo *Kartal C.K.* refloated by its own means at 1200, local time, today and is presently waiting at anchorage at Karanlik Liman / Canakkale. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Kartal C.K.* ran aground in Canakkale Strait at 0515, Sep 8. Vessel ran aground in front of the Kilitbahir, in position of lat 40 08N, long 26 22.4E. In order to provide the safety of navigation, life, property and protect of marine environment *Kurtarma 1* tug sent immediately by «anakkale VTS to the place of incident. As a result of inspections no pollution and loss of life reported. Salvage agreement has been signed between master of *Kartal C.K.* and *Kurtarma 1* at 1200. Vessel subsequently refloated at 1240 hrs.

KEEPER (Belize)

London, Sep 11 — Understand that general cargo *Keeper* (1948 gt, built 1974) was under repair at Riga between Sep 6 and Sep 10 due to engine problems.

London, Sep 11 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, general cargo *Keeper*, Riga for Hull, was in lat 57 01 28.79N, long 19 27 48.6E, at 1449,

UTC, today, course 241 deg, speed 9.2 knots, nearest port Furillen, Sweden, at a distance of 52 nautical miles.

KHAIRPUR (Pakistan)

Freetown, Sep 8 — On Sep 3, while both general cargo *Khairpur* (13402 gt, built 1981) and barge *Marie Flood* (15834 gt, built 1973) were tied up alongside at Freetown port, the water current became so strong that the bollard to which *Khairpur* was tied uprooted, causing *Khairpur* to drift and hit *Marie Flood*. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Khairpur* arrived Freetown Aug 19 from Maputo, and *Marie Flood* arrived Freetown Aug 28 from Conakry.)

KINGSTON LACY (U.K.)

London, Sep 11 — Following received from Dover Coastguard MRCC, timed 1620, UTC: Tug *Kingston Lacy* (built 1951) in lat 51 05.01N, long 01 34.78E, at 1614, UTC, alongside self-propelled pontoon barge, entering SW lane, with main engine problem. Tug *Nord Challenger* chartered by *Kingston Lacy* to assist into Ramsgate. Vessels progress included in routine CNIS broadcast. Cross Gris Nez request vessel be inspected on arrival at destination port.

London, Sep 12 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1515, UTC: Tug *Kingston Lacy* safely arrived Ramsgate around 2130, UTC, yesterday.

KOTOBUKI MARU NO.38 (Japan)

Noumea, Sep 11 — Fishing (general) *Kotobuki Maru No.38* was inspected from Aug 26 to 29 and found with minor damage; therefore, it was able to return to its fishing operations on Aug 29. — Lloyd's Agents.

KRAFT (Finland)

Helsinki, Sep 14 — Tug/icebreaker *Kraft* (327 gt, built 1976) grounded in thick fog off Helsinki late Sep 13. All four crew are safe. No leaks have been reported. A Coast Guard diver will survey the vessel today. — Lloyd's Agents.

KRIOS (Malta)

Troy, Michigan, Sep 8 — Bulker *Krios* remained tied to the southwest wall above Lock 7 in the Welland Canal on Thursday evening (Sep 7). The vessel has been there since Monday evening. — Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping News.

LEIF ERIKSON (Canada)

Portsmouth, UK, Sep 8 — Roll On Roll Off *Leif Erikson* (18523 gt, built 1991) has encountered mechanical problems, little more than a month after its last repair. The vessel is expected to be out of service until Sunday (Sep 10) due to a broken engine part. The disruption in the gulf service between Port aux Basques and North Sydney comes only five weeks after another breakdown involving the vessel. The current problem, though, is not related to the mechanical problems that pulled the vessel out of service in late July, said

communications director Tara Laing. The Crown corporation is combining some ferry crossings to accommodate its passengers while the vessel is being repaired. — Correspondent.

LNG EDO (Bahamas)

London, Sep 12 — Liquid Natural Gas Carrier *LNG Edo* sailed from Ferrol at 1700 hrs, Sep 11, bound for Bonny.

LORELEI II (U.S.A.)

Seattle, Sep 8 — A local press report, dated today, states: Fishing (general) *Lorelei II* (50 gt, built 1947) ran aground early yesterday morning, and remained on a rock jetty for several hours, before being pulled off. The vessel was travelling at three to four knots when it ran aground near Bellingham Cold Storage about 0400 hrs, knocking a hole in its hull, said Mike Coggins, a supervisor at Bellingham Cold Storage. "He just cut the corner too close," said C.J. Shunk, search and rescue controller with the U.S. Coast Guard. "It was dark, and when they came up to make that turn he went to the right of the buoy instead of the left." They likely could not see the rocks, but they were right below the surface, Shunk said. The boat was carrying approximately 25 tons of halibut from Alaska to off-load at Bellingham Cold Storage. It was also carrying about 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel in two tanks, but neither was punctured, according to a Coast Guard press release. Six crewmembers took a skiff from the boat, which was 60 yards from the dock. The grounded boat was moved to a nearby dock late in the afternoon and crews worked into the evening unloading fish. — Lloyd's Agents.

Seattle, Sep 13 — Fishing (general) *Lorelei II* has a one square foot hole in the port side hull. Vessel said to be carrying 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel in two tanks, neither damaged and approximately 25 tons of Halibut. National Response Corporation has been hired by the owners to stabilize the vessel and remove the fuel. According to the Project Manager, Becky, the vessel was boomed for pollution abatement on Sep 7 and refloated at 2000 hrs, towed to Bellingham Cold Storage, Bellingham, Washington, and Halibut offloaded. Vessel again boomed during offloading. Released by USCG at 2345 hrs. Per Eric Olsen, owner of the vessel, temporary repairs are being handled at Bellingham Bay Shipyard and planned tow to Seattle for permanent repair on Sep 22 at Fishing Vessel Owners Co Operative.

MARIE FLOOD (U.S.A.)

See *Khairpur*.

MARIELLE BOLTEN (Liberia)

Freeport, Bahamas, Sep 10 — The rudder for general cargo *Marielle Bolten*, which had been lost during the grounding incident, was successfully salvaged using flotation bags by the Bahamas salvage vessel *Victoria* and

was delivered to the vessel at Grand Bahama Shipyard, Freeport, yesterday. — Lloyd's Agents.

MERCANDIA IV (Denmark)

See *Sundbuss Pernille*.

MICHELLE (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Sep 13 — A Smit Salvage report, dated Aug 1, states: After a short preparation period the salvage team cut the wreck of general cargo *Michelle* in two with use of a cutting chain and subsequently were able to lift the aft section safely onto a barge on Jul 31. The compartments of the aft section were dewatered to reduce the weight. Multipurpose vessel *Smit Bronco* assisted in positioning the scrap barge and tug *Asterix* safely towed the barge to a scrap yard in 's Gravendeel. After retrieving the anchors of sheerlegs *Taklift 7 Smit Bronco* towed the sheerlegs back to the Waalhaven, Rotterdam. Due to present bad weather conditions the operation had to be suspended. The fore ship and the accommodation of *Michelle* will be lifted at the next suitable weather window. (Note — It is understood the forward part of the vessel has now been raised.)

MSC LORETTA (Panama)

London, Sep 12 — A container accident in the Port of Long Beach Monday (Sep 11) damaged a fuel line on a fuel barge, resulting in an on-deck oil spill of about 500 gallons on the barge. No one was injured in the accident, which happened when container Carrier *MSC Loretta* (73819 gt, built 2002), which was berthed at Pier A in Long Beach, fell off the vessel and landed on a fuel barge below. The barge wasn't in the process of bunkering the container vessel, so no one was on the deck when the container fell, the Marine Exchange of Southern California reported. The fuel line was immediately cut off when the accident occurred and no fuel went into the water, according to the California Office of Spill Prevention and Response. (Note — *MSC Loretta* sailed Yokohama Sep 2 and arrived Long Beach Sep 11.)

NCC RIYAD (NIS)

Port Said, Sep 11 — At 1600, local time, Sep 9, while combined chemical and oil tank *NCC Riyad* (23197 gt, built 1995) was approaching Port Said pilot station, she collided with container carrier *COSCO Rotterdam* (65531 gt, built 2002) which was at the pilot station. Both vessels sustained damages and are still at anchorage. *COSCO Rotterdam* sustained damages to her starboard side ballast tank, with a hole of 3m by 20cm. *NCC Riyad* sustained dents to her bow. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Said, Sep 13 — Combined chemical and oil tank *NCC Riyad* completed repairs and entered the Canal with the southbound convoy today (Sep 13). Container Carrier *COSCO Rotterdam* is still at Port Said pilot station effecting necessary repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

NEDLLOYD TASMAN (U.K.)

Port Said, Sep 14 — Container Carrier *Nedlloyd Tasman* (66526 gt, built 1999), which entered the Suez Canal with the southbound convoy today, went aground at Km 76 in the Canal at 0540 hrs. S.C.A. tugs refloated the vessel at 1040 hrs. The vessel will resume its passage today. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Nedlloyd Tasman* sailed Hamburg Sep 5 and passed Gibraltar Sep 10 for Singapore.)

London, Sep 14 — Container carrier *Nedlloyd Tasman*, which ran aground in the Suez Canal at 0535 this morning, was successfully refloated at 1015 hrs. The vessel had grounded at Km 76 blocking the northbound convoy. Following the successful refloating operation, canal transits are running as normal, with some slight delays possible.

NEPTUNIA MEDITERRANEO (Brazil)

Buenos Aires, Sep 11 — Container Carrier *Neptunia Mediterraneo* is still under arrest. She is still grounded at Ushuaia Bay with bunker inside. At times, depending on the wind speeds, she drifts. Interim developments have not taken place yet. — Lloyd's Agents.

NORTHERN RELIANCE (Germany)

Balboa, Sep 13 — Container Carrier *Northern Reliance* (35595 gt, built 1994) during southbound transit of the Panama Canal Sep 12, reportedly contacted wall at Miraflores Locks sustaining some damages to starboard side shell plating. Understand temporary repairs being carried out at Balboa anchorage and the vessel is expected to continue it's voyage upon completion. Canal Authorities held an official investigation regarding the circumstances surrounding the incident. — Lloyd's Agents.

OCEAN NEPTUNE (Singapore)

See *As Salaam*.

OCEAN SERAYA (Panama)

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated today, states: According to officials, the broken bulker *Ocean Seraya* is likely to be shifted to the shipbreaking yard in Gujarat. A committee from Singapore visited the spot on Sunday (Sep 10) to examine the condition of the wrecked ship and the possibility of moving it out from there.

PACIFIC DREAM (U.S.A.)

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

PAGHAM (U.K.)

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A row has erupted in a coastal village after a 106ft minesweeper ran aground in the harbour. Residents in Drummore, Wigtownshire, are furious at the eyesore which sits on a slipway. The vessel, *HMS Paghham*, was berthed in the harbour, but ran aground at the weekend after an exceptionally high tide. Villagers fear that *Paghham*,

which appeared in the 1960 war film "Sink The Bismarck", will now remain stuck on the slipway of a boat club until she breaks up. Steve Hardy, treasurer of the Kirkmaiden Boat Club, said: "This vessel is a shocking blot on the landscape. "My fear is it will remain where it is until it rots and that could take years. It's a real eyesore in the harbour. "It's not exactly the kind of thing that will encourage visitors or pleasure craft to the area." In 2002, she was bought by a local man for £1 and has since been sold on several times. It's unclear who currently owns her. Environmental group the Scottish Environment Protection Agency are investigating.

PHILIPP (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Sep 11 — A report, dated Sep 10, states: General cargo *Philipp* which has been in Bidston Dry Dock for a while undergoing bottom damage repairs is expected to depart this week.

Liverpool, Sep 12 — General cargo *Philipp* arrived No.3 Bidston Dry Dock Jul 20 and as of today is still in dry dock, completion date not known. — Lloyd's Agents.

PRIDE OF BILBAO (U.K.)

Portsmouth, UK, Sep 8 — Passenger ro/ro *Pride of Bilbao* (37583 gt, built 1986) was once again inspected by the MCA yesterday upon arrival in Portsmouth. Following unloading she turned and came in stern first so that an inspection could be made of her stern and outboard side. Once the inspection had been completed she moved off the berth so as to commence loading through the bow. However, while turning to come back she lost engine power. A tug was dispatched, but she managed to return under her own power. Meanwhile, all other shipping movements sustained delays as a result. *Pride of Bilbao* finally departed for Bilbao at 2330 hrs. — Correspondent.

PRINCESS K. (U.S.A.)

Honolulu, Sep 12 — Fishing (general) *Princess K.* is now drydocked at Phoenician Shipyard, Kalaeloa Harbor (Barber's Point) for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

PRINCESS OF THE UNIVERSE (Philippines)

Manila, Sep 11 — Passenger ro/ro *Princess of the Universe* was refloated at 2050, local time, Sep 8, Malayan Towage and Salvage reported. The ferry was refloated with the use of Malayan Towage tugs *Limay*, *Gorio* and *Primo*. Two tugs were positioned on the starboard side and one on the portside. Pulling in tandem the three tugs were able to free the vessel from it's grounded position near the shore of Canigao island in Leyte province, central Philippines. Underwater inspection by Malayan Towage divers revealed only minor scratches to the bottom hull. Propellers and rudder were also intact and in working condition. *Princess of the Universe*

then proceeded to Cebu on its own power, reaching Cebu port on Sep 9. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Sep 12 — Following its successful refloating, passenger ro/ro *Princess of the Universe* is now being prepared for the resumption of normal operations at Cebu port. Most of the vessel's non-essential gear, stores and implements were either unloaded or repositioned when the vessel was refloated. These are now being restored. Sulpicio Lines, owner and operator of the vessel, reported that *Princess of the Universe* would resume operations on Thursday. It is scheduled to leave on that day for Zamboanga after which it will proceed to Davao and General Santos City then back to Cebu. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PROBO KOALA (Panama)

See under "Miscellaneous".

PXXI

Rotterdam, Sep 13 — There have been no developments regarding oil platform *A Turtle* (ex *PXXI*) on Tristan da Cunha. We are demobilised at present while authorities are discussing situation with owners and insurers. The site is expected to be reviewed in November, when the weather should be better, and at that stage the possibility of resuming further salvage attempts will be assessed. — SMIT Salvage BV.

QUEEN OF COWICHAN (Canada)

Portsmouth, Sep 9 — A report, dated Sep 7, states: Roll On Roll Off *Queen of Cowichan* (6551 gt, built 1976) is experiencing a mechanical problem and as a result, vessel will miss the first round trip. The 0630 hrs sailing exit Departure Bay and the 0830 hrs sailing exit Horseshoe Bay are cancelled. BC Ferries regrets any inconvenience this situation may cause its customers. Her emergency power supply failed thus the emergency lights would not work and all the fire doors won't stay open. BC Ferries had to fly the replacement parts for repair. — Correspondent. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, *Queen of Cowichan* was in lat 49 22 25.32N, long 123 18 07.26W, at 0448, Sep 9.)

QUEST (U.K.)

London, Sep 11 — Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRCC, timed 0100, UTC: Fishing (general) *Quest* (105 gt, built 1982) drifting due to engine breakdown in lat 53 21.10N, long 00 30.9E at 1909, UTC, yesterday. Skegness RNLI has a line on board casualty but is awaiting tide change at about 0700, today, before towing *Quest* to the River Humber. No commercial salvage required.

London, Sep 11 — Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRCC, timed 1000, UTC: Fishing (general) *Quest* and Humber lifeboat proceeded to a position off Grimsby Fish Dock, where they waited for the floodgates to open to allow them to berth there. Vessel was subsequently reported safely moored up a few minutes ago.

RANA R. (Panama)

London, Sep 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Firemen and rescue teams swung into action when product tanker *Rana R.* caught fire just off Bahrain. Fire crews from Asry and Bapco battled for several hours to control the blaze. Crew were taken off the vessel by the Bahrain Coastguard, while firemen tackled the blaze. But no one was injured in the blaze, which broke out in the vessel's engine-room and spread to the crew quarters, on Wednesday afternoon (Sep 6). "We received a call from the Bahrain Port Control to assist in putting out the fire, around 1400," Asry public relations consultant Ahmed Abdullah Al Rayes said yesterday. "Immediately, we despatched 20 firemen and two tugs and a fire rescue equipment tug to the scene," he said. "The three were later joined by two tugs from the Bahrain Petroleum Company (Bapco)." Mr Al Rayes said there were multiple fires in the vessel's engine room and the fires were spreading to the vessel's accommodation. "It took a few hours of intense struggle to get the fire under control," he said. The entire operation was carried out under the overall command of the Bahrain Port Pilot. "The crew on board the *Rana R.* were rescued by the Bahrain Coastguard," said Mr Al Rayes. He said the fire-fighting effort was an excellent example of co-operation between Bapco and Asry and their state of preparedness, set up by the General Directorate of Civil Defence.

Bahrain, Sep 11 — Product tanker *Rana R.* is currently at Asry dry dock. The Owners are considering lying up the vessel for repairs at ASRY, Bahrain. There were no injuries to the crew. — Lloyd's Agents.

RED NACRE (Singapore)

Portsmouth, UK, Sep 8 — A press report, datelined Japan, Sep 9, states: Singapore-registered bulker *Red Nacre* (38364 gt, built 1999) with 24 crew members took on water after colliding with South Korea-registered Container Carrier *Sky Duke* (3992 gt, built 1996) around noon Sep 8, off Kobe Port, but caused no injuries or oil leaks, the Japan Coast Guard said. The 38,000-ton *Red Nacre* developed a one-metre-long crack on the starboard side, causing it to list to the right, according to the Kobe Coast Guard Office. A tugboat from the office towed the stricken vessel into port. The *Red Nacre*, laden with coal, was bound for Kobe from Higashi Harima Port in Hyogo Prefecture. The *Sky Duke*, with 15 crew members, was sailing for Osaka after leaving Kobe Port. — Correspondent.

London, Sep 11 — Container Carrier *Sky Duke* was which sailed Kobe on Sep 9 for Osaka, arrived there on Sep 9. The vessel departed for Mizushima, arriving later on Sep 10. Later on Sep 10, the vessel departed, bound for Busan, where ETA today.

London, Sep 12 — Following received from the Singapore based owners of the bulker *Red Nacre*, dated today: *Red Nacre* is fully operational and still

in port. Vessel undergoing inspections/survey but damage is minor and it is expected to depart with the next day or two.

London, Sep 13 — Bulker *Red Nacre* is reported to have sailed from Kobe on Sep 11 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS, at 0614 hrs, Sep 11, the vessel was in lat 34 32N, long 135 10E, proceeding on a course of 228 degs, at 15.2 knots.

Kobe, Sep 14 — Bulker *Red Nacre* and container carrier *Sky Duke* were in collision in Kobe Chuo Passage at 1142, Sep 8. Although *Red Nacre* sustained "heavy damage" to starboard side shell plating, it moored alongside the berth in the port of Kobe under its own power for discharge. After completion of the discharge operation it was "towed" to a dockyard in Yura for repairs. Meanwhile, *Sky Duke* sailed from Kobe Sep 9 for Busan via Osaka and Mizushima. It is now under repairs at Dongil Shipyard & Engineering Co, Ltd, Busan. — Lloyd's Agents.

RIO PARA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Sep 7 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, part containerised general car *Rio Para* is currently stationary at the port of Rio Haina.

RM MARGAUX (France)

Bordeaux, Sep 11 — Tug *RM Margaux* is presently on the slipway of Port Autonome de Bordeaux and was declared CTL by surveyors. She will probably be sold for scrap. — Lloyd's Agents.

SAMPOGRACHT (Netherlands)

London, Sep 13 — A press release from the United States Coast Guard, dated yesterday, states: Part containerised general car *Sampogracht* (18231 gt, built 2005) lost steering in the entrance to the St. Johns River, Fla., at 1600, today. Vessel since regained steering and is anchored south-east of Mayport, Fla. The vessel had the steering casualty while entering the St. Johns River and was forced to drop anchor in the channel. Coast Guard inspectors must inspect the vessel offshore to ensure it's safe before it can enter port. (Note — *Sampogracht*, according to LMIU AIS, is stationary in lat 30 24 35.75N, long 81 19 33.81W at 0211, today.)

SEVEN SEAS MARINER (Wallis & Futuna)

London, Sep 8 — Passenger (cruise) *Seven Seas Mariner* arrived and sailed Hubbard Glacier Sep 7 and according to LMIU AIS was in lat 60 44.17N, long 147 52.14W, 30 nautical miles from Chenega, speed 15.4 knots.

SKAGERN (Sweden)

Hull, Sep 11 — General cargo *Skagern* remains at Hull, where undergoing temporary repairs. Understand intention is to sail/tow vessel to an undisclosed port to effect full repairs, departure date not known. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

SKY DUKE (South Korea)

See *Red Nacre*.

SOLAR 1 (Philippines)

London, Sep 8 — A press report, dated Sep 7, states: The Board of Marine Inquiry reported today that non specific tanker *Solar 1* was overloaded before it sank near Guimaras Island last month. A loadline certificate issued by Suzara Inc revealed that the vessel's draught should not exceed 4.85 metres. Capt Norberto Aguro told investigators that the vessel's draught after cargo loading was 5.1 metres, which meant that the part of the vessel that was submerged exceeded the safety limit by 0.25 metres. The board has yet to compute how many litres of excess bunker fuel were loaded. Aguro initially declared that the vessel was stable before it left Bataan for Zamboanga but the SBMI said it is the master's responsibility to make sure that the vessel did not exceed its required cargo. Aguro also said that, according to Petron standards, there was no cargo overload but he has yet to show documents to support his claim. The Philippine Coast Guard today spotted another oil sheen near Guimaras island, confirming reports that the vessel is still leaking oil. An aerial survey spotted the one-kilometre oil sheen 7.8 nautical miles south-west of Unisan Island in Guimaras, which is directly above the sunken vessel. PCG boats sprayed chemical dispersants in the area to remove the oil sheen. The national government today announced that it is stepping up medical assistance to residents and fishermen affected by the oil spill on Guimaras Island and nearby areas. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said efforts to help families and children affected by the oil slick were being exerted by Task Force Guimaras. The President issued the order yesterday at a meeting with the National Disaster Co-ordinating Council and Task Force Guimaras at the Raymen Beach Resort. She told Defence Secretary Avelino Cruz to focus on the health of affected residents. On instructions from the President, Task Force Guimaras is sealing off the affected shorelines to prevent people, especially children, from being exposed to the pollutant that could affect their health. The instruction came following reports of increasing health problems not only in Guimaras but in Iloilo, Negros and Panay. These problems include chest pain and skin diseases. Bunya added that President. Arroyo is determined to exhaust all means to ensure that the damage brought by the oil spill "will not take its toll on the health of local residents who have had enough of the adverse effects of this tragedy." In addition to the clean-up of the island's shorelines and the recovery of the oil still in the sunken vessel, Task Force Guimaras has been ordered to continue with the relief program, carry out an integrated rehabilitation plan and provide alternative livelihood for the fishermen, among others. To

achieve these goals, Task Force Guimaras will work closely with the Provincial Disaster Co-ordinating Council, the Departments of Science and Technology, of Social Welfare and Development and of Health, the University of the Philippines-Visayas and the Worldwide Wildlife Fund. It is also the task force's mandate to secure the release of the \$310-million assistance from the International Oil Pollution Fund to address property damage, and pay for the expenses incurred in the clean-up, restoration and rehabilitation of the environment. Task Force Guimaras will implement the Maritime Industry Authority ruling, which requires all oil tankers plying the country's sea lanes to be equipped with double hulls and double floors by April, 2008. It will also submit a proposed law to Congress that will provide civil liability compensation relating to oil spills.

London, Sep 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A crewman of non specific tanker *Solar 1* admitted that their captain, Norberto Aguro, was sleeping when the vessel began sinking off Guimaras Island on Aug 11. Pump man Jesse Angeling also identified Hiroyasu Yamaguchi as the owner of Sunshine of Maritime Development Corporation (SMDC), contrary to the Japanese national's denial. Angeling told the Department of Justice Task Force Guimaras that it is normal for crewmen and ship captains to take a "siesta" while sailing if there is not too much work to be done. He said Aguro was awakened by his auxiliary captain when the vessel was already listing badly. Angeling also admitted that the vessel took on water twice. The first time, he said, they had to dock in Iloilo to pump the water out. But when asked if they checked the vessel's hull and repaired any holes after that, he said, "No." When Angeling's turn to be grilled by the panel came, he was immediately asked if he knew Yamaguchi who was preparing to leave the DoJ. Angeling identified Yamaguchi as "may-ari po (he is the owner)" of SMDC. During his testimony, Yamaguchi said he is not the owner but only treasurer and chairman of the board from 2002-2005 after which he sold his shares in the firm. He said Clemente Cancio is the highest ranking official of SMDC. The other Japanese incorporators, Tomoki Tsubomoto, Hiromi Irishika and Mototsugu Yamaguchi, have yet to appear before the DoJ.

Manila, Sep 10 — The Philippine Coast Guard has been placed in an awkward position of being both an investigator and the subject of an investigation in connection with the sinking of non specific tanker *Solar 1*. The Philippine Coast Guard is by law the primary agency tasked with investigating marine casualties through a quasi-judicial body called the Special Board of Marine Inquiry. A few days after the vessel sank on Aug 11 and caused a massive oil spill along the Guimaras island coast, the Coast Guard convened a Special Board of

Marine Inquiry. The Board is currently conducting an investigation to determine liability for the accident. The gravity of the oil spill and the resulting public outcry, however, has forced Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to order the Department of Justice to conduct a fast track investigation into the accident. Driven by public pressure, the Justice Department has not limited the investigation to the owners and charterers of the *Solar 1* but included the Coast Guard as well. The inclusion of the Coast Guard in the investigation was prompted by reports that the vessel had left port in an allegedly unseaworthy and overloaded condition and that its master was not qualified to operate an oil tanker. Critics noted that the Philippine Coast Guard as the agency tasked with enforcing maritime safety rules and regulations failed to do its job when it allowed the *Solar 1* to leave port. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Sep 12 — The Department of Justice will be filing criminal charges against the owners of non specific tanker *Solar 1* for alleged violation of the Philippine's anti-dummy law. In its 10-page initial report, the Justice Department directed the National Bureau of Investigation to secure additional evidence preparatory to the filing of a criminal case against the owners, officers and incorporators of Sunshine Maritime Development Corporation, the company which owns and operates the *Solar 1*. Under Philippine law, only shipping companies which have at least 60 percent Filipino ownership can operate in the coastwise trade. Securities and Exchange documents showed, however, that of Sunshine Maritime's paid-up capital of Pesos5.5 million (US\$110,000 dollars), Pesos4 million came from Japanese shareholders. This is a clear indication that the company was controlled by Japanese investors. Four of the company's nine board members are Japanese nationals. If convicted, the owners of the company could face between five and 15 years imprisonment. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The Philippines wants to drill through the hull of non specific tanker *Solar 1* and siphon off its cargo of industrial fuel to curtail pollution washing up on the central island of Guimaras, disaster officials said today. The tanker still holding around 1.5 million litres of oil. "We will siphon off that oil from that sunken tanker," Avelino Cruz, the defence secretary and head of a government task force to clean up the country's worst oil spill, told a news conference. He said the government of the developing Southeast Asian nation was awaiting a decision from the London-based International Oil Pollution Compensation (IOPC) agency on whether it would fund efforts to recover the fuel. "We'll know that by early next week," Cruz said. Joe Nichols, an IOPC representative,

said it had funds to recover oil from the sunken tanker, similar to two cases in South Korea. He said the IOPC was consulting with salvage contractors with expertise in the feasibility of pumping out oil from a tanker submerged so far.

London, Sep 13 — Representatives of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund said they can extend the non specific tanker *Solar 1* oil spill victims compensation up to a maximum of \$315 million to cover pollution damage, clean up cost, property damage, consequential and economic loss, Provincial Disaster Management Team chief Vicfran Defante said. Its representatives also said Negros Occidental and its threatened local governments have the right to make claims because they have also invested money and other resources in preparation for the oil spill threat, Defante said. Defante said the assurance of compensation was made at a workshop conducted by Petron and the IOPC represented by Joe Nichols, Patrick Joseph and the Shipowners Protection Limited represented by David Rees in Iloilo City. Defante said the IOPC Fund was established as a result of the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage in 1992, of which the Philippines is a member.

Manila, Sep 13 — The island province of Guimaras will be filing criminal charges against officials of Petron Corp. and the owners of Sunshine Maritime Development Corp. for the oil spill which has devastated a large portion of the island's offshore areas. Sunshine Maritime is the owner and operator of non specific tanker *Solar 1*, while Petron Corp is the owner of the close to 2.0 million litres of bunker fuel carried by the vessel. Guimaras Governor JC Rahman Nava said that officials of the two companies will be brought to court for violating the country's anti-pollution laws. Earlier, the Department of Justice had cleared Petron Corp., which is partly owned by the government, of criminal liability in the oil spill. This has not deterred the Guimaras provincial government which wants Petron officials to be made answerable for the oil spill. The spill has damaged fishing grounds, marine reserves and beach resorts in a region being developed as a tourist destination. The provincial government said about 26,000 people who depend on fishing have been affected. Petron, on the other hand, has maintained that it cannot be made liable for the accident as it is a mere owner of the cargo carried by the tanker. As such, it has no control over how the vessel is operated. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

STEPHEN B.ROMAN (Canada)

London, Sep 13 — Bulk cement carrier *Stephen B.Roman* (6936 gt, built 1965), cargo cement, struck the corner of the loading dock at Oswego, New York, lat 43 26 35N, long 76 30 00W, at 1645, EDST, Sep 10. A 1.37m

crack was discovered on the starboard bow approximately 1.7m above water line.

SUILVEN (Fiji)

Suva, Sep 11 — Roll On Roll Off *Suilven* completed repairs and sailed as scheduled. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUNDBUSS PERNILLE (Sweden)

London, Sept 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger (cruise) *Sundbuss Pernille* (387 gt, built 1981) and passenger ro/ro *Mercandia IV* (4350 gt, built 1989) were in collision at 0630 today in Elsinore port, injuring four people and damaging the ships that ply a narrow strait between Denmark and southern Sweden. Police believe thick fog was to blame. Four passengers were injured as *Mercandia IV* struck the small ferry, *Pernille* (? *Sundbuss Pernille*), which began listing, said police spokesman Henrik Hattel. Both vessels were damaged, but were able to dock on their own power. Three people were taken to hospital for broken limbs and bruises while one was treated by a doctor on the pier, he said. The ferries ply the Oeresund strait between Elsinore and Helsingborg. The accident caused minor delays on the crossings. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS both vessels were at Helsingborg at 1055, UTC.)

Gothenburg, Sep 11 — Passenger ro/ro *Mercandia IV* and ferry *Pernille* (? *Sundbuss Pernille*) in collision 0615/0630 today in dense fog just outside entrance of Elsinore. *Pernille* sustained some damage and investigation commenced. *Pernille* brought to repairyard at Landskrona. *Mercandia IV* minor damage but out of service for repair and control. Waiting for surveyors and authorities, police etc to inspect vessel and question crew. *Pernille* engines stopped but after a while could start and proceed to berth. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Copenhagen, Sep 13 — Passenger (cruise) *Sundbuss Pernille* and passenger ro/ro *Mercandia IV* collided just outside the port of Elsinore at 0618, Sep 11. It was extremely foggy with visibility of 10-50 metres. *Sundbuss Pernille* took a list of 30 deg and took in seawater, but it aligned by own means. Five passengers were taken to first aid centre, but only one needed treatment for a broken shoulder. *Sundbuss Pernille* was taken out of service for repairs at shipyard, but expectedly back in service tomorrow (Sep 14). *Mercandia IV* has not been taken out of service apart from a few hours after the collision, and reportedly no need for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUPERSEACAT TWO (U.K.)

London, Sep 11 — A Steam Packet Company press release, dated Sep 5, state: Passenger ro/ro *Sea Express 1* will enter service for The Isle of Man Steam Packet Company in September. The Company has put it through a full overhaul in Birkenhead, and the craft will assume the schedules operated by

passenger ro/ro *Superseacat Two* which is presently operating on three of its four engines after having the failure of a gear box which necessitated it being removed from the craft and despatched to its manufacturers in Germany for assessment and repair. Despite a temporary timetable being introduced to reflect its slower passage time, *Superseacat Two* has operated throughout August and the busy Manx Grand Prix completing 76 round trips. The introduction of *Sea Express 1* will enable the standard fast craft timetable to be reinstated. Hamish Ross, Steam Packet Managing Director said, 'The gear box assessment and repair programme is continuing but we are highly conscious of our commitment to the Island to provide a fast craft sea service. Although *Superseacat Two* continues to operate at an impressive 27 knots, *Sea Express 1* will operate at above 30 knots. We anticipate it arriving to take up its schedules on Sep 11.

TAHOMA REEFER (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Monrovia, Sep 12 — Refrigerated general cargo *Tahoma Reefer* is still at anchorage, four miles from shore, abandoned. — Lloyd's Agents.

TAXIARCHIS SIERRA (Cyprus)

Kolkara, Sep 8 — Bulker *Taxiarchis Sierra* (12296 gt, built 1985), as per the order of the Honourable High Court of Kolkata was arrested and when brought to Kolkata on Sep 6, it was reported that the speeding vessel hit the pontoon and the launch *Jaljatra*. The jetty, the gangway and *Jaljatra* sustained damages, the extent of which is being assessed. The repair work will be undertaken shortly and it may take seven days to complete the work. — Lloyd's Agents.

THEODOROS (Panama)

Genoa, Sep 11 — Wine tanker *Theodoros* is still under arrest at Genoa. No ETS available for the time being. — Lloyd's Agents.

THUNDER (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Sep 10 — A press release from The Marine Accident Investigation Branch, states: General cargo *Thunder* (1559 gt, built 1984) grounded while at anchor in the approaches to River Dee, Aug 10. (Note — *Thunder* arrived Mostyn Aug 11 and sailed Aug 13.)

TORO (Greece)

London, Sep 8 — A United States Coast Guard press release, dated Sep 7, states: Bulker *Toro* ran aground at Lighted Buoy 1 near Cornwall Island Tuesday (Sep 5) at approximately 2048. The 585-foot, Greek registered vessel is laden with canola meal destined for Progresso, Mexico. There was a Canadian pilot on board the *Toro* at the time of the grounding. There are no reports of injuries or pollution at this time. Responders were on scene at the vessel within a very short period of time. An initial

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dive survey has been completed to assess the damage to the vessel and provide the basic information necessary to develop a salvage plan to refloat the vessel. Today, representatives from the US Coast Guard, the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) (U.S.), the Saint Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC) (Canada), Transport Canada and the vessel's owners and insurers will meet to assess the situation and discuss possible salvage options. The cause of the incident is under investigation by the US Coast Guard and Transport Canada. The results will be made known upon conclusion of the investigation.

London, Sep 8 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1340, UTC: Bulker *Toro* remains aground, with lightering required to facilitate refloating. A salvage plan is expected by the end of today.

Montreal, Sep 8 — Bulker *Toro* remains aground near Cornwall in the St. Lawrence Seaway. A refloating plan is being made and work should start on/about Sep 11. Some of the cargo of canola will have to be discharged in order to refloat her. — Lloyd's Agents.

Troy, Mich, Sep 9 — Bulker *Toro* is still aground out of the channel parallel to Cornwall Island Native Territory. It is reported that the pilot said port and and wheelsman went to starboard at buoy No.1. With a good current running at that juncture, there was no way to correct the ships heading as *Toro* was out of the channel when the mistake was noticed. The vessel grounded on rock which did considerable damage to bulbous bow and bottom up to No.2 hold. Offloading has not begun but when they do start some 4,000 to 5,000 tonnes will have to be removed. No final arrangements have been made as to who will tow the vessel and to where, and offloading will have to be done into shallow barges due to the vessel's location. — Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping News.

London, Sep 10 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1815, UTC: Bulker *Toro* is still aground. No salvage plan has been received up until now.

London, Sep 11 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1320, UTC: Bulker *Toro* remains aground.

London, Sep 12 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1505, UTC: Bulker *Toro*: Lightering operations commenced this morning and are anticipated to take between 24 and 36 hours.

Troy, Michigan, Sep 13 — It is reported salvage of the grounded bulker *Toro* would begin today. A partnership between McKeil Marine and Titan Salvage has received the bid to refloat the vessel. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

London, Sep 13 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1500, UTC: Bulker *Toro* remains aground with lightering operations still under way.

London, Sep 14 — A press report, dated Sep 13, states: Salvage operations for bulker *Toro* grounded in the St. Lawrence River began this week. Officials said it should take 36 hours to unload more than 3,000 of the 17,000 tons of grain from the ship. Once afloat the ship will then be towed away for repairs, but why the ship went aground is still under investigation.

TRADER (Georgia)

London, Sep 10 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: At 0755, UTC, Sep 9, general cargo *Trader* (5420 gt, built 1977) was not under command due to engine failure in lat 38 08.72N, long 24 45.79E, north of Cavo Doro Straits between Evia and Andros. The master requested assistance and a vessel of the Greek Navy, a rescue boat of the Coast Guard and a private tug proceeded to the area. The vessel anchored 0.8 nautical miles north of Andros and will remain there waiting to be towed.

Piraeus, Sep 10 — General cargo *Trader*, loaded with 7,137 tonnes of phosphates, was reported adrift due to main engine breakdown in lat 38 11N, long 24 48E, requesting immediate tug assistance. Weather was north-northeast, force 7 (near gale) and deteriorating. Our salvage tug *Matsas Star* sailed immediately from its Laurium salvage station and arrived near the casualty at 1500, local time, Sep 9, at which time the *Trader* was located in lat 38 00.45N, long 24 44.93E, only 0.4 nautical miles from the north coast of Andros Island. Vessel's owners signed Lloyd's Standard Form salvage contract and the *Matsas Star* connected tow immediately on its arrival, preventing the casualty from running aground on the rocky shore. It subsequently towed the vessel to Piraeus, where it safely arrived and anchored in the roads at 1700, local time, today. — Loucas G.Matsas Salvage & Towage.

TURECAMO GIRLS (U.S.A.)

See *Connecticut*.

VELOS (Cyprus)

London, Sep 10 — According to Lloyd's MIU, bulker *Velos* was stationary at Aabenraa, in lat 55 01 30.58N, long 09 26 14.63E, at 1847, UTC, Sep 9.

Gothenburg, Sep 11 — Bulker *Velos* arrived Aabenraa last Friday (Sep 8) in order to discharge 63,000 tons of potash. After the discharge the vessel will be repaired at Fredricia yard, possible temporary, for later final repair at other, still not decided yard. Vessel proceeded at slow speed and escorted by tug *Fenja*, Svitzer Wijsmuller and some environmental vessels for supporting and safety during the transport from the Danish Navy and Coast Guard. The cargo will be temporary stored at Aabenraa port for sometime before other vessel to load and bring it to China later. — Westax Marine Services AB.

WARRIOR SPIRIT (Bahamas)

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A broken bow thruster yesterday caused Tobago-bound passengers to spend 18 hours on board passenger ro/ro *Warrior Spirit* (11457 gt, built 1980). The passengers returned to Trinidad yesterday from Tobago, where the boat had not been allowed to dock the afternoon before. After watching the vessel being turned away from Scarborough, passengers waited for an explanation that came the next day. Communications Officer for the Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (PATT), Betty-Ann Gibbons, disclosed yesterday that "technical problems" had arisen. Gibbons said a broken bow thruster had forced the vessel to turn back without docking. She arrived in Scarborough at 1400 Wednesday. She turned back and headed for Trinidad, taking 10 hours to reach Port of Spain. The newly-acquired ferry usually takes under three hours to make the journey to and from the sister isle. One of the biggest problems arising out of the situation was the fact that a number of vendors were stuck on the vessel with perishable goods.

Trinidad, Sep 11 — Passenger ro/ro *Warrior Spirit* encountered electrical problems with bow thruster at Scarborough, Tobago and was repaired prior to berthing there on Sep 8. On her return voyage to Port of Spain, she was attended by an electrical engineer and problem rectified. Vessel has since been servicing the Port of Spain / Scarborough route without incident. — Lloyd's Agents.

YARD NO.203 ODENSE (DIS)

London, Sep 11 — Container Carrier *Yard No.203 Odense* now named *Emma Maersk*, arrived at Bremerhaven at 1645 hrs, Sep 10.

YONG AN 4 (Panama)

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

Port State Control



UNITED STATES

London, Sep 14 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The Coast Guard terminated the voyage of the 57-foot fishing (general) *Pacific Dream* (55 gt, built 1973) today south of Port Chehalis, Wash., near Grays Harbor, Wash., for failing to meet safety requirements. The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Alert, homeported in Astoria, Ore., was conducting a routine boarding when it found that the vessel had an invalid Certificate of Documentation, an expired Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon, and an inoperable and disconnected fixed fire system in its engine room. The vessel was also found to have insufficient cold-water immersion suits. The vessel is restricted from operating

until it fixes all its discrepancies. The Coast Guard strictly enforces boating safety laws and regulations and recommends that all commercial and recreational boaters comply with established requirements.

Seizures & Arrests



AEGEAN I (Greece)

London, Sep 11 — As at Sep 7, passenger *Aegean I* was still laid up Eleusis. — Lloyd's Agents.

BAI LONG QUAN (China)

London, Sep 11 — General cargo *Bai Long Quan* is currently still at Western Anchorage No.1, Hong Kong, under Admiralty and High Court arrest.

BRIGHT QUEEN (South Korea)

Port Klang, Sep 12 — Bulker *Bright Queen* has been auctioned and sold to successful bidder. Currently the vessel is in the port and awaiting documentation clearance. — Lloyd's Agents.

CABO VERDE (Portugal)

Buenos Aires, Sep 11 — General cargo *Cabo Verde*: According to our agents in Bahia Blanca, vessel will be scrapped. — Lloyd's Agents.

CHERYL ANNE (Philippines)

Manila, Sep 8 — Philippine authorities are set to file charges against the owner and crew of the barge *Cheryl Anne*, and tug *Jacob 1* (208 gt, built 1973) as well as the consignee of the *Cheryl Anne's* cargo, Power Zone Petroleum Products Corp. *Cheryl Anne* is owned by Manila-based Goldmark Seacarriers Inc. while the *Jacob 1* is owned by OSM Shipping Phils. Inc. Charges will be filed for violation of the country's customs and tariff code as well as violation of the hazardous waste act. Customs and Coast Guard authorities detained the *Cheryl Anne* and the *Jacob 1* on Sep 1 at Surigao port in Mindanao for bringing into the country 1.6 million litres of what the Customs Bureau described as 'nuclear waste'. The Republic of Palau, on the other hand, has strongly denied that the intercepted shipment was nuclear waste. "Palau is nuclear-free," President Tommy E. Remengesau Jr. said in a statement released by the Palau Embassy. The Palau president admitted, however, that the country had shipped some of its spent oil on the *Cheryl Anne*. The two vessels remain under custody of the Coast Guard at Surigao Port. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

DODEKANISIAKI ANONYMOS NAFTILIAKI ETAIRIA

Piraeus, Sep 11 — Local operator Blue Star Ferries announced today the sale of the Roll On Roll Off *Rodos* and

passenger ro/ro *Patmos* to Taymouth Ltd. and Attar Construction Ltd. respectively. As it is reported in the company's statement, the agreed price of sale amounts in 3,030,000 USD, while the appreciated profit from the sale amounts in roughly 100.000 Euros. — Lloyd's Agents.

EDCO (Egypt)

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated Sep 9, states: Bulker *Edco*, stranded for more than two months because of its owner's legal problems, may get to set sail in just a few days, according to a media report today. The owner has arranged for a \$2 million (€1.57 million) letter of credit to cover claims of a lawsuit that have kept the ship at the Port of Charleston since late June, The Post and Courier reported. Lawyers for both sides agree the line of credit means the ship does not have to stay in Charleston while the case is in court. The credit "substitutes for the ship as security and as a result, the ship is free to sail," Charleston lawyer Julius Hines, who represents the ship's Egyptian owner, told the newspaper. The ship and its crew of 29 could leave as early as Wednesday (Sep 13). Its likely destination is Venezuela, where it will undergo extensive repairs, the paper reported. In the meantime, the vessel also could be moved to a temporary mooring in Charleston Harbor, primarily to avoid paying the State Ports Authority for docking space. Charleston Coast Guard Capt. John E. Cameron told the newspaper there are no major maritime concerns from the government that would prevent the ship from leaving when it is ready. A Sept 21 auction to sell the ship also has been cancelled.

GREGORIO I (Panama)

Limassol, Sep 7 — General cargo *Gregorio I*, which arrived Limassol Sep 5 from Port Said, is now alongside Limassol port where the cargo will be partly discharged after a Court Order and is to be examined to see if it can be used for military purposes. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 8 — Greek Cypriot police were last night questioning the 15-member crew of general cargo *Gregorio I* suspected of smuggling weapons to Syria. *Gregorio I* was detained when it docked in the Cypriot port of Limassol to refuel. Customs officials found the vessel was carrying 18 truck-mounted mobile radar systems and three command vehicles. The cargo had been loaded in China and North Korea, a spokesman said.

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A ship bound for Syria from North Korea and detained in Cyprus on an Interpol alert for suspected arms smuggling was carrying an air defence system, Cypriot authorities said. The shipment was billed as weather-observation equipment on the freight manifest of general cargo *Gregorio I*. The ship was carrying 18 truck-mounted mobile radar systems and three command

vehicles. "The radars on the 18 trucks appear to be part of an air defence system," a police spokeswoman said.

JACOB 1

See *Cheryl Anne*.

NORDLAND (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Bilbao, Sep 11 — General cargo *Nordland* remains under arrest, situation unchanged. — Lloyd's Agents.

OTAPAN (Mexico)

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated today, states: For seven years the rusting, asbestos-ridden tank barge *Otapan* lay moored at Amsterdam, the subject of a dispute over who would pay for it to be broken up. The vessel then left under tow in late July for the port of Aliaga, after Simsekler ship-breaking had agreed to take it on the basis of documentation approved by the Dutch Environment Ministry stating its asbestos content as 1,000 kilograms. However, before the *Otapan* reached its destination it became known that it in fact contained 54 tons of asbestos. The Turkish authorities promptly withdrew approval for it to dock and the vessel is currently off the island of Lesbos while the crew of the towing vessel are standing by, reportedly with a month's supplies on board. In The Hague, a storm has broken over the head of Environment Secretary Pieter van Geel, with the opposition accusing him of misleading parliament on the issue. Following a futile trip to Ankara, where his Turkish counterpart Osman Pepe dismissed a plea to lift the block, an apologetic van Geel pledged that the Netherlands would not shirk its obligations. "We are not the owners but if anything goes wrong, we have the responsibility of taking it back," van Geel told parliament at the end of August. The ownership of the *Otapan* is confused. The original owners, Navimin of Mexico, brought the *Otapan* to Amsterdam in 1999 with the intention of removing the asbestos. The Dutch authorities uncovered unsafe practices — according to media reports the crew were stripping the asbestos out themselves without technical assistance — and called a halt to the operation. By 2004, Navimin was in financial difficulties, and its debts were taken over by Basilisk, another Mexican firm. According to the Dutch Environment Ministry, Basilisk sold the *Otapan* to Simsekler last month while it was under tow to the eastern Mediterranean. Van Geel has predicted a court battle over the ownership. "I refuse to simply stump up a few million. The owner is responsible," he told parliament. However, the ministry's website shows the environment secretary adopting a more conciliatory tone. "I acknowledge that we should have been more critical in this special case and that we should have investigated more thoroughly. Things could have been done better," van Geel says. He has pledged the

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vessel will not end up being stripped on a beach in Bangladesh or be towed out to deep waters and sunk. Whatever the legal position, van Geel is under political pressure from environmentally conscious members of parliament. Greenpeace believes permission should never have been granted for the vessel to leave Amsterdam and is threatening court action. The most likely option is for the *Otapan* to come home and be broken up at Dutch expense.

PATMOS (Greece)

See "Dodekanisiaki Anonymos Naftiliaki Etairia."

PETRISHCHEVO (Russia)

Batumi, Sep 12 — General cargo *Petrishchevo* (1652 gt, built 1964) has been impounded at Batumi due sailing in forbidden area (Zone 119). As per local rules, it has to pay a penalty of Georgian Lari 50,000, which is nearly US\$29,000. Vessel is currently in Batumi outer roads. — Lloyd's Agents.

RODOS (Greece)

See "Dodekanisiaki Anonymos Naftiliaki Etairia."

SEA SERENADE (Cyprus)

Koper, Sep 11 — Roll On Roll Off *Sea Serenade* is still in the drydock at Izola. ETS within the next 10 days. Agent (Adria cargo Ltd., Koper) informs that they are awaiting arrival of class surveyor. — Lloyd's Agents.

TALAVERA

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Venice, Sep 13 — General cargo *Talavera*: Local sources now indicate that negotiations are ongoing between shipowners and creditors. The case will be heard by the Court at the end of September when, depending on the outcome of those negotiations, a final decision will be made about a possible vessel's auction. — Lloyd's Agents.

TIBER (Albania)

Bari, Sep 7 — General cargo *Tiber* (470 gt, built 1971), which arrived at Bari on Jul 9, is currently under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd's Agents.

YONG HAN 9 (South Korea)

London, Sep 14 — A press report, dated today, states: South Korean fishing (general) *Yong Han 9* has been detained for poaching in Russia's exclusive economic zone off the North Kurils. Canadian and U.S. border guards informed Russia that four vessels of unknown nationality were fishing near the North Kurils, the public relations service of the Federal Security Service's Northeastern Border Department said. A border cutter of the Sakhalin Coast Guard was sent to the location. The border guards chased the poachers but managed to catch only one boat. The pursuit lasted for about an hour, and all that time the border guards were radioing demands to stop. The detained vessel surrendered only after the border guards fired warning shots into the air. *Yong Han 9*, registered in

Busan, was carrying a crew of Koreans, Indonesians, Vietnamese and Chinese. Gadgets for saury fishing were found onboard the boat, the source said. The vessel is currently being escorted to a Russian port on the Island of Shikotan for investigation.



FIROZABAD, INDIA

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A major leakage from a compressed natural gas pipeline of the GAIL (India) Ltd in Firozabad, caused dozens of glass factories of this city to stop production on Monday (Sep 11). This led significant losses due to the interruption of gas supply by the GAIL to control the fire that erupted from the pipeline after the gas leakage. According to the Firozabad fire department sources, a gas pipeline of GAIL, passing through the Budhnagar area of the town, suddenly developed a leak and caught fire after a short-circuit in an overhead power line. To prevent the fire from spreading out in the entire area from the leaking gas, GAIL officials were immediately called to close the gas valves, to control the flow of gas in the pipeline. Later, GAIL officials said the gas supply had been resumed by Monday afternoon after the leak was patched following the venting of residual gas from the pipeline. They said the closure of this pipeline had affected only a section of the city, and since the gas supply was resumed on the same day, no real loss was done to the consumers. But local industrialists blamed GAIL for closing down the gas supply without prior information to them, which had resulted in the labour sitting idle at the factories without work and in the form of delayed orders in about 30-35 factories of Firozabad from Kotla Chungi to Makkhanpur area.

LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 13 — BP PLC said yesterday it was working to clean up about 1,000 barrels of gas oil that leaked from an underground pipeline at the Port of Long Beach. The leak, first detected Friday (Sep 8) morning, occurred in a section of the 12-inch pipeline that is enclosed in concrete and runs beneath a railcar storage yard at the port, the oil company said. The pipeline carries gas oil - an ingredient used in refining gasoline and other fuels - from the port to a refinery. The company said the leak was contained, adding that none of the gas oil seeped into the ocean or any tributaries, nor had a significant impact on the environment. Robert Hughes, a spokesman with the state's Office of Spill Prevention and Response, echoed the company's assessment. The agency also said in a

statement that it hadn't found any accounts of wildlife being harmed. The cause of the leak at the port was still under investigation, said Cindy Wymore, a BP spokeswoman. In a statement, the company said it took full responsibility for the release of gas oil and its clean up. The Coast Guard also was involved in BP's clean-up effort and investigation into the leak. The Coast Guard said the company's response to the incident met the agency's requirements. As yesterday, about 870 barrels of the spilled gas oil had been recovered from a storm drain storage facility where the substance had collected and mixed with water, Wymore said. The liquid was being skimmed from the water, she added. Completing the clean-up, repairing the pipeline and getting it cleared by inspectors was expected to take at least another week, she said. One of the rail lines running on the area above the pipeline was shut down due to the clean-up effort, Wymore said. Otherwise, operations at the port were not affected by the leak, said Art Wong, a spokesman for the port.

PORTLAND, OREGON, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 14 — A press release, dated Sep 12, states: Kinder Morgan Energy Partners L.P. has notified shippers of product that its Oregon pipeline running from Portland to Eugene, Ore., has been shut down while they conduct an inspection inside the Portland pump station, according to a shipper on the pipeline. The pipeline is expected to be shut for the remainder of the day. The shipper said there is a firm indication of a leak somewhere in the system.



BIDEFORD DOLPHIN (Singapore)

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: About 50 cubic meters of oil-based mud and base oil leaked onto the seabed from the drill platform *Bideford Dolphin* (16813 gt, built 1975) late Saturday (Sep 9). The leak occurred because of a break in a pipe during drilling. The well has been secured and there is no danger of further emissions. The emergency preparedness organisation and containment resources have been mobilized. No oil has been observed on the surface, and the area will be checked regularly. The incident will be investigated. The rig is owned by Fred Olsen Energy asa, but is working for Hydro in the Oseberg area.

LIANXING, HUNAN PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A leak of an arsenic compound from a waste tank at a chemical plant in central China poisoned the drinking water of 80,000

people, with authorities today issuing urgent warnings. The people of Chengguang in the district of Yueyang in Hunan province were warned not to drink water from the tap. A plant employee said: "Many people are buying large quantities of drinking water from shops. Others are going to stay with people they know in neighbouring villages who have their own wells." Restaurants were empty as people were concerned about how safe the water was. The authorities sent 18 fire engines to the area to deliver fresh water to residents, China's official Xinhua news agency reported. There were "sufficient" water supplies for everyone, an employee of Yueyang Information Bureau said. The pollution by arsenide, a compound of arsenic, was discovered Friday (Sep 8) during a routine inspection of the water quality in the Xinqiang River, Yueyang's Environment Agency said. "We found elevated levels," the agency said. Xinhua said the levels were 10 times the permitted standard. The authorities sounded the alarm and put an emergency plan into action. The Tieshan reservoir further upstream has been releasing water since yesterday to dilute the poison and increase the flow speed of the river. The authorities have permitted the additional use of groundwater, Xinhua reported. The cause of the spill was a chemical plant 50 kilometres upstream in Linxiang which was shut down following the leak in its waste tank. Xinhua said that arsenide was highly poisonous and that it could cause illness, vomiting, stomach pains and muscle cramps and could lead to coma and death in serious cases of poisoning. Longterm arsenide exposure leads to liver damage and cancer of the kidneys, lungs and skin. Schools were temporarily closed and the children sent home, people in the affected area said.

SAVANNAH RIVER, UNITED STATES

London, Sept 13 — A press report, dated Sept 12, states: Container Carrier *CMA CGM Vernet* (35595 gt, built 1994) pumped a ballast tank contaminated with heavy fuel oil into the Savannah River in the early morning hours of July 17, it has been learned. Cmdr. David Murk, commanding officer of Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Savannah, would neither confirm nor deny the vessel's involvement yesterday, saying only that his office has completed its investigation of the 22,000-gallon spill that closed Savannah's port for 10 hours and stained the shoreline and marsh grass with a thick black sludge. However, a Coast Guard detention report indicates *CMA CGM Vernet* was detained July 23 in Hampton Roads, Va., after it passed through the Port of Savannah July 17. According to the report, although the vessel's crew was made aware of a crack in the common bulkhead for the No.4 fuel tank and adjacent ballast water tank, the crew "did not follow restrictions regarding the non-use of the No.4 fuel tank.

Because of the crew's actions, a ballast tank was contaminated with fuel oil and was subsequently pumped out into the Savannah River, causing a pollution spill." All reasonable precautions to prevent a spill were not taken by the crew, the report concluded. When asked to confirm the vessel's identity Monday, Murk only would say that evidence collected in the investigation had identified a "probable source" of the spill, and that investigators intend to initiate civil penalty proceedings based upon the evidence. With the investigative side of the process complete, Murk's office will turn the proceedings over to a Coast Guard hearing officer, most likely in Miami or Virginia, he said. "The officer will hear both sides, evaluate the evidence and decide if there is enough to move forward," he said. "This part of the process could take from a couple of months to a couple of years." Murk said his office will not release the name of the vessel until the case has been resolved. A maximum civil penalty of \$1.6 million could be assessed for the approximately 22,000 gallons of oil that were discharged.

TETNEY, LINCOLNSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sep 14 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: East Coast fishermen were this afternoon keeping a close eye on their grounds following a major spill of heavy crude oil from a coastal tank farm near Grimsby. The incident was reported at the giant ConocoPhillips complex on the Lincolnshire Coast at Tetney. It is estimated that around 100,000 litres of crude oil have leaked from one of the tanks and staff are fighting to prevent it spreading into the water courses and into the sea. They are also taking measures to prevent fire. Police have sealed all roads leading to that part of the coast, although it is thought the spillage is now being brought under control. Oil is pumped from offshore oil tankers and stored in several nearby tanks. It is held there before being transferred to the ConocoPhillips refinery near Immingham. But the Tetney facility is close to a number of important inshore fishing grounds, a seal sanctuary and one of the most important bird nature reserves in Europe. And the Humber estuary is home to one of the busiest oil tanker routes in Europe. A smell of oil has been reported, but all the company would say is that their staff were dealing with the incident and things were now coming under control.



AUSTRALIA

Sydney, Sep 8 — P&O Ports and Patrick Stevedores expect ship movements at Port Botany to return to

normal over the weekend (Sep 9-10) after storm force winds closed the port and delayed up to eight vessels yesterday. Sydney recorded winds of more than 50 knots and 10 metre swells, forcing the closure of the port for much of the day. A spokesperson for Sydney Ports said there were eight vessels waiting off the coast this morning, two because the winds were too strong for pilots to board and six because of delays at the berths. Both terminal operators — P&O Ports and Patrick Stevedores — closed down cranes and shut down parts of their ground-handling facilities during the day. P&O kept its receipt and delivery areas open, but closed other sections because of containers being blown over by the wind. Similar safety concerns had prompted Patrick to close the road into its terminal, but both stevedores managed to continue operating for most of the day. Vessel movements were suspended at 1700 hrs, before being re-opened on a "case by case basis" this morning. Southerly winds of up to 35 knots are also slowing the arrival of vessels that were due to be waiting offshore. Both stevedores expected vessel movements to return to normal in the next 24-48 hours, depending on weather conditions over the weekend. The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting fresh to strong southerly winds to continue into tomorrow with showers to continue until the middle of next week. Newcastle Port Corporation reported that it was operated with restricted movements since yesterday, when several vessels had been sent to ride out the adverse weather off the coast. Port Kembla Port Authority said it was not adversely affected by conditions. — "Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News."

Sydney, Sep 11 — Sydney Ports expects to clear a small backlog of vessels at Port Botany by tomorrow after weather conditions improved over the weekend. Container movements were slowed as storm force winds and strong swells forced the temporary closure of the port on Thursday (Sep 7). Both terminal operators - P&O Ports and Patrick Stevedores - had temporarily closed sections of their operations because of the strong winds. Restricted pilot transfers and the limited work at the berths had delayed eight vessels on Friday morning. Sydney Ports said it had cut the queue back to three vessels, with pilot transfers now back to normal. Tighter safety controls at the bulk liquids berth meant that the continued swells were still limiting tanker movements this morning. Meanwhile, vessels are now leaving the port of Newcastle after the strong winds and big swells limited ship movements over the weekend. The Newcastle Port Corporation said it would look at its scheduling after a significant blow out in its queue over the weekend. The port has 31 vessels waiting off the coast, with only 17 vessels having entered the port in the last week. The port normally handles about 25 vessels each week, typically

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maintaining a queue of between 10 and 20 vessels. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

Sydney, Sep 12 — Coal stockpiles at the port of Newcastle have grown by almost a half a million tonnes after wild weather along the east coast over the weekend forced at least four disruptions to the Hunter coal network and affected 15 vessels. Vessel queues off the coast of Newcastle yesterday had blown out to 31, up by eight vessels a week earlier, after high seas and strong winds limited ship movements over the weekend. Only 17 vessels entered the port in the week to yesterday, down by about eight on normal vessel movements. The port now has almost 500,000 tonnes more coal in its stockpiles than it did at the end of August. The two terminals had about 1.17m tonnes of coal between them yesterday, compared with about 612,000 tonnes at the end of August. Minor flooding along the rail network to the port has also affected work on the Sandgate flyover, the Australian Rail Track Corporation's (ARTC) \$67m project to clear a known bottleneck near the port. The Hunter Valley Coal Chain Logistics Team (HVCCLT) - the consortium of coal miners, rail operators and the Newcastle Port Corporation - is working to clear the backlog by adjusting scheduled maintenance work along the rail corridor and at the port. HVCCLT general manager Anthony Pitt said the limited vessel movements had slowed the whole process. "We've kept the rail program running as best we can to the point where port stocks are at a level where we're reducing assembly rates," Mr Pitt said. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

ETHIOPIA

London, Sep 14 — A press report, dated today, states: The number of Ethiopians affected by last month's devastating flash floods has reached 357,000, including 136,528 forced to abandon their homes, a U.N. humanitarian agency said today. Flooding from overflowing rivers has killed some 1,000 people in parts of Ethiopia, Sudan, Eritrea and Somalia since early August. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) said Ethiopia's northern Amhara region was the worst-hit in the giant Horn of Africa nation, with 97,000 people affected, of which 37,000 have lost their homes. "Large areas of cropped land in the Amhara region are swamped by the floods," it said in a report. The report said Lake Tana, source of the Blue Nile River, has expanded by 50 meters and increased the risk of further flooding. Dembia district in northern Gondar zone is among the areas that have suffered severe flooding, with six temporary shelters only accessible by boat, the U.N. report said. UN-OCHA estimates the number of flood-affected people in the southern Oromia region has risen to 77,000 due to fresh inundations in eight districts in East Haraghe zone where 2,000 hectares (4,900 acres) of farmland was flooded.

The number of affected people in Mustahil and Hargeisa in Ethiopia's Somali region has reached 45,000 and 32,450 respectively, it added.

HURRICANE "FLORENCE"

London, Sep 8 — A press report, dated Sep 7, states: Tropical storm "Florence" held its strength in the open Atlantic early today, still far from the US but large enough that forecasters warned it could create high surf and rip currents along the East Coast within the next five days. The storm's forecast path puts it over the Bermuda area on Monday or Tuesday (Sep 11-12), forecasters said. "The concern would be Bermuda at this point, how close the destructive force winds will move toward it," said Dave Roberts, a Navy forecaster at the National Hurricane Centre. The storm had maximum sustained winds near 50 mph today and tropical storm force winds extending up to 405 miles from its centre. Its sustained winds were expected to strengthen today and tomorrow and pass the 74 mph threshold for a hurricane by the time it nears Bermuda. Even though the forecast shows the storm's centre will probably remain off the US coast, its large size meant that ocean swells could cause high surf and rip currents from the mid-Atlantic states northward by Tuesday, said Stacy Stewart, a senior hurricane specialist at the hurricane centre.

London, Sep 10 — Bermuda's government has issued a hurricane warning after forecasters predicted that a tropical storm bearing down on the island could strengthen. At 2100 GMT, Tropical storm "Florence" was 745km south of Bermuda, moving north-west at 20km/h, the US National Hurricane Center said. People across the British territory have been preparing for the storm, boarding up windows and moving boats. According to the US hurricane centre Bermuda is likely to experience 13-20cm of rain and heavy sea surges as a result of "Florence's" arrival. "The public is encouraged to stock up on normal hurricane supplies and to secure their homes, lawn furniture and any other loose items which could be affected by high winds," Home Affairs and Public Safety Minister Derrick Burgess said. Bermuda's only airport was set to close at 2200 hrs and boatyards and marinas across the island have been secured. Some tourists have left, but the vast majority are reported to be staying put. The authorities insist that they have the situation under control.

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated today, states: "Florence" intensified into the second hurricane of the Atlantic season today as it headed for Bermuda, where residents installed storm shutters and hauled their yachts onto beaches. Florence was expected to reach the tiny British territory tomorrow, according to the National Hurricane Centre in Miami.

However, it was too early to tell whether it would make a direct hit. The storm was a Category 1 hurricane with maximum sustained winds near 80 mph with higher gusts. "Florence" was expected to become a Category 2 hurricane as it passes Bermuda, the hurricane centre said. The storm was expected to veer away from the US coast as it turns north towards Bermuda but forecasters said its large size could also create high surf and rip currents along parts of the eastern seaboard. "Those waves will affect a good portion of the US East Coast from basically Florida all the way up to the Cape Cod area," starting today through the early part of next week, hurricane specialist Stacy Stewart said. "When those large swells come rolling in to the coastline they tend to produce dangerous and potentially deadly rip currents." Bermuda issued a hurricane warning. The government urged its 65,000 residents to take precautions and volunteers were mobilized. The hurricane centre said tropical storm force winds could hit the North Atlantic Island by this afternoon. At 0800, EDT, the centre of the hurricane was about 305 miles south-south-west of Bermuda and was moving towards the north-north-west at close to 15 mph. The hurricane centre said Bermuda was expected to get five to eight inches of rain, with up to 10 inches possible in some areas. In boatyards and marinas in Bermuda boat owners dragged their yachts onto beaches or secured their moorings. Authorities said they were closing the island's only airport, Bermuda International Airport. Flights from New York and Miami scheduled to arrive late yesterday have been cancelled. Ferries stopped running yesterday afternoon and bus service was to end at 1300 today. Authorities have opened a shelter in the island's centre and the public utility has warned there may be power outages due to the high winds. Public schools and government offices will be closed tomorrow. Acting Police Commissioner Roseanda Young said arrangements have been made for tourists to leave after the airport shuts down, with commercial airlines and private jets helping out. "All tourists have been given the opportunity to leave. Those still here have chosen to stay," she said. Large ocean swells were affecting Bermuda and the northern coasts of the Caribbean islands, including Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, the hurricane centre said.

London, Sep 11 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Florence": A hurricane warning remains in effect for Bermuda. At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of hurricane "Florence" was located near lat 31.8N, long 66W. Present movement is towards the north at 12 mph. Maximum sustained winds are 80 mph with higher gusts. Hurricane-force winds extend outwards for up to 60 miles from the centre, while tropical storm winds extend outwards up to 290 miles.

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Florence's" remnants headed for the Canadian coast with tropical storm-force winds today. The Canadian Hurricane Center warned that "Florence's" remains could bring sustained winds of 45 mph to the eastern peninsulas of Newfoundland and southern parts of the island during the day. As an extratropical storm, "Florence's" remnants were drawing energy from the collision of warm and cold fronts, rather than the warm ocean waters tropical systems feed on.

HURRICANE "GORDON"

London, Sep 13 — Hurricane "Gordon", out in the central Atlantic, had top sustained winds of 75 mph, just above the 74 mph threshold for a hurricane today. The third hurricane of the Atlantic season formed yesterday night, but appeared destined to remain over open water and not threaten land, the National Hurricane Center in Miami said. "It's possible that some waves could make their way toward Bermuda, but right now the forecast track has "Gordon" well to the east of Bermuda," hurricane specialist Michelle Mainelli said. She said the British territory shouldn't even get tropical storm-force winds. At 0500, EDT, "Gordon" was centred about 605 miles north-northeast of the Leeward Islands and moving north at about nine mph, forecasters said.

Miami, Sep 13 — Hurricane "Gordon" gained strength as it swirled through the Atlantic Ocean today but posed no threat to land. "Gordon's" maximum sustained winds grew to 110 miles per hour, making it a strong Category 2 hurricane, and it was expected to become a "major" Category 3 storm in the next day, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. "Gordon" was about 570 miles south-east of Bermuda at 2100, GMT, and was moving north at 12 mph, the hurricane centre said. — Reuters.

London, Sep 14 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: The National Hurricane Centre, Miami, report: Hurricane "Gordon" centre located near lat 28.7N, long 56.6W, at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate to within 30 nautical miles. Present movement NNE or 30 deg at 11 knots. Maximum sustained winds 105 knots with gusts to 130 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 120 nautical miles NE and SE and 85 nautical miles SW and NW.

NEPAL

London, Sep 10 — At least three people were killed and four others feared dead in a landslide in Tanahun district while hundreds of houses have been inundated by floods following torrential rain across the country yesterday. All six members of 60-year-old Sukra Giri's family at the remote village of Gordi in Tanahun district were buried when a landslide hit the house yesterday, reported our

correspondent Ghanshyam Khadka. Meanwhile, reports from Chitwan district said Narayangadh bazaar and Bharatpur area in Chitwan remained flooded following torrential rain that crippled normal life in the region today. According to the Red Cross, Chitwan branch, as many as 300 households of the Baseni region of Bharatpur were flooded after water in the nearby Umdi River overflowed its banks and reached the town. Similarly, residents of Narayangadh from Pulchowk to Sahid Chowk, Lions Chowk were mainly affected by the floods that saw roads submerged three feet below the water level. The flood has affected traffic in the area as well. After water levels subsided in the afternoon today, traffic and electricity supply resumed in Narayangadh. But the continuous rainfall in other regions has hampered rescue operations, the local administration commented, adding that rescue teams have already reached the site of the floods. Lightning strikes that accompanied the rain today interrupted telephone services at Bharatpur-12 area. The floods also swept away two houses in Agra VDC of Makwanpur. Although no human casualty has been reported, the flood carried off some cattle. According to sources, the deluge has started to wash away sections of the highway as well. Meanwhile, one way traffic has resumed on the Prithivi Highway after dozers cleared away the rubble from the morning's landslide that had halted all traffic on that route. Similarly, all air traffic at Sankhuwa Sabha airport has been stopped since yesterday after the runway was rendered useless by the torrential rain. In Butwal today, a student remained missing after being swept away by a river.

NIGER

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: About 22,000 people have been left homeless and facing hunger after heavy flooding in Niger and Burkina Faso, the United Nations' humanitarian body said today. Niger has borne the brunt of almost four weeks of heavy rains, with almost 16,000 people affected, said Elisabeth Byrs, spokeswoman for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. To the west, in Burkina Faso, the figure is about 6,000. Besides destroying homes, the floods have also wiped out swathes of farmland and devastated herds of livestock, raising the spectre of hunger for a population that has long been vulnerable to food shortages. There are also rising fears that the disaster could fuel deadly outbreaks of cholera and malaria. Aid agencies are rushing supplies to the affected areas, including tents, food, medicines and mosquito nets, said Byrs. The floods have also affected other West African nations, including Mauritania, Mali and Nigeria.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, Sept 10 — The Pakistan railway bridge at Ran Pathani, some

80 kilometres from Karachi in Sindh Province, linking two cities with rest of the county, was washed away in rain on Friday (Sept 8). As a result, train service from the Karachi port has been suspended. This also halts movements of cargo trains. The railway bridge which had collapsed due to heavy rain on June 30, causing suspension of the train traffic from Karachi. The traffic was restored on Aug 21 through a temporary bridge, which too succumbed to rain on Friday. "The flash-flood carried away both up and down diversions around 1430 hrs," said Mir Mohammed Khaskheli, Divisional Superintendent Railways Karachi. — Lloyd's List Correspondent

SPAIN

London, Sep 11 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An electric storm that started shortly before 2000, last night caused extensive flooding in the village of la Aldea de la Concepci n (near the town of Priego de C rdoba), while a lightning strike sparked a forest fire in the nearby Sierra de los Leones. Around 20 homes were evacuated as a result of the floods as thick mud and water seeped in through toilets, drains and terraces. Eight cars were also seriously damaged, and may have to be written off, after they were swept away by the flood. Fortunately, none of the village's around 400 inhabitants was injured, and the forest fire was easily dealt with by fire-fighters, who were aided in their task by the torrential rain.

Madrid, Sep 14 — Torrential rain fell on eastern regions of Spain yesterday, flooding metro stations and delaying aircrafts in Barcelona, after a summer that saw one of the country's worst droughts on record. Trains were halted on the line between the eastern cities of Barcelona and Valencia and some roads in Barcelona were closed, media reports said. Regions still on alert for heavy rain included Catalonia in the east, and Aragon and La Rioja in the northeast, as well as the Balearics, a popular holiday destination. Water reserves have fallen to record lows for this time of year, raising fears of rationing in the southern regions of Alicante and Murcia. — Reuters.

TROPICAL STORM "ERNESTO"

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The state says Tropical Depression "Ernesto" left nearly 90 (m) million dollars in damages in its wake. Richmond accounted for more than half of the state's damage estimated, with 39 (m) million dollars in estimated cleanup and public repair costs. Along the Chesapeake Bay, hundreds of homes were left with major damage from Ernesto. Hardest-hit was Northumberland County. Reported damages to private residences and businesses there are estimated at nearly 18 (m) million dollars. The state has also closed the Virginia portion of the bay and its tributaries to shellfishing today through

tomorrow, citing waste washed into the waters by Ernesto.

TROPICAL STORM "HELENE"

Washington, Sep 14 — Tropical Storm "Helene" formed in the Atlantic Ocean west of the Cape Verde Islands late yesterday but did not immediately threaten land, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. The eighth named storm of the 2006 Atlantic hurricane season was located about 565 miles west of the southernmost Cape Verde Islands at 2300, EDT. It was moving west-northwest about 22 miles per hour across the Atlantic, the centre said. Carrying maximum sustained winds of 40 mph with higher gusts, it was expected to keep moving in the same direction today. — Reuters.

TYPHOON "PRAPIROON"

London, Sep 11 — Bulker *Yong An 4* sailed from Hong Kong at 1253 hrs, Sep 9, bound for Guangzhou.

TYPHOON "SHANSHAN"

London, Sep 14 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Shanshan" was located near lat 20.3N, long 125.5E. Movement over past six hours 295 deg, at five knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on location by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 85 knots, gusting to 105 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 135 nautical miles NW and Ne, 145 nautical miles Sw and 150 nautical miles SE.

UNITED STATES

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Rockford, Illinois, Mayor Larry Morrissey says the total damage in his city from the Labour Day (Sep 4) flash flooding could exceed 30 million dollars. Morrissey said yesterday that nearly one thousand homes were affected by the flooding and that he still didn't know the total number of people affected. Morrissey gave the preliminary damage estimate as three teams from the Federal Emergency Management Agency canvassed the neighborhoods where the flooding occurred. Representatives from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the Small Business Administration were also assisting with the assessment, which is expected to be completed today.

VIETNAM

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Floods and storms have killed 24 people in Vietnam's southern Mekong Delta. The victims of the recent heavy downpour were from the two provinces of An Giang and Dong Thap. Flooding also inundated many houses, schools, irrigation works, paddy fields, and aquaculture ponds in the delta. Flooding and landslides caused by torrential rain in Vietnam has killed around 42 people and injured 20 last month. Among the victims, 12 died in

landslides in the two northern provinces of Yen Bai and Cao Bang.

Earthquakes



ARGENTINA

London, Sep 12 — A report, dated today, states: An earthquake occurred at 1330, UTC, today, in lat 28 79S, long 68 64W, La Rioja, Argentina, depth 12 km.

GULF OF MEXICO

Washington, Sep 10 — A strong earthquake rumbled in the Gulf of Mexico today and was felt across the southeastern United States, the U.S. Geological Service said. The quake, with a magnitude of 6.0, came from about 6.2 miles below the Gulf surface, about 250 miles south-southwest of Apalachicola, Florida. The quake, which hit at 1056, EDT, was felt in parts of Florida, Georgia and Alabama. There were no reports of damage or casualties. The USGS said there was no danger of a tsunami. — Reuters.

INDONESIA

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A magnitude 6.2 earthquake struck Indonesia today, the U.S. Geological Survey said in an e-mailed report. Local officials said it wasn't likely to cause a tsunami. The offshore earthquake was centred beneath the Flores Sea, about 251 kilometres northwest of Ende, Flores Island, at 1213, local time, the USGS said. The earthquake centre at Indonesia's Meteorology and Geophysics Agency recorded the tremor's magnitude as 6.6.

Volcanic Activity



MOUNT MAYON, PHILIPPINES

Manila, Sep 11 — The Philippines lowered the alert level around a restive volcano in the central Philippines late today, opening the way for some people in temporary shelters to return to their homes and farms, officials said. After a month of predicting a hazardous eruption, volcanologists reduced the alert level from 4 to 3 around Mount Mayon due to reduced volcanic activity for more than 10 days. "There is a slowdown in Mayon's eruptive activities, there is a waning condition," said Renato Solidum, head of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs). Solidum said monitoring instruments around Mayon in Albay province had shown "decreased signs of volcanic activity". Phivolcs also cut the danger zone from 8 km to 6 km, but warned the volcano

"remains in an eruptive state because lava continues to extrude from the summit crater". "There is therefore a continuing threat of sudden explosion which could produce pyroclastic flows," Phivolcs said in an advisory late today. — Reuters.

MOUNT TALANG, INDONESIA

London, Sep 11 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Scientists have raised the alert level at a rumbling volcano on Indonesia's Sumatra island after it showed signs of increased activity, but a major eruption is not imminent, an official said today. Sensors on the slopes of Mount Talang in west Sumatra picked up increased volcanic activity and a buildup of gases, but the mountain did not send debris or lava down its slopes, said Dalipa Marjusi, an official at a monitoring post. "There is a possibility of a major eruption, but it is not imminent," he said. The 9,186-foot mountain was spewing brownish smoke some 820 feet into the air today, after the alert was raised to the second-highest level a day earlier, but nearby towns and villages were in no danger, Marjusi said. He said authorities had yet to evacuate 43,000 people living just outside a danger zone but were urging villagers and tourists to stay off the mountain's slopes.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

London, Sep 6 — Three British soldiers died in Afghanistan today, the Ministry of Defence said. One soldier was killed and six injured by a landmine in southern Afghanistan. A spokeswoman said five of the injured were in serious condition. The incident took place in the north of Helmand province, where Britain has about 4,000 troops as part of a NATO peace force. A second soldier was killed in another clash in the province. The third fatality was a soldier who had been wounded in a previous clash last Friday (Sep 1) and later died of his injuries. — Reuters.

London, Sep 7 — A press report, dated Sep 6, states: US troops today launched a fearsome barrage of artillery and rockets into a mountainous militant stronghold in eastern Afghanistan, where they suffered their deadliest combat loss more than a year ago. Despite high casualties suffered by Taliban-led militants since the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001 and tough military action to root them out, insurgents still pose as deadly a threat as ever to the scores of troops from the New York-based 10th Mountain Division deployed near the Pakistan border. No militant casualty figures were immediately available from the heavy bombardment. The

barrage was aimed at locations some three miles deep into the Korangal Valley, where al-Qaida and Taliban fighters have set off roadside bombings and staged ambushes targeting US and Afghan forces operating in the region. "We have had nonstop contact for several days and the enemy is on the run," said Staff Sgt William Wilkinson, who heads a team firing mortars towards militant positions. "We have cut them off a couple of times and they are not doing as well as they thought they would." The Korangal Valley was the scene of a Jun 28, 2005, ambush by militants of a four-man team of Navy SEALs, three of whom were killed. The fourth was rescued days later. A US helicopter sent to find the SEALs crashed in the valley on that day after being hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, killing 16 American troops in the deadliest single attack on the US military since the war began here in 2001. "This is a place where the Taliban and al-Qaida have been known to roam freely, and right now we are putting a stop to that," Wilkinson said. Afghan and US officials have long expressed frustration that militants appear to have a free run along the rugged Pakistan border, although Pakistan is a key ally in the war on terror. The echo of cannon fire rumbled through the valley overnight and during the day today as howitzers fired round after round of 155 mm artillery shells toward insurgent positions. Apache helicopters fired rockets into hilltop positions.

London, Sep 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A suicide car bomb struck a convoy of US military vehicles in Kabul today, killing at least 10 people and wounding 17, police said. Two American soldiers were among the dead and two others among the wounded, the US military said. The blast, which took place near the US Embassy in the Afghan capital, tore a military vehicle into two burning chunks and scattered debris and body parts over a 50-yard radius. It rattled windows throughout the downtown area and sent a plume of brown smoke spiraling into the sky. Eight Afghan civilians were killed and 15 were wounded, said Interior Ministry spokesman Yousef Stanezai. Two American soldiers were among those killed, and two were wounded, said US military spokeswoman Lt. Tamara Lawrence. The attacker also died.

Kabul, Sep 10 — A suicide bomber assassinated an Afghan provincial governor today, as NATO said it killed almost 100 more Taliban fighters in its biggest offensive against the resurgent Islamist group. Governor Hakim Taniwal, a former mines minister who once lectured in an Australian university, is the first provincial chief killed since the Taliban fell five years ago, although there have been many assassinations attempts around the country. His driver also died when the bomber threw himself on the governor of Paktia province, bordering Pakistan, as he was entering his car, police said. The killing came as NATO

said its forces and Afghan soldiers killed 94 Taliban insurgents in a battle in the southern province of Kandahar, the Taliban's heartland, in its biggest offensive against the rejuvenated Islamist movement. Backed by close air support, the militants were killed in two areas of Kandahar in four encounters that started yesterday and lasted until just after dawn today, NATO said in a statement. If true, the latest casualties would bring to more than 400 the number of Taliban killed since NATO launched Operation Medusa just over a week ago. About 20 NATO soldiers have been killed in the offensive, 14 of them British troops whose aircraft crashed in the opening hours. Last night, two coalition soldiers, one during the Medusa offensive and another in combat in adjacent Zabul province were killed, NATO said in another statement. Defence chiefs from NATO's 26 nations agreed yesterday they needed more troops and fewer limitations on the use of their forces to step up the fight against the Taliban. However, despite demands from commanders on the ground, they made no pledges of extra troops after two days of talks in Warsaw. NATO officials said national defence chiefs had agreed to consult with their capitals on reinforcements. They will meet again on Wednesday (Sep 13) at NATO military headquarters in Mons, southern Belgium, for a so-called force generation conference aimed at matching the call by alliance commanders for between 2,000 and 2,500 extra troops. — Reuters.

ALBANIA

Bari, Sep 7 — Product tanker *Ambar* is still under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd's Agents.

BANGLADESH

Dhaka, Sep 10 — Hundreds of opposition activists marched in the capital Dhaka and set at least one vehicle ablaze as a day-long strike took hold across Bangladesh today, witnesses said. At least 30 people were injured in Dhaka when police tried to disperse protesters using batons. Police detained nearly 20 people. The main opposition Awami League party and its allies called the strike to protest police brutality during previous demonstrations and to demand electoral reforms ahead of next January's parliamentary polls. Yesterday night, protesters also torched a bus and damaged several vehicles in the capital, police and witnesses said. The strike today, a working day in mainly Muslim Bangladesh, began at dawn, shutting down schools, markets and businesses. Reports from the southern city of Chittagong said the strike had halted the delivery of goods from the country's main port and largely paralysed the city. The strike also shut country's two stock exchanges in Dhaka and Chittagong. — Reuters.

BOLIVIA

La Paz, Sep 8 — Supporters of leftist President Evo Morales clashed with opposition protesters striking over constitutional reform plans today, injuring at least 10 people, local media said. Businesses and schools shut down in Santa Cruz, Bolivia's most populous city, as part of the 24-hour general strike staged in four of the South American country's nine provinces in the biggest challenge yet to Morales' leadership. The government of Morales, who became Bolivia's first Indian president after years leading street protests, played down the strike, while the rightist opposition Podemos party said the regions had been "paralyzed." Interior Minister Alicia Munoz said the strike was "a total political failure" because few Bolivians took part. The most violent clashes between Morales' supporters and opposition protesters took place on the outskirts of the eastern city of Santa Cruz, Bolivia's economic powerhouse and the leading voice among four provinces that want greater autonomy from the central government. Protesters attacked the local offices of the state television channel with Molotov cocktails in the early hours, television pictures showed. In downtown Santa Cruz, shops and schools were shut, streets were empty, public transportation was at a standstill and protesters blocked main roads into the city, the reports said. Regional leaders said natural gas exports would not be affected by the strike. — Reuters.

BURUNDI

Dar es Salaam, Sep 4 — Burundi's last remaining rebel group today said it had not yet seen a ceasefire it is supposed to sign this week, which may further delay a crucial step toward lasting peace in the central African country. Agathon Rwaswa, leader of the Hutu Forces for National Liberation (FNL), said he did not know whether the proposed deal addresses military reforms it has demanded from the Burundi government, a sticking point for the talks. "We don't know exactly what is going to happen, as we don't even have the draft of the ceasefire to be signed on Thursday," Rwaswa told reporters. South Africa has been mediating talks between FNL and Burundi since May. In June, the two sides signed an agreement to stop fighting while they negotiate, and a July deadline for a ceasefire ended without a deal. The FNL wants Burundi's security organs reformed before it signs any agreement and has refused to join the army and police as recommended in a U.N.-backed plan to end civil war that started in 1993. The chief mediator, South African Safety and Security Minister Charles Nqakula, has previously said the FNL had been convinced to drop an earlier demand that the army is dissolved. Rwaswa said the handling of FNL soldiers as they returned from the bush and the demand for government soldiers to return to their barracks had not been addressed. "We told them

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that we were ready to dissolve, but of course they have to think about what will happen to us as a political movement, what will happen to our combatants. All of these haven't yet been discussed," he said. Nqakula, who arrived in Tanzania today for a final round of talks, was not available for comment. A peace deal between FNL and the government is seen as one of the final steps toward restoring stability to the country. Burundi has been on edge in recent weeks since high-profile arrests in an alleged plot to kill the president and overthrow the government. Among those arrested was former President Domitien Ndayizeye. Critics say the plot was invented by the government to squash dissent. The government and prosecutors deny that. — Reuters.

London, Sep 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Burundi's government and the country's last rebel group signed a comprehensive cease-fire today as the tiny African country emerges from 12 years of civil war. The agreement was signed by President Pierre Nkurunziza and Agathon Rwasa, leader of the rebel National Liberation Force, said Dieno Khama, a South African mediator. Experts believed there could be no long-term peace in Burundi unless the government struck a permanent deal with the FNL. The two sides signed a tentative deal in June; details of today's deal were not released.

CHAD

N'Djamena, Sep 10 — Chad government forces fought with rebels opposed to President Idriss Deby today in the east of the landlocked central African country, a rebel spokesman and government military officers said. "There were clashes today," the rebel spokesman, Abdoulaye Abdelkarim, told Reuters by telephone. He said a force of more than 2,000 fighters led by his brother, Mahamat Nour, who heads a military faction of the rebel United Front for Democratic Change (FUC), was on the move in the Guereda region in eastern Chad, which borders with Sudan. "The objective is to head towards N'Djamena," he added, referring to the Chadian capital which lies some 700 km (440 miles) to the west of the latest reported fighting. Government military officers in N'Djamena, who asked not to be named, said clashes between government forces and rebels had taken place at Aram Kolle, 65 km east of the town of Biltine. "Government forces are in control of the situation," one officer said. Neither side gave details of casualties. — Reuters.

GEORGIA

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Four people are reported to have been killed in clashes in Georgia's breakaway region of South Ossetia. Georgian police said they were fired upon as they tracked smugglers. One of their number died and two were hurt. However South Ossetian police said they came under

fire from Georgian forces using heavy small arms and mortars, and that three of their number died. Last weekend a helicopter carrying Georgia's defence minister over the region was shot at. After the latest clash Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili said on television: "Our task today is not to yield to any large-scale provocations. Time is on Georgia's side." Mr Saakashvili vowed on his election in 2004 to re-unite the country, after its violent rupture in the early 1990s. Spasms of violence have interrupted a tense ceasefire. The latest clashes broke out at around 1100, yesterday. Later, a South Ossetian government spokeswoman Irina Gagloyeva said Georgian forces had opened fire with grenade-launchers and machine guns on the region's capital, Tskhinvali, at around midnight and that South Ossetian forces had returned fire. She said there were no reported injuries.

INDIA

Mumbai, Sep 8 — A series of bomb blasts in a Muslim-majority town in western India killed at least 32 people and wounded more than 70, mostly worshippers at Friday prayers, police said. The blasts came days after Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said intelligence agencies had warned of more terrorist attacks across the country, possibly on economic and religious targets as well as on nuclear installations. The bombs hit Malegaon town in the western state of Maharashtra as thousands of Muslims gathered at a burial ground for special Friday prayers, police said. There were two explosions at the burial ground and a third in a town square around 1350 hrs (0820, UTC), according to reports from the town, 260 km northeast of Mumbai. Maharashtra police told Reuters 32 people were killed and more than 70 wounded. But the Press Trust of India news agency quoted the state's deputy chief minister, R.R. Patil, as saying 37 were dead and more than 100 wounded. Although there were no leads reported about the attackers, Home Minister Shivraj Patil said it was apparently the work of "terrorists". A curfew had been imposed to prevent trouble in the town, a local textile manufacturing centre. Nearly three-quarters of Malegaon's 700,000 people belong to India's minority Muslim community. A Home Ministry official in New Delhi said federal forces, including the Rapid Action Force (RAF) used for riot control, were being rushed to Malegaon. Additional police were also being deployed across Mumbai and the capital New Delhi to prevent any trouble, police said. — Reuters.

IRAQ

London, Sep 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Two US Marines and one sailor were killed in fighting in Iraq's restive Anbar province, the US military command said today. Meanwhile, the Iraqi parliament voted to extend a state of emergency for a

month, and Britain's foreign secretary emphasized the importance of transferring control of security from the US-led coalition to the Iraqi government. The three US troops, all assigned to Regimental Combat Team 5, died on yesterday "due to enemy action," the military said in a statement. It did not provide any further details. Their identities were not released pending notification of their families. The deaths brought to eight the number of American troops killed in Iraq in combat-related violence over the past two days.

London, Sep 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Two bombs exploded within minutes of each other in north Baghdad today, killing at least nine people and wounding 39, police said. The explosions, one a parked car bomb and another a roadside bomb, were targeting a passing Iraqi army patrol at a busy intersection during the morning rush hour as people headed to work, police 1st Lt. Mohammed Khayun said. The car bomb had been parked in front of a tyre repair shop, witness Abdel-Majeed Salah, a local resident, told AP television. He said a minibus with passengers on board had been behind the parked car when it detonated, and all on board had been killed. Two of the dead and eight of the wounded were Iraqi soldiers, police said. In northeastern Baghdad, gunmen opened fire on a procession of pilgrims heading to the Shiite holy city of Karbala, 50 miles south of Baghdad, killing one and wounding two, police 1st Lt. Ali Abbas said. Mortar attacks in residential areas in Diyala province, north of Baghdad, killed three people: a two-year-old child in the Khan Bani Saad area and two people in Muqadiyah, about 60 miles north of Baghdad, police said. In Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, gunmen killed three construction workers waiting for a bus, while an employee in the Diyala police and army coordination office was shot to death as she left her house in the city's Tahrir neighborhood. Gunmen also killed the owner of a food store in the same area, police said. President Jalal Talabani expressed optimism yesterday that fighting would stop before the end of 2007, and he said Iraqi forces will be able to handle any remaining violence. "I don't think fighting will continue until then if the steps of national reconciliation go according to plan," he said after meeting with visiting British Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett. "If some groups are still fighting, our forces will be able to take care of it." Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's reconciliation plan seeks to bridge religious, ethnic and political divisions that have been tearing at Iraq with daily violence. Asked by reporters when Britain's 7,000 soldiers might be able to leave Iraq, Talabani said "by the end of 2007." "We've achieved good success in building our forces and equipping them with the necessary arms," he said, adding that "once violence declines, we will not

need the presence of multinational forces in Iraq." But Beckett cautioned that Talabani was "not setting a deadline" for troop withdrawal. "That's the president's personal opinion," she said. In today's parliament session, lawmakers approved a law on importing oil byproducts. The law sets out regulations concerning the rights and obligations of Iraqi and foreign private companies in importing oil byproducts and setting up gas stations, and details penalties for fuel smuggling. Although Iraq has the world's third largest proven oil reserves, it is currently suffering from an acute shortage of gasoline, kerosene and cooking gas. Yesterday, Iraqi Oil Minister Hussein al-Shahristani announced that the government will spend US\$800 million to import oil products during the rest of the year. A dispute over Iraq's flag also showed no sign of abating yesterday. Massoud Barzani, president of the Kurdish region, angered many in Baghdad with his decision Friday (Sep 1) to replace the Iraqi national flag with the Kurdish banner. The Kurdish region has been gaining more autonomy since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, a worrying development to many Iraqi leaders, especially Sunni Arabs. Iraq's first interim Governing Council after the fall of Saddam Hussein decided to change the country's flag, but no official version has been adopted. Talabani, a Kurd himself, said the media had blown the issue out of proportion. He said the current Iraqi flag "is the flag of (Saddam's) Baath Party" and that Kurds have always worked toward national unity. "The Kurds are not part of the problem, they are part of the solution," he said.

London, Sep 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Four bomb attacks targeting police patrols in Baghdad killed at least 14 people and injured more than 40 this morning, police said. A suicide car bomb targeting a police patrol outside a gas station near the Elouya Hospital in central Baghdad killed 10 people, including four policemen and wounded 18 people, including six policemen, police Lt Bilal Ali Majeed said. The blast damaged 20 cars, including six police vehicles, as well as several nearby shops. Earlier, a bomb hidden under a parked car near al-Nidaa Mosque in northern Baghdad exploded as a police patrol passed by, killing three civilians and wounding another 20, police Lt Thair Mahmoud said. The wounded included several members of the Iraqi security forces, Zakariyah Hassan of the Azamiyah police said. In western Baghdad, a roadside bomb in Qahtan Square near Yarmouk hospital wounded four people, including a policeman, Mahmoud said.

ISRAEL-LEBANON

Gaza, Sep 6 — Israeli airstrikes killed four Palestinian militants in Gaza today, the Israeli military and witnesses said, further stepping up violence in the coastal strip. In separate airstrikes on two vehicles,

Israeli aircraft killed four members of militant group Hamas in the southern Gaza town of Rafah. A spokeswoman said an aerial attack targeted a vehicle carrying members of Hamas who were "involved in terror attacks against Israeli targets". Witnesses said their charred remains were taken to hospital. There were at least two casualties. Commenting on a separate explosion earlier yesterday, an Israeli military spokeswoman said: "Two members of Hamas were in the vehicle at the time and were on their way to carry out an attack on Israel," she said. "There were secondary explosions which indicates there were explosives in the car." Palestinian medics and residents said 18 people were wounded in the first blast, which took place in a residential area. After the missile hit the car, people rushed to try and retrieve the men from the vehicle when there was another explosion causing the multiple casualties. The high number of wounded was also due to people exiting a nearby mosque at the time of the blast, residents said. Israel has pressed an offensive in the Gaza Strip for more than two months to try to recover a soldier who was abducted in a cross-border raid and to try to put a stop to rocket attacks on the Jewish state. More than 200 Palestinians have been killed, about half of them civilians. — Reuters.

London, Sep 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Lebanon's Ministry of Works and Transport has advised that the ISPS Security Level at all Lebanese ports and terminals has been upgraded to Level 2. Prior to this upgrade, ISPS Security Level 1 had been in force at all the country's ports and terminals since July 1, 2004.

Cairo, Sep 6 — Lebanese Foreign Minister Fawzi Salloukh said today his country would break Israel's blockade by force if it is not lifted in a 48-hour timeframe indicated by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Annan had told reporters in the Egyptian port city of Alexandria yesterday that he hoped for "positive" news within 48 hours in his efforts to persuade Israel to lift the sea and air blockade imposed on Lebanon. Israel later announced that it would lift the blockade at 1500, UTC, tomorrow, handing over control to international forces. Mr Salloukh also said that two Israeli soldiers captured by the Hizbollah guerrilla group will not be released unless there are talks with Israel about the exchange of Lebanese prisoners. Meanwhile, Israeli forces killed three Palestinians, at least one of them a militant, during separate operations in the Gaza Strip and West Bank today, witnesses said. They said an Israeli air strike near the Gazan town of Khan Younis killed one man, while another died in a separate incident nearby. Both men were civilians, the Palestinian witnesses said. The Israeli army denied that, saying that the first was with another armed man close to the border with Israel when he was targeted and the second was shot on suspicion of

planting explosives. In the occupied West Bank city of Jenin, witnesses said undercover Israeli commandos killed a member of the militant group Islamic Jihad when he tried to evade arrest. The army had no immediate comment. Today's deaths came hours after four militants, believed to be members of Hamas, were killed in two Israeli air strikes in the town of Rafah, also in the southern Gaza strip, overnight. A further 20 people were wounded in those strikes. — Reuters.

Beirut, Sep 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Israel said Wednesday (Sep 6) it would lift an eight-week-old air and sea blockade of Lebanon at 1500, GMT, Thursday, handing over control to international forces. Lebanese Information Minister Ghazi Aridi confirmed the move, saying "Lebanon's steadfast position" and "pressures" brought to bear on Israel had tipped the decision for the blockade, in force since Jul 13, to be lifted from Thursday evening. A statement from the Israeli Premier's Office said Ehud Olmert had been told by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan that "international forces are ready to take over control posts over the sea ports and airports of Lebanon." "Thus it was agreed that tomorrow [Thursday] at 1800. Israel will leave the control positions over the ports in conjunction with the entry of the international forces," a statement from Olmert's office said. German experts were to arrive at Beirut's airport later Wednesday, the statement said. German naval forces are also expected to arrive within two weeks to deploy on the Lebanese coast. Until the German forces arrive, Italian, French, British and Greek troops will carry out their task, the statement said. Annan had said earlier in Ankara he was hopeful the blockade would be lifted within 36-48 hours. Lebanese Foreign Minister Fawzi Salloukh said earlier on Wednesday his country would break the blockade by force if it is not lifted in 48 hours. In a sign the end of the embargo was imminent, British Airways said it was resuming direct flights to Beirut after the British government had given assurances it would be safe to do so. Lebanon's Middle East Airlines and Royal Jordanian began flying regularly into the capital last month, but have complied with Israel's insistence that all such flights go via Amman. Qatar Airways resumed direct flights to Beirut on Monday. Direct flights between Manama and Beirut will also resume on Saturday, carrying passengers and humanitarian aid. The Lebanese daily newspaper L'Orient Le Jour reported Wednesday requests had also been filed from Air France and Germany's Lufthansa to resume flights to Lebanon. In Paris, Air France said it had again begun taking reservations for flights to Beirut, hoping to resume flights from Friday. French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy reiterated France was ready to help monitor Lebanon's coast. — Lloyd's Agents.

Beirut, Sep 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Lebanon's public debt is expected to rise to \$41 billion by the end of the year as a result of the Israeli bombardment and continued air and naval blockade, Finance Minister Jihad Azour said on Wednesday (Sep 6). Azour said the cost of business and trade activity during the war was \$50 million per day. Azour said that the government will come up with a global approach to the problem which will focus on ways to cut the size of the public debt through additional soft loans. Indirect losses from the war, Azour said, total far more than the direct losses, which he put in the range of \$3 billion to \$3.5 billion. Some business groups have estimated the value of indirect losses at more than \$7 billion, but Azour said that figure's accuracy is questionable. The Tourism Ministry said that the sector lost more than \$2 billion in expected revenues during the summer season. Azour said the money and assistance pledged to Lebanon at the Aug 31 Stockholm donor conference and commitments from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait amount to more than \$2 billion. Apart from these pledges, the Finance Ministry received a total of \$103 million in cash from governments, multilaterals, companies, individuals, embassies and organizations. The Finance Ministry is expected to publish a detailed report on all assistance received by NGOs and other groups. — Lloyd's Agents.

Beirut, Sep 7 — We have just received from the office of Beirut International Chamber of Shipping a Circular Letter No. 2211/2006/18 contents of which state: "We have been informed this morning (Sep 7) from the office of his Excellency the Minister of Public Works and Transport Mr. Mohamed El-Safadi, stating that he has been officially advised by the United Nations, that Israel will lift air and sea blockade on Lebanon effective 1800, Sep 7". — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 7 — The 58-day-old Israeli sea and air blockade of Lebanon will be lifted at 1800, today. All Lebanese ports and terminals are therefore expected to revert to normal operations from tomorrow.

Beirut, Sep 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A much anticipated end to Israel's blockade of Lebanon fell short of expectations yesterday, with Israel announcing that it would continue its naval siege until international forces took up their maritime positions. Israel's last-minute decision to extend its naval blockade for another 48 hours came in response to a wave of domestic opposition from the military and families of two captured Israel soldiers to lifting the siege before the soldiers are returned. "The aerial blockade has been removed. In coordination with the United Nations, the naval blockade will continue until the international naval force is in place," Miri Eisen, a spokeswoman for Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, told reporters.

According to Israeli public television, the Israeli Army is expected to completely withdraw its troops from Southern Lebanon by Sep 22, coinciding with the Jewish New Year. Israel said the UN was still working out logistical issues, but expected the problem to be resolved within 48 hours, bumping the expected lifting of the siege to 1800, Saturday. However, Israel said earlier in the day it "reserved the right" to attack any suspected Hizbullah shipments from Syria. The hopes of Lebanon's industrial sector were dashed yesterday when Israel refused to lift the two-month-old naval blockade that has driven up the costs of production and consumer goods. The president of the Syndicate of Importers of Food Stuffs said the blockade has caused shipping costs to skyrocket, leading the price of some perishable foodstuffs to increase, while merchants are reporting shortages of fast-moving consumer items, including canned tuna, meats, grains, detergents, rice and soaps. The 42 members of his syndicate cumulatively import \$1 billion worth of goods per year from brands such as Procter and Gamble and Nestle. All of their shipments have been held in containers in various ports scattered across the Mediterranean since Jul 13. — Lloyd's Agents.

Beirut, Sep 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Prime Minister Fouad Siniora said Thursday that the ongoing Israeli naval blockade of Lebanon was the result of a "small problem between the United Nations and Israel, and will be resolved quickly." In a news conference held at the Grand Serail in the evening, the premier pledged that the government would protect its exclusive right to the use of force and exert its sovereignty over all Lebanese territory. Siniora listed the government's current priorities. "Our first priority is to fulfill the demands and the basic rights of our people. This should be achieved by rebuilding the infrastructure, including institutions and schools and facilitating the return of the displaced to their towns," he said. The government's second priority was to launch reconstruction projects and economic reforms. "We have been working for several weeks on a reconstruction plan and an economic plan that would create job opportunities for the youth and attract investors," the premier said, adding that the private sector "is asked to present its aptitude in that matter." — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Despite the announcement that the air and sea blockade on Lebanon would be lifted at 1800, Sep 7, it remains in force at the country's ports and terminals for the meantime. It is reported that the sea blockade could stay in effect for another 24-48 hours. However, no confirmation has been given so far.

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: With last week's lifting of the Israeli air and sea

blockade of Lebanon, the United Nations said today that air and sea traffic had begun returning to levels seen before the month-long conflict, while the UN food agency announced it would conduct a survey this month to assess reconstruction needs. "The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that, since the lifting of the Israeli blockade, air traffic is quickly resuming to pre-conflict levels and the lifting of the sea blockade has allowed commercial vessels to return as well," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters in New York. He said that eight vessels have now docked in Beirut's port, carrying wheat, cars and raw products for manufacturing, although import and export activity is not expected to return to normal in the country for another three or four months. Meanwhile, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) says it will conduct a damage and needs assessment mission in the agriculture, forestry and fishery sectors this month, Mr. Dujarric added, referring to a Rome-based UN agency. Earlier this month international donors pledged \$940 million to help Lebanon reconstruct following damage caused by the 34 days of fighting between Hizbollah and Israel. It is estimated that the country suffered around \$3.6 billion in physical damage alone during the fighting.

London, Sep 14 — Italy's environment ministry has dispatched two anti-pollution vessels to the coast of Lebanon, where they will work to clean up an oil spill caused by Israeli attacks on a power plant 30 km south of Beirut. Since the 15,000-tonne spill in August, the oil has spread over a 120 km area, reaching as far north as the coast of Syria.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, Sep 10 — Attacks on energy related infrastructure in south-western Province of Pakistan are continued. In a recent attack of rebel tribes, gas supply to many areas of Quetta city was suspended after a pipeline in Sariab area was blown up by last night, police told local media. High explosive were planted on the six-inch-diameter pipeline located near Tariq Hospital, police said, adding that a portion of the pipeline blew up, cutting off gas supply to Sariab, New Adha, Hazarganji and the adjoining areas. Gas utility official later reached the spot and started repair work. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Sep 12 — According to the Quetta Electric Supply Company (Qesco), saboteurs planted explosives round four pylons of 220kv Uch-Sibi-Quetta transmission line and 132kv Sibi-Mach-Quetta line and detonated it on Sunday night (Sep 10). As a result, power supply to 15 of the 29 districts of Balochistan, including Quetta, was disrupted in Pakistan. "The power supply to 28 out of 55 grid stations was affected and with blowing up of four towers Qesco is facing a shortage of 300MW electricity," Qesco

spokesman Jabrail Khan told local media and added that areas fed by the 28 grid stations would face eight to 10 hours of loadshedding. Qesco engineers and other staff had started work to replace the damaged towers. "Restoration of the two transmission lines will take at least two weeks to complete," the spokesman said, adding that Qesco would suffer a daily loss of Rs30 million until the supply was restored. The affected districts include Quetta, Kalat, Mastung, Khuzdar, Kharan, Nushki, Chagai, Pishin, Qila Abdullah, Zhob and Sherani. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PHILIPPINES

Kuala Lumpur, Sep 7 — Peace talks between the Philippine government and Muslim rebels broke down in Malaysia today without an agreement on the difficult issue of ancestral land, a source close to the talks told Reuters. Manila and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) have been holding talks for years over the specifics of a proposal for an enlarged Muslim homeland that is meant to end a nearly 40-year insurgency in the southern Philippines. "The impasse on the territory aspect of the ancestral domain continues," the source said after three days' of the latest round of talks in Malaysia, which has brokered the peace negotiations since 2001. "The respective panels are going back to consult their principals," the source said. The two parties issued no joint statement. — Reuters.

SRI LANKA

Colombo, Sep 4 — Sri Lanka's government said it pushed Tamil Tiger rebels from the mouth of strategic Trincomalee harbor in the island's restive northeast today, and that it would therefore halt its offensive. The military recaptured the southern edge of the harbour after days of artillery battles for control of the area called Sampur — the first major capture of enemy territory by either side since a 2002 ceasefire. The rebels had been able to shell a major naval base and disrupt a maritime supply route to the besieged army-held Jaffna peninsula to the north from their positions in Sampur. "We are in total control," said Keheliya Rambukwella, a government defense spokesman and minister for policy planning. "Thereafter, we will not continue with any offensive operations unless we are forced to as a result of enemy action." He said the entire harbour mouth, which had included several Sea Tiger bases, was now in government hands. The Tigers said they were still fighting troops with mortar bombs and small arms fire in Sampur's suburbs, and accused the government of trying to destroy what is left of the truce — which still technically holds on paper. "This is a severe breach of the ceasefire agreement with the Sri Lankan military taking LTTE-controlled areas," S. Puleedevan, head of the rebels' peace secretariat, said by telephone from the Tigers' northern stronghold of Kilinochchi. "They are

not honouring the ceasefire agreement. They are forcing it to the brink of collapse," he added. "On our side we are fully committed to it." Analysts fear the Tigers might launch attacks elsewhere in retaliation. Hundreds of troops, rebels and civilians have been killed and more than 200,000 people displaced during more than a month of renewed civil war. By yesterday, at least 14 soldiers had been killed and 92 wounded since the Sampur offensive began a week earlier. The army estimates around 120 rebels were killed there by the weekend. There were no details of any new casualties during today's advance. Analysts said the Tigers appeared to have pulled out of Sampur, a tiny settlement of a handful of rough houses and shops, a Sea Tiger memorial and an LTTE political office. Most of the civilian population had already fled south. Nordic truce monitors hoped the violence would now ease. Today's push came after the Central Bank's Financial Intelligence Unit said it had frozen bank accounts belonging to the Tamils Rehabilitation Organisation (TRO), effectively the rebels' humanitarian wing, amid a probe into whether aid money is being given to the rebels for weapons. The TRO said \$750,000 of its funds had been frozen, money it said was intended mainly for post-tsunami aid projects. Aid workers say the government is hampering access to Tiger-held territory, and obstructing operations by insisting staff obtain special work permits to go to the north and east. — Reuters.

Colombo, Sep 5 — Sri Lankan troops cleared mines and searched for boobytraps in newly captured Tamil Tiger terrain in the island's north-east today, the military said. Sporadic artillery fire from the rebels killed one soldier and wounded four others in the eastern Trincomalee area today. The army captured the southern edge of strategic Trincomalee harbour yesterday after days of artillery battles. It was the first major capture of enemy territory by either side since a 2002 ceasefire. Fighting has now subsided after the army captured the rebel-held settlement of Sampur, near Trincomalee, after weeks of the most intense battles in the east, and then the north, since the 2002 truce. "We are conducting search and clear operations in Sampur, clearing landmines from the area," said a military spokesman. "They have withdrawn from the Sampur area. They have not fired any weapons overnight." The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam had been able to shell Trincomalee's major naval base and disrupt a maritime supply route to the besieged army-held Jaffna peninsula to the north from their positions in Sampur. The latest episode in Sri Lanka's two-decade civil war began with air strikes on rebel territory in late July amid a dispute over a blocked water supply. The fighting then spread to Jaffna. A week ago, the army began an offensive to clear the rebels from Sampur. The military said

15 troops were killed and more than 90 were injured during the Sampur offensive. It estimates dozens of Tigers were killed. "Let's hope the military how now ended their offensive, because it could completely collapse the ceasefire agreement," said Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission spokesman Thorfinnur Omarsson. "The Tigers are asking us if the truce is over. We certainly hope it is not." The government and the rebels say they continue to stand by the terms of a 2002 truce, which still technically holds. However, the foes each blame the other for trying to force a full-scale return to a two-decade civil war that has killed more than 65,000 people since 1983. Hundreds of civilians, troops and Tiger fighters have been killed in the past month, and more than 200,000 people have been displaced and are now living in refugee camps across the island's rural north-east. — Reuters.

London, Sep 7 — A press report, dated Sep 6, states: The second ferry organised to transport civilians stranded in the Jaffna peninsula is yet to leave port due to a delay in receiving the necessary security approval from the International Committee of the Red Cross. The ferry is to transport stranded civilians in the areas of Trincomalee, Jaffna, Muttur and Kilinochchi. Essential Services Commissioner S. B. Divaratna said there were civilians stranded in areas of the Jaffna peninsula and they could not go through the A9 Road as it is uncontrollable with the ongoing war situation and also closed down, and they cannot board a specific flight because of sudden delays and attacks taking place. Divaratna observed that the only way out for these civilians was by sea. "It is not a case of these civilians fleeing the areas due to the war. It is because most of these people are from different areas and they want to go back to their posts," he said. There are up to 15,000-16,000 people stranded in the areas of Jaffna, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, Muttur and Kilinochchi. The Human Rights Commissioner also said that everything was ready and in place. The ferry has been hired and ready to move out but what is delaying the ferry is that the ICRC is yet to approve the security clearance. ICRC Spokesperson Slorian Westphal said: "As of yet we haven't had any updates on this particular situation and we will be getting in touch with some officials soon." According to Westphal the ICRC cannot give out any security clearance until the LTTE and the government could guarantee security.

Colombo, Sep 10 — The Sri Lankan army said today 28 soldiers and dozens of Tamil Tiger rebels had been killed during their advance across rebel frontlines in the north of the Indian Ocean island. "Troops are consolidating this morning," said army spokesman Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe. "We have suffered 28 killed and 119 injured." Samarasinghe said sources indicated that around 130

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels could have been killed but this was not a confirmed figure. The army blames the LTTE for starting the latest round of fighting by shelling their frontline positions in the Muhamalai area of the northern Jaffna peninsula. The military responded with artillery and air strikes before advancing around 600 metres across the heavily mined frontline on Friday to capture rebel bunkers. "It's not about capturing land, it's only the neutralising of their frontline," said Samarasinghe. — Reuters.

London, Sep 14 — A press report, dated today, states: At least seven people were killed in fresh violence in Sri Lanka even as the government and Tamil Tiger rebels agreed to enter into peace talks next month. Unidentified attackers shot dead three Tamil men at an open field in the northern town of Vavuniya this morning, a PTI report said here quoting officials. The men were shot dead with a pistol and the attackers escaped in a vehicle. The killings came as three soldiers were killed in clashes with Tamil Tigers in Jaffna peninsula and a fourth was caught up in a mortar bomb attack in Trincomalee district, the defence ministry said in a statement. The fresh violence came even as the island's peace broker, Norway, announced that the two warring parties had agreed to meet in early October to discuss the faltering peace process.

SYRIA

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Islamist gunmen launched a brazen daytime assault on the US embassy in Damascus yesterday, using grenades, automatic weapons and an explosives-laden van in a foiled attack that left four people dead. Three assailants and a member of Syria's anti-terror squad were killed in a shootout during the bid to storm the embassy, which came a day after the fifth anniversary of the September 11 attacks and at a time of particularly tense relations between Washington and Damascus. "The terrorist attack failed. It did not achieve the objectives of the criminals responsible," Interior Minister General Bassam Abdel Majid said, the state news agency SANA reported. It described the attackers as "takfiri" or Islamic extremists, although no group has yet claimed responsibility.

Damascus, Sep 13 — A fourth man who took part in yesterday's attack on the US embassy in Damascus has died of his wounds, the official Syrian news agency said today. The four men who carried out the attack in the centre of the Syrian capital were all Syrians, SANA agency said. "The fourth terrorist died from severe wounds. All four carried Syrian nationality," the agency said. Syrian security forces killed three of the four men who tried to blow up the embassy in Damascus yesterday but failed. A Syrian guard was also killed and 13 people were wounded. — Reuters.

TURKEY

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A landmine exploded on a railway track in the southeastern Turkish province of Bingol, leaving three carriages of a cargo train and the rails damaged, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported today. The landmine exploded as the cargo train passed by Genc town of Bingol province, according to Anatolia. The landmine is believed to have been planted by the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) and detonated by remote control, the report said. There was no report of injury yet.

Diyarbakir, Turkey, Sep 13 — Police raided houses today in a major security crackdown in Diyarbakir, the largest city in Turkey's mainly Kurdish south-east, after a bomb blast killed 11 people. It was the bloodiest attack in Turkey since suicide bombers killed more than 60 people in Istanbul in November 2003 and the latest in a series of explosions in Turkish cities, including coastal resorts, which have killed at least 16 people. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the blast late yesterday at a bus stop in the city, in the heart of a region that has witnessed 22 years of conflict between Turkish security forces and rebels fighting for a Kurdish state. The Kurdistan Liberation Hawks (TAK), a separatist militant group which claimed responsibility for attacks in late August, has threatened to turn Turkey into "hell." Witnesses said yesterday's blast, apparently triggered by a mobile phone, tore a hole half a metre across on the pavement and shattered the windows of nearby houses and offices. Hospitals were treating 13 people hurt in the blast, which occurred at 2100 hrs on a main street next to a park. Police raided several houses in the Baglar district where the blast took place and blew up as many as 10 suspect bags in controlled explosions. No devices were found in the bags. Police also set up checkpoints on roads leading out of town. Police said they believed the device was set off by mistake and might have been intended for a police headquarters 1.5 km away. He was returning from Ankara where Turkey's main Kurdish political party, the Democratic Society Party (DTP), had urged the rebel Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) to declare a ceasefire. — Reuters.

UGANDA

Kampala, Sep 7 — No Ugandan rebels have arrived yet at remote camps in south Sudan where they are supposed to assemble under the terms of a landmark truce that began last week, Ugandan negotiators said today. According to the deal that came into effect on August 29, Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) fighters were given three weeks to gather at the two locations while talks continue in the southern capital Juba to end their 20-year insurrection. But the cult-like group's deputy chief Vincent Otti cast doubt over any movement earlier this week

when he said his forces would remain hidden until the International Criminal Court (ICC) revoked its arrest warrants for LRA leaders. The top LRA rebels, including Otti and Joseph Kony, are wanted for war crimes by ICC prosecutors, who accuse them of massacring and mutilating civilians, and abducting thousands of children to serve as fighters and sex slaves. Substantial talks that had been due to resume in Juba this week were delayed after LRA representatives asked mediators to help them visit their leaders in eastern Congo, Ankunda said. Mediators were not immediately available for comment. The government has offered the LRA amnesty if the talks succeed, but says it will only push the ICC to drop its investigation after the rebels quit the bush. An ICC spokesman in The Hague said the court had no response to Otti's remarks, frustrating some critics who see its indictments as the biggest obstacle to ending the war. Analysts say the ICC is faced with a tough dilemma — to engineer the capture of the LRA indictees and possibly put at risk talks to end one of Africa's longest wars, or abandon its founding principle of no immunity for the worst crimes. With no police to catch its targets, it is counting on Ugandan, Sudanese and former rebel southern Sudanese troops to bring the LRA rebels to justice. "The mediators know this," said Sudan analyst David Mozersky. "Total amnesty is unacceptable to the ICC, but its warrants look to be the main sticking point for the rebels." — Reuters.

Labour Disputes



CREW OF PANAMANIAN BULKER ENDLESS AT LONG BEACH, UNITED STATES

Portsmouth, Sep 9 — Crew members of bulker *Endless* (38932 gt, built 1999), berthed in the Port of Long Beach, struck for a second day yesterday, saying they are owed more than \$325,000 in back wages. The action, which began Thursday (Sep 7) evening, brought work to a halt on board the *Endless*, that was being loaded with petroleum coke bound for Asia. Dockworkers have honored the crew's picket line and refused to load the vessel, which is berthed at Pier G. Yesterday evening, an arbitrator ordered the longshore workers to resume loading the ship. Officials for the International Transport Workers Federation said the 18-member crew went on strike several days after the federation began investigating the wage dispute. The seafarers, who are paid monthly, say they were repeatedly shorted in their wages. "It looks like the owners breached their agreement with the crew, and we are trying to get to the bottom of it," said

Stefan Mueller-Dombois, a federation inspector. Mueller-Dombois said a review of the ship's books uncovered accounting irregularities and evidence that the crew was getting paid about half of what it was owed. Under current federation agreements, an able-bodied seaman should make about \$1,550 a month, including wages, overtime and vacation allowances. The federation is seeking about \$362,000 from Sea Justice S.A., which operates the *Endless*. The amount includes back wages, penalties and travel expenses to return crew members to the Philippines, a large supplier of seafarers for the global merchant fleet. Frank Brucculeri, an attorney for the ship owner, said the crew worked under a Philippine union contract required by the Philippine government and supplemental transport federation agreements obtained through a Greek seafarers union. The owner, Brucculeri said, thought he could pay the crew under the Philippine contract, which offered wages that were considerably less than the federation agreements. Brucculeri contends that the amount in back wages sought by the transport federation is inflated. He estimates that the company owes something in the "high \$100,000s to low \$200,000s." An accountant is trying to determine the amount, he said. Kevin Schroeder, vice president of Local 13 of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, said dockworkers refused to load the ship as a sign of support for the strike. "The owner has threatened to fire the crew, take the ship out to anchor and hire a new crew," Schroeder said. Brucculeri contends that crew members have violated their own grievance procedures in the wage dispute. If they continue to do so, he said, the owner has a right to fire them. — Correspondent.

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A group of 18 Filipino sailors aboard bulker *Endless* berthed at the port of Long Beach have agreed to settle a labour dispute over back pay that led to a four-day strike, a union official said today. "We have a settlement. The crew is going to take the ship to anchor ... disembark, and fly home tonight," said Jeff Engels, West Coast coordinator of the International Transport Workers Federation, and one of the negotiators who represented the sailors. The crew members aboard the vessel had refused to work since Thursday night, when an inspection by the union found a discrepancy in the ship's books that showed the sailors were due more than \$300,000 wages. The sailors demanded they get paid before returning to work. In a show of solidarity, dockworkers assigned to load the vessel with petroleum coke refused to continue doing so, leaving another cargo vessel stuck while waiting to dock in the *Endless'* berth. Engels said the sailors would be receiving a cash payment of a "compromise amount" as part of the settlement, but declined to give

specifics. The sailors were expected to board move the vessel out of the berth to allow a vessel waiting to enter to dock. A replacement crew was going to be brought in to take over the vessel and sail it back to port later to complete its cargo operations, Engels said.

INDIA

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated Sep 8, states: Oil supplies might be disrupted as oil tanker owners have decided to go on an indefinite strike. The strike is a fall out of a disagreement between tanker owners and oil companies. While the union demanded a hike in the charges of carrying oil from Rs 108 to Rs 200 per kilo litre, the companies agreed to shell out only Rs 112 instead. About 8,000 tankers are operating in the state at present. Ajit Das, secretary of the union of tanker owners, said that representatives from the union will meet the state transport minister Subhas Chakraborty tomorrow. As far as the present situation is concerned the strike is definitely on till Monday (Sep 11). It is to be considered that petrol pumps usually have oil stored to keep supplies going for two days. In that case the stock might be exhausted by tomorrow. It is apprehended that the effect of the shortage will be felt tomorrow onwards.

ITALY

London, Sep 7 — A press report, dated today, states: At 1200, today, 20 more flights were cancelled, making a total of 199 cancelled flights together with the 179 previously cancelled due to a strike by Alitalia. An Alitalia statement proceeds: "This despite a shameful anti-trade union behaviour of Alitalia that tried to force staff to work. Besides that, Alitalia spread misinformation together with some trade unions that don't take part in the strike in an attempt to break the protest. We take notice of the correctness of SULT that recognised the validity of the protest, taking part in it".

NIGERIA

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated today, states: According to Nigerian news reports oil workers in the Delta were due to begin striking at midnight, despite efforts by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation to forestall the action. The strike, which is expected to cripple Nigeria's oil production even further, which has already seen a considerable loss owing to highjackings and sabotage and leading to the shutdown of certain operations, is expected to be in force for three days. According to two trade unions involved, the strike has been called in protest at uncontrolled violence affecting the safety of oil workers in the Niger Delta. A Nigerian minister is quoted in the local press as saying that the losses being suffered by Nigeria as a result on the unrest have cost the country as much as 872,000 barrels per day and not the official estimates of around 600,000 b/pd.

London, Sept 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Oil unions launched a three-day strike today over worsening security in Nigeria's oil-rich region as Chevron confirmed the death of one subcontractor and injuries to two others in the restive southern area. The country's two biggest petroleum-industry unions had called the action to protest the death of another worker, killed three weeks ago in a shoot-out between government forces and militants amid rising violence in the Niger Delta. It began today, with company and union officials saying staff were staying home. Yesterday, gunmen attacked a boat carrying Chevron-affiliated workers in the waterways of the oil-rich southern Niger Delta, and one worker died, labour union officials said. Chevron confirmed the death today and said two others were injured. "We confirm the fatality of one contract staff on a supply vessel," said Chevron spokesman Femi Odumabo. Oil firms had no immediate comment on whether the strike would affect their output. Peter Akpatason, the head of the blue-collar workers union, said his bloc and the white-collar union, which have a joint membership of around 20,000 Nigerians, would look to see if their concerns over security were being taken seriously before deciding on further action. Today's strike was called after Royal Dutch Shell employee Nelson Ujeya was killed in a shoot-out between militants and government forces three weeks ago. He had been held hostage in a community dispute for nearly a month when local leaders and militants intervened to free him. Twelve people died when the military opened fire on the boat carrying him to freedom.

London, Sep 14 — Nigeria's crude oil exports were flowing without disruption despite the start of a three-day warning strike by the country's two main oil unions, industry officials said. The National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG) and Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association (PENGASSAN) called the stoppages to protest unrest in the volatile Niger Delta region, home to the country's massive oil wealth. "Oil exports are not affected. Loading of crude is going on at the exports terminal," a spokesman for US oil giant ExxonMobil said yesterday. He said the company and the Nigerian military had beefed up security at oil facilities to forestall any disruptions. A spokesman for the Anglo-Dutch oil group Shell also said the strike had not had any negative impact on the firm's operations.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

London, Sep 7 — Train services to and from Cork returned to normal yesterday after a two-day unofficial strike by railway maintenance staff in the city ended. IarnrÚd ...ireann said trains to and from Kent Station in Cork and on the Cork-Cobh route had resumed their usual timetables

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following the stoppage, which affected thousands of passengers yesterday evening and this morning. It is understood striking staff agreed to return to work following an invitation from the company to enter conciliation talks. An Iarnród Éireann spokeswoman said: "Between 1000 and 1030, this morning, senior trade unionists were engaging in talks with their people down in Cork and they encouraged them to return to work and thankfully, the staff members involved in the unofficial action have returned to work. Services on the Cork-Cobh route are now operating normally and we expect our intercity service on the Cork-Dublin route to resume as normal."

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: For the past 48 hours, oil refining at Petrotrin's Pointe-a-Pierre oil refinery ceased when the company was forced to shut down certain plants after workers staged a go-slow. Hardest hit was the Fluid Catalytic Cracking Unit (FCCU) which the company said yesterday threatened to cripple the manufacturing of gasoline. Petrotrin's management warned yesterday that the company had three weeks of gas supplies. According to Petrotrin's Corporate Communications manager, Arnold Corneal, refinery operators did not report for duty at the "essential plants" for the last 48 hours. A decision was taken to shut down the plants, Corneal added. Corneal said that as a result of certain plants being shut down, the Catcracker had to be placed on idle mode. Corneal advised members of the public against panic buying of gasoline, saying that the company had a three-week storage supply. Negotiations between the company and the Oilfield Workers' Trade Union (OWTU) for a new collective agreement, have reached a stalemate.

Awards & Settlements



ALLEGED VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAWS, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 7 — A press report, dated Sep 6, states: The Federal Trade Commission today said it reached a \$2 million settlement with two California companies and individuals associated with them who were accused of violating federal laws for placing spyware on consumers' computers without their knowledge. Under the order against Internet Media Inc., Conspy & Co. Inc., Lida Rohbani, Nima Hakimi and Baback Hakimi, the defendants were permanently prohibited from interfering with a consumer's computer use, including but not limited to distributing software code that tracks consumers' Internet activity or collects other

personal information. At the FTC's request, a federal judge froze the defendants' assets in November and ordered it shut down, an FTC spokeswoman said. The settlement requires the defendants to pay back slightly more than \$2 million and includes a suspended judgment of \$8.5 million for alleged violations of the FTC Act. The FTC's case was aided by Redmond, Wash.-based Microsoft Corp., the world's largest software maker, Webroot Software Inc., an anti-spyware firm based in Boulder, Colo., and Mountain View, Calif.-based search engine leader Google Inc., the FTC said. According to the FTC's complaint, the defendants' Web sites caused "installation boxes" to pop up on consumers' computer screens that offered free music files, cell phone ring tones, photographs, wallpaper, and song lyrics. In another scheme, the boxes warned that consumers' Internet browsers were defective, and offered free upgrades or security patches. Consumers who downloaded the supposed freeware or security upgrades did not receive those items, and instead had their computers infected with spyware that could track their Internet activity, change their home page settings, insert new toolbars onto their browsers, and display pop-up ads, even when Internet browsers are not activated. The defendants, whose software codes were named "Search Miracle," "Miracle Search," "EM Toolbar," "EliteBar," and "Elite Toolbar," also were permanently prohibited from making misleading representations regarding the performance, benefits, features, cost, nature or effect of any type of software code, file, or content. The FTC's stipulated final order is for settlement purposes only and does not constitute an admission of a law violation.

COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT, WORLD-WIDE

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated today, states: The company behind the peer-to-peer file-swapping service eDonkey will pay the record industry millions to avoid being taken to the cleaners in copyright infringement cases. MetaMachine Inc., developers of the eDonkey platform, one of many that sprang up after Napster shut down, agreed to pay the Recording Industry Association of America \$30 million in an out-of-court settlement. The site, which allowed net freeloaders to leech music and movies using a peer-to-peer network. eDonkey's services have been disabled. Operators of its website left a final reminder about intellectual property rights for anyone who's lived under a rock for the past six years on its stripped-down site. "If you steal music or movies, you are breaking the law," the statement said. "Courts around the world — including the United States Supreme Court — have ruled that businesses and individuals can be prosecuted for illegal downloading." eDonkey's one of many P2P programs to shut down in the wake of the

Supreme Court's unanimous 2005 decision against a similar service, Grokster, that clarified peer-to-peer operators and users were in violation of copyright laws.

FAILURE OF BULLETPROOF VEST, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 8 — A press report, dated Sep 7, states: A jury has awarded \$3.6 million in damages to the widow of a police officer who was shot and killed while wearing a bulletproof vest. The jury found that Second Chance Body Armor Inc, the maker of the vest, and Toyobo Co Ltd., the Japanese company that supplied the vest's synthetic fibres, were liable for Tony Zeppetella's death because they failed to warn users the vests could deteriorate over time. The vest was marketed as bullet-resistant. Zeppetella died in June, 2003, when he was shot 13 times after pulling Adrian Camacho over for a routine traffic stop in Oceanside, California. Thirty-four rounds were exchanged before Camacho, a Mexican citizen who was in the US illegally, fled in Zeppetella's squad car. Widow Jamie Zeppetella sued the vest's makers in November, 2003. She claimed her husband would have survived if the body armour had performed as advertised. More than a dozen lawsuits were filed by state and federal agencies against Michigan-based Second Chance Body Armour, which recalled some vests in 2003 after questions arose about the durability of their Zylon fibre cores. A two-year study by the US Department of Justice concluded in 2005 that Zylon, the synthetic material used in the vests, could be penetrated by bullets. The company, once the nation's top producer of soft, concealable body armor for police, filed for bankruptcy protection in 2004. Toyobo, Zylon's Japanese producer, has acknowledged the fibre may lose up to 20% of its strength within two years. Last year, the company agreed to pay \$29 million to settle a class-action suit by police officers and departments across the country that used the Second Chance vests. Zeppetella's family received a \$165,000 settlement in 2005 from the Oakland, CA, firm that sold the vest. The company, Professional Police Supply, Inc, did not acknowledge wrongdoing in the settlement.

MISLEADING INFORMATION, CANADA

London, Sep 7 — A press report, dated Sep 6, states: A Teulon businessman has won a \$9-million settlement from the Canada Food Inspection Agency after a court ruling this week concluded that the man had been wronged by the federal regulator. Justice Colleen Suche described the dispute between Don Salkeld, owner of the goose-processing plant Northern Goose, and various CFIA officials as a "complicated drama of conflict and misunderstandings that reads somewhat like a Russian novel." Salkeld blamed senior officials at

CFIA for deliberately taking actions that killed his business, and filed court action seeking \$10 million in damages. Salkeld said yesterday that the court settlement was worth \$9 million, including interest and court costs. "My business and the Canadian goose industry was virtually destroyed by the actions of a few people at the Canada Food Inspection Agency," Salkeld said. "It feels good to win but it's taken its toll." Suche found that during a six-month period in 1997 and 1998, officials at CFIA had given Salkeld conflicting, incorrect and misleading information. "It is hardly surprising that Don Salkeld concluded that he had been lied to and some kind of cover up was going on," Suche wrote. Salkeld's Teulon plant was the only licenced facility in Canada allowed to ship poultry into Europe and over a 25-year period he had carved out a specialty niche market selling geese to Europeans. During the 1990s peak he was shipping 200,000 geese annually to Germany, Austria and Switzerland. However, Salkeld's business collapsed in the autumn of 1998 when he learned that he was removed from the list of authorised Canadian food processors allowed to ship to Europe. That set off a chain reaction that killed Manitoba's goose industry, worth several million dollars annually. How Salkeld was removed from the authorised list and why he could not rectify the situation was at the heart of the dispute. Salkeld claimed that senior CFIA officials did not like him or his company and deliberately set out to cripple his company. Suche concluded that while the wrongs against Salkeld were numerous and wide-ranging, they did not constitute deliberate or unlawful conduct. "While the contradictions, denials, and misstatements by CFIA officials had a sinister appearance, I conclude that there was no active deceit or intention to mislead," Suche wrote. "Rather, they were a combination of many of the same factors." Suche found that CFIA officials, "repeatedly gave Northern Goose incorrect, misleading or inaccurate information, or failed to give it information Northern Goose needed to know. This was done in circumstances where CFIA officials knew or ought to have known that the information was incorrect, and that Northern Goose would rely on the information, to its detriment." While Salkeld had claimed \$10 million in special and general damages and punitive damages, Suche said there was no grounds for punitive damages. She wrote that Salkeld and lawyers for CFIA had worked out a settlement during the trial and did not make an award.

PATENT INFRINGEMENT, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 7 — A press report, dated Sep 6, states: A federal judge awarded an additional \$10.3 million to an Oklahoma City cardiologist who alleged that patents for an angioplasty

catheter he invented were infringed upon by Cordis, based in Miami Lakes. US District Judge Tim Leonard awarded the damages to Dr. Jan K. Voda, who sued Cordis, a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson, in October, 2003. In May, a federal jury decided that Cordis infringed upon three patents held by Voda and awarded him a 7.5% royalty, a judgment worth an estimated \$10 million over the life of the patents. The judge decided yesterday that Cordis should pay an additional \$8.1 million in damages and interest and \$2.2 million in attorney's fees.

VEHICLE ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A former Suffolk County police officer paralyzed in an all-terrain vehicle accident while on duty was awarded a \$14.5 million settlement, his lawyer said. Scott Brumber, 42, struck a metal stake and flipped over while driving on a narrow beach path on Fire Island. He suffered spinal injuries in the 2002 accident and must use a wheelchair, said his lawyer, Daniel Buttafuoco. The state had argued it was not liable for the road, and Brumber had no right to use the path on patrol. A spokesman for the New York attorney general's office said the settlement was appropriate.

WRONGFUL DEATH, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 6 — A press report, dated Sep 5, states: A federal judge today awarded \$3.1 million to the family of a man who was killed by fugitive mobster James "Whitey" Bulger, ruling that the federal government is liable for the man's death because his identity was leaked to Bulger by a rogue FBI agent. The family of John McIntyre, 32, a fisherman from Quincy, had sued the federal government for \$50 million. They alleged McIntyre was killed by Bulger in 1984 after FBI Agent John Connolly Jr tipped him that McIntyre had talked to US Customs agents. The Customs Service was investigating the involvement of Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi in a failed plan to send guns to the Irish Republican Army on board a Gloucester fishing vessel. Connolly, who has not been charged criminally in McIntyre's killing, was convicted of warning Bulger to flee on the eve of his 1995 racketeering indictment and is serving a 10-year sentence. In June, Flemmi testified that McIntyre was killed after Connolly told them one of the two people on board the fishing boat was co-operating with authorities. He said McIntyre was lured to a party on Nov 30, 1984, then chained to a chair, interrogated, strangled and shot in the head by Bulger. In his ruling today, US District Judge Reginald Lindsay found that Connolly was the "proximate cause" of McIntyre's death and that the federal government should be held responsible. Lindsay found that Connolly was motivated to

leak McIntyre's identity "in part by greed and his friendship with Flemmi and especially Bulger." He cited testimony from Flemmi, who said he and Bulger gave Connolly more than \$200,000 in cash and gifts from 1981 through 1990. Jeffrey Denner, an attorney who represented McIntyre's mother, Emily, and brother, Christopher, in the lawsuit, said the ruling was significant because it was the first time a judge had found the government liable in the death of someone killed by the Bulger gang. Seventeen lawsuits have been filed against the government by alleged Bulger victims. Ten have been dismissed because they were filed too late. The McIntyre case was the first one to make it to trial. Gina Talamona, a spokeswoman for the Justice Department in Washington, said the agency was reviewing the decision and considering its options.

Railway Accidents



BINGOL AREA, TURKEY

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

CAIRO AREA, EGYPT

London, Sep 8 — A press report, dated Sep 7, states: The committee formed by the Egyptian Ministry of Transport to investigate the Aug 21 train crash at Qalyub, in which 58 people were killed, has concluded that the accident was caused by a railway signal malfunction and delays. The crash happened at Qalyub, 20 km north of Cairo, when a stationary train packed with passengers was rammed by a second train. The driver of the stationary train, which had come from Benha, had been obliged to stop in mid-track owing to a delay. The chairman of Egyptian National Railways was sacked over the crash in which over 150 passengers were injured. The committee explained that a malfunction caused the signal to show a red light which confused the train driver and activated the device that makes trains stop automatically. Professor Bolus Naguib Salama, head of the committee and railway design professor at Cairo university, said in a statement today that due to the short distance between the two trains, and despite the fact that the second train started to stop automatically, there was not enough time to prevent it colliding with the first train. The head of the committee also said that copies of this report would be sent to the state prosecutor, the cabinet and the two transport committees at both the parliament and the Shoura Council. The investigation committee was composed of professors and experts from outside Egyptian National Railways.

CROXTON, NORFOLK, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Rail travellers faced disruption during the rush hour after a train carrying seven passengers came off the rails at a level crossing in Norfolk. The derailment happened when the Norwich to Cambridge train operated by One Railway went across the level crossing at Croxton this morning. British Transport Police said the train struck a rubber paving block which had become dislodged on the crossing. A One spokeswoman said no-one was injured in the incident near Thetford. There were delays of up to two hours to the service between Norwich and Ely. Some trains were cancelled and a bus service between Norwich and Ely was brought in. Inspector John Clark, of British Transport Police, said that shortly before the derailment a motorist had tried to alert rail operators.

DEERFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Nineteen freight cars carrying feed grain and vegetable oil tipped onto their sides yesterday evening as a train headed to the east Deerfield train yards, authorities said. "Luckily, it was in a semi-remote area. It does not appear there were any hazardous materials or chemicals involved," South Deerfield Fire Chief Gary Stokarski told The Republican of Springfield. "The cars that went over apparently had different types of feed grain and oils, such as sunflower oil and vegetable oil, on board." There were no injuries and no evacuations, said Deerfield police Officer Robert Warger. A hazardous materials team was called to the scene as a precaution. The cars derailed at about 1545 in the area of Upper and Lower roads, near Interstate 91. The train was operated Pan Am Railways, formerly Guilford Transportation. The company's crews were on the scene yesterday night, Warger said. The cause of the incident was not immediately known, Stokarski said.

SOUTH-WEST BANGLADESH

Karachi, Sep 14 — Two trains of Bangladesh Railway derailed in west-south region of country yesterday. First, seven bogies of the passenger train were derailed between Goalanda Bazar and Goalanda ghat railway station while it was going to Daulatdia ghat from Khulna at noon. Later, on information, the railway authorities sent a salvage train to rescue the derailed one but it also derailed near Rajbari station. Railway sources said the salvage train is being rescued first and then it will go to rescue the derailed passenger train. As a result, movements of trains are suspended on routes. Track is expected to be cleared today. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Robberies & Thefts



CASH FROM TRUCK, GUATEMALA

London, Sep 7 — Gunmen held up a truck carrying \$22 million from the Bank of Guatemala that was en route to the airport for shipment to the U.S. Federal Reserve, but the thieves only got part of the money, the Interior Ministry said today. Interior Minister Carlos Vielma said that officials were still trying to determine how much was taken. No arrests had been made and there were no injuries. Authorities were investigating whether the robbery was an inside job, Vielma said.

THEFT OF CASH FROM AIRPORT, GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA

Guatemala City, Sep 8 — At 0725, local time, yesterday, a theft occurred at La Aurora International Airport, in Guatemala City, where thieves stole \$US8 million in cash. The money was sent by 10 different banks and was to be delivered to the Federal Reserve in the USA. — Lloyd's Agents.

Miscellaneous



LOCK GATES FAILURE, LE HAVRE, FRANCE

London, Sep 14 — Barge traffic between the French port of Le Havre and its hinterland resumed on Sunday (Sep 10) after being paralysed for five days as a result of a door breakdown on a lock used by barges to gain access to the port. A total of 23 inland waterway convoys were reported held up by the blockage at the end of last week and on Saturday, exceptionally, the port gave a number of container-carrying convoys authorisation to regain the River Seine directly via the river estuary.

OUTBREAK OF VIRUS ON BERMUDA FLAG VESSEL

London, Sep 8 — The story in issue of Sep 8 that passenger (cruise) *Sea Princess* was returning to Southampton early this week after being affected by a viral outbreak is incorrect. There has been no such incident involving the vessel recently.

PROBO KOALA (Panama)

London, Sep 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Combined bulk and oil carrier *Probo Koala* (31255 gt, built 1986) at the centre of the Ivory Coast toxic waste scandal, which killed at least three people and led to the government's resignation, is also under investigation by Dutch

authorities over an incident, the prosecutor's office said today. In the Ivory Coast, the three people who died, including two children, and 1 500 others were poisoned after toxic chemicals were dumped three weeks ago in open-air garbage sites around the commercial capital, Abidjan, a city of four million people. The waste had been unloaded from the vessel, a Panamanian-registered vessel that docked at Abidjan on Aug 19 and left again on Aug 21, the city's port authority said. The waste contains hydrogen sulphide and organochloride, which are both poisonous and can cause nausea, rashes, fainting, diarrhoea and headaches, according to the French consulate in Abidjan. In early July the vessel was in the Netherlands at the port of Amsterdam and tried to dispose of some waste but the operation caused complaints about the noxious smell and was called off. The waste was pumped back into the *Probo Koala*, according to Dutch authorities. The vessel then left for Estonia. "The incident is being investigated by a regional environmental police team. The investigation is ongoing," the prosecutor's office said in a statement. "At this moment it cannot be established whether the waste dumped in Ivory Coast is the same waste that the ship tried to dispose of in Amsterdam," the Dutch authorities said. The Ivory Coast toxic waste scandal has more ties to the Netherlands as the vessel was chartered by the Netherlands-registered oil trading company Trafigura. Although it is officially registered in the Netherlands most of its business is conducted from the company's headquarters in Lucerne, Switzerland, Dutch media said. Trafigura told AFP yesterday that the discharge was legal and that an Ivorian company had been entrusted with handling the unloaded waste.

London, Sep 8 — Following media statement issued by Prime Marine Management Inc, Athens, dated Sep 7: Prime Marine Management are seriously concerned with the reports that are emerging from Abidjan that liquid cargo residues (slops) emerging from one of the company's vessels (combined bulk and oil carrier *Probo Koala*) have been inappropriately disposed of by an Ivorian company contracted by the vessel time charterers Trafigura Beheer BV in Abidjan. The vessel is under period charter to Trafigura and, as charterers, Trafigura have the operational control of the vessel and thus the right to order at which port the vessel is to discharge its cargo slops. There is no evidence or suggestion that any pollution occurred during the slops discharge from the vessel. Trafigura Beheer have confirmed to Prime Marine that they advised the Ivorian authorities of the nature of the residues and the need to be safely disposed of according to the country's laws with correct documentation.

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) said today it was optimistic it would track down those responsible for the toxic waste dumping in Ivory Coast, but added it had no “concrete answers” so far. “There are many actors involved, the Dutch broker, the ship’s owner, the crew, local companies, a large cast of characters,” said Michael Williams of UNEP, which runs the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, which sets out international law on hazardous waste. About 500 cubic metres of toxic waste were transported to and dumped in the West African nation. The ship also stopped at several ports further obscuring the trail. “Many people are saying many different things,” said Williams. Six people have died and 8,887 people have sought medical treatment for poisoning, according to the latest Ivory Coast government figures, after chemical waste from combined bulk and oil carrier *Probo Koala* was dumped at 13 open air sites in the capital Abidjan. Most of the victims have complained of nausea, breathing problems, rashes and diarrhoea. Ivory Coast’s entire cabinet resigned last Wednesday over the scandal. Meanwhile the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has sent \$50,000 worth of medical supplies to the area. The WHO has also sent a team to assess health needs.

London, Sep 13 — Following received from Transfigura Beheer BV, charterers of combined bulk and oil carrier *Probo Koala*, dated Sep 11: Following inaccurate media reports based on rumour, Trafigura Beheer BV would like to provide factual information on the *Probo Koala*, following the discharge of the residue washings (slops) from its gasoline cargo in Abidjan in August. Trafigura is very concerned about the reports regarding the health of the Abidjan population and is actively seeking ways of assisting the authorities in any and every way that it can. Senior executives from the company are in Abidjan and are working with the authorities there to try to establish what happened after the slops were unloaded. Trafigura has a stringent policy on the disposal of any waste, according to international conventions, and respects and adheres to all relevant requirements. The slops from the *Probo Koala* were handed over to a certified local Abidjan slops disposal company, Compagnie Tommy, following Trafigura’s communication to the authorities of the nature of the slops, and a written request that the material should be safely disposed of, according to country laws, and with all correct documentation. Cargo of the *Probo Koala*: the *Probo Koala* was carrying gasoline blend stock under a time charter to Trafigura. It is used for floating storage, that is the receiving vessel for cargoes of gasoline blend stock. Cleaning with caustic soda takes place each time it receives a new load of gasoline blend stock. After the cleaning the residue

washings (slops) are transferred to the vessel’s slop tanks. The vessel stopped in Amsterdam with the objective of discharging its slops, on its way to collect additional gasoline blend stock from Paldiski, Estonia, for delivery to Nigeria. The reason it did not ultimately do so is because the waste disposal company in Amsterdam wanted to renegotiate its original contract. Trafigura was therefore forced to discharge the slops elsewhere, at a location that could both take the slops, and fit in with the vessel’s route. Delays in Amsterdam would have caused further delays in the vessel’s schedule. The waste disposed of in Abidjan was the residue washings (slops) from the slop tanks of the *Probo Koala*, the result of washings from gasoline blend stock delivered to the vessel, as described above. The technical classification of these slops is Basle slops. Disposal of the slops: These slops were not rejected by any port, including the port authorities in Amsterdam. The environmental authorities in Amsterdam became involved only when Trafigura took the decision to reload the slops from the barge of the Dutch waste disposal operator, Amsterdam Port Services (APS), as a result of APS’s desire to renegotiate contractual terms. The port authorities then contacted APS to confirm requirements. These concerned whether the slops could legally be reloaded without being technically considered to be an export from the Netherlands (which would necessitate an export permit), and under environmental regulations. The port authorities gave their permission to reload the slops on the *Probo Koala*, subject to Trafigura providing confirmation that these slops were subsequently disposed of appropriately. Why Abidjan: When APS analysed a sample from slops loaded onto its barge prior to disposal it tried to renegotiate the original agreement made with Trafigura. Trafigura then took the decision to dispose of the slops elsewhere on the ship’s route as any delay in leaving Amsterdam would have a knock-on effect, causing further delays in the vessel’s schedule. It would also result in significant financial time penalties — for example, an additional penalty of \$250,000 dollars for the next voyage to Paldiski, Estonia. Following completion of its voyage to Nigeria, the most appropriate place, in terms of geography and ability to deal with these slops, was Abidjan. Abidjan is considered to be one of the largest and better equipped ports in West Africa.



FIRES & EXPLOSIONS
FACTORY, TAUPO, NEW ZEALAND
 London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A massive fire at a

Taupo fibreboard factory last night will see it shut down for months. Fletcher Building’s Laminex Group fibreboard plant in Centennial Drive was the scene of a huge oil fire which started about 1900, last night. Ten fire crews from around the region attended the blaze and some were still there dampening down today. David Worley, of Fletcher Building’s laminates and panels division, said the plant was likely to be out of action for “some months” but that the company had insurance cover for business interruption and property damage. Alternative sources of supply were available to the company, including from its Australian operations, Mr Worley said. “At this stage the company does not expect that it (the fire) will have a material impact on its results for the 2007 financial year.” No-one was injured in the fire which is now being investigated.

FOREST, INDONESIA

London, Sep 10 — At least eight million hectares across Indonesia have been damaged by forest fires in the last month, officials said yesterday as dozens of uncontrolled blazes continued on Borneo island. A forestry ministry official admitted that forest and ground fires had destroyed millions of hectares of land in Indonesia last month, with a satellite system detecting 52,599 hotspots during August. “All those many hotspots caused 8,476 hectares of forests to burn,” Koes Saparjadi, an assistant to the forestry minister, said at a conference in central Java yesterday. He added that around 60 percent of the burnt land was farming land, and the remainder was forest. Illegal burn-offs caused more damage to Indonesia’s environment than rampant illegal logging said Saparjadi. “This destruction of the forests is much worse than illegal logging. Because the fires cause several species of plants to be annihilated,” he said. Separately in Palangkaraya, the provincial capital of Central Kalimantan on Indonesian Borneo, around 60 firefighters were struggling to put out blazes, said an official. “The fires are vast, every day they spread further,” said Ahmad Yani, a coordinator of the teams tackling the infernos. Elsewhere dozens of firefighters were trying to extinguish fires in several districts, including ground fires in the Pulang Pisau area which Yani said had been burning since last week ago. Haze from the fires in Central Kalimantan reduced visibility to less than 500 metres, threatening to interrupt air traffic, said an official from the Palangkaraya’s meteorological agency. “Now visibility is down to 500 metres, planes can still take off but we will have to see later,” said the official called Hidayat.

GOLD MINE, CHITA REGION, SIBERIA, RUSSIA

London, Sep 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Emergency workers located the bodies of 11

miners killed when a fire tore through a Siberian gold mine, officials said today. Twenty-two others were still missing a day after the blaze. Fifteen miners were hospitalized for smoke inhalation, said Yulia Stadnikova, a spokeswoman for the Emergency Situations Ministry. Stadnikova said the fire, which burned at a depth of between 85 metres and 130 metres, was contained yesterday evening, but rescue efforts were being hampered by damage and smoky conditions. Specialized mine rescue teams were being flown to the scene. Of the 64 miners working underground when the fire broke out, 31 were rescued or evacuated, including the 15 who were hospitalized. Mikhail Stukov, a top Chita emergency official, said in comments televised yesterday that the fire may have been caused by negligence during welding work.

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescuers pumped fresh air into smoke-choked shafts in the hope that 21 miners were still alive more than a day after a fire erupted at a 105-year-old Siberian gold mine, killing at least 12 workers in Russia's worst gold mining accident in years. Emergency workers recovered the bodies of the 12 miners from the Darasun mine in the Chita region, state safety watchdog Rostekhnadzor said yesterday. Fifteen miners, some of the 31 who made it to the surface within hours after the blaze broke out Thursday, were hospitalized for smoke inhalation, Emergency Situations Ministry spokeswoman Yulia Stadnikova said. About 120 rescue workers were exploring underground tunnels in search for ways to reach the missing, the agency said.

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated Sep 9, states: At least 21 miners are now known to have died after a fire in a gold mine in Russia which broke out on Thursday (Sep 7), according to local officials. Five bodies were brought out of the mine late today. The fate of another four miners is still unknown. The blaze broke out between 85 metres and 130 metres below ground in the Darasun mine in Chita, eastern Siberia. A total of 39 miners are known to have survived, of whom eight escaped after two days inside the mine. They were greeted by relatives before being rushed to hospital to check for hypothermia and carbon monoxide poisoning. The cause of the fire is not yet clear, though one report said it was set off by welding work. Of the 64 miners underground when the fire took hold on Thursday, 31 crawled out within hours. Rescue teams arrived today at the mine, which is about 4,700 km east of Moscow, Russian emergency officials said. Another three miners emerged unaided today and helped rescuers to locate five more colleagues.

NUCLEAR SUBMARINE, BARENTS SEA

London, Sep 7 — Two Russian sailors have died in a fire on board a nuclear submarine. The blaze is reported to

have been extinguished, and sources say there is no danger of a radiation leak. The submarine's nuclear reactor was shut down and the vessel was being towed across the Barents Sea to a base in Vidyayev, reports said. The submarine, the *Daniil Moskovsky*, was anchored off the Rybachiy peninsula, on Russia's north coast near the border with Finland, when the fire broke out. Russian naval sources are quoted as saying that the device protecting the submarine's nuclear reactor was activated, and that there is no danger of a radiation leak. "The electric equipment of the submarine, which was in the Barents Sea, caught fire in the early hours of today," a source in the Russian defence ministry said. Interfax quoted an unnamed Northern Fleet spokesman as saying there was "no threat of nuclear contamination". A warrant officer and a sailor were killed, the agency said. An investigation into the incident is to be carried out.

PREMISES, BEIRUT, LEBANON

London, Sep 8 — A press report, dated Sep 7, states: A huge fire erupted at a tyre dump adjacent to the Beirut sea port today, sending plumes of black smoke over large areas and burning relief supplies in a UN warehouse, police and a UN spokeswoman said. Firefighters struggled to put out the blaze and prevent it from reaching one of the docks holding relief aid shipments sent to help Lebanese after a 34-day fighting between Israeli forces and Hezbollah guerrillas. However, a warehouse run by the UN refugee agency caught fire, and a large number of blankets, tents and mattresses inside were burned, a UNHCR spokeswoman said. "We are now assessing what the damage is," said the spokeswoman, Astrid Van Stort. Van Stort and Lebanese officials said they did not know yet what sparked the blaze.

PREMISES, LOS ALAMITOS, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated today, states: An early morning fire destroyed two businesses within a strip mall, racking up about \$2 million in damage, authorities said yesterday. Fire gutted two shops, Inch by Inch, a children's retail store, and Quest Printing, inside the strip mall at the Los Alamitos Plaza at 10900 Los Alamitos Blvd. near Katella Avenue, said Orange County Fire Authority Capt. Steve Miller. The blaze was reported around 0345, yesterday, and resulted in a three-alarm call with some 60 firefighters battling the flames for about an hour, Miller said. Firefighters were able to keep the fire from spreading to several other businesses in the structure, saving about \$5 million in property and goods, the captain estimated.

PREMISES, WISCONSIN RAPIDS, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated Sep 8, states: Investigators are

still on the scene of a fire that caused major damage to seven businesses in a Wisconsin Rapids strip mall. The Rapids Police Chief says the fire started around 2120 hrs. The fire originated in a store located near the middle of the strip mall. At this time, investigators do not suspect arson. Police say they're leading the investigation because it caused so much damage. No one was injured and no one was in any of the stores at the time of the fire. Crews worked well into the night to put it out. Rapids investigators are working with the Division of Criminal Investigation and the A.T.F. to determine how the fire started.

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated today, states: It took fire fighters six hours to contain a fire that burned several building in Wisconsin Rapids last night. Witnesses say it started in one business and then quickly spread to others and the power lines above causing major damage. Now, the State Fire Marshal, the Department of Criminal Investigation, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms are trying to figure out how and where the fire started.

REFINERY, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Sep 8 — South African miner Lonmin Plc said today its precious metal refinery was now operating at full capacity a day after the company said it had shut the facilities due to a minor fire. "It has been able to source, more quickly than initially anticipated, replacement materials to allow the necessary repairs to the precious metal refinery to be completed," the company said. "The incident will result in the deferring of around 10,000 ounces of platinum sales for 2006 into the first quarter of the 2007 financial year." — Reuters.

STEEL MILL, KREFELD, GERMANY

London, Sep 11 — A major fire blast in a special steel mill belonging to German giant ThyssenKrupp has caused what is believed to be the largest industrial fire loss in German history, writes Herbert Fromme in Cologne. Insurers, including HDI, Allianz, Zurich and XL, have so far set aside Euro 325m (\$411m) for the loss, around two thirds of this for the loss-of-profit insurance, the remainder for damage to machinery and buildings. At the same time it has dashed the hopes of corporations that they might obtain noticeably lower fire rates in the 2007 renewals. The fire started in the early hours of Jun 22 at the KruppThyssen Nirosta cold rolling mill in Krefeld. No reason has been given for the incident. ThyssenKrupp has deductible of Euro 30m across all industrial lines, which will be fully used up for this loss. The primary layer of Euro 70m over Euro 30m is led by Zurich with 40%, while HDI has 27% and XL 8%. The remainder is distributed widely. In the layer of Euro 200m over Euro 100m, the insurers are HDI with 27%, Allianz with 20% and XL and Zurich with 10%

each. The layer above Euro 300m - involved with Euro 25m - is covered by XL with 25%, HDI with 24% and Zurich with 20%. This means that HDI is hit with around Euro 80m, Zurich with Euro 53m, Allianz with Euro 40m and XL with Euro 32m. ThyssenKrupp and all the insurers declined to comment. This large claim has resulted in markedly higher fire rates for ThyssenKrupp, which, unlike most German companies, renews its insurance on Oct 1.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated Sep 9, states: Improved weather and more manpower helped fire crews hold the line against two fires burning more than 407 square miles in north-eastern Nevada today. “The cooler temperatures and moisture are contributing to the success of our suppression efforts,” said Joe Freeland, fire management officer for the Bureau of Land Management said in Elko. The two fires had burned more than 261,000 acres, or 407 square miles, in Lander and Elko counties. A 151,874-acre blaze was 80% contained today, and a 109,893-acre fire was 60% contained. Officials expected full containment of both fires on Monday (Sep 11). In Idaho, fires had burned more than 234,000 acres, or 365 square miles, according to the Boise-based National Interagency Fire Center, composed of various federal agencies that coordinate to battle wildfires. Today, lower temperatures, higher humidity and even some light rain showers in the Idaho Rockies gave crews a chance to gain ground on several fires and keep new lightning-sparked starts from growing. In Washington, firefighters battled two of the state’s largest wildfires. A fire in south-eastern Washington that burned more than 101,000 acres, or 157 square miles, was 55% contained, while another in northcentral Washington that torched over 170,000 acres, or 265 square miles, was 60% contained. Crews in southern Montana continued to fight a 205,000-acre fire _ about 320 square miles. It was 55% contained. The fire, which started Aug 22 from lightning, earlier burned 26 homes. A fire in the Sierra foothills in California was threatening between 100 and 200 homes. None of the blaze had been contained today, despite cooler temperatures, said Mary Furney, a spokeswoman for the Tahoe National Forest. The 5-square-mile fire prompted a call for voluntary evacuations for residents in Michigan Bluff and Baker Ranch yesterday. Crews also were fighting a blaze that was burning nearly 20-square miles in the Los Padres National Forest. More than 1,300 firefighters were battling the flames, about 40 miles north of Los Angeles, that has been burning since Labor Day. No homes have been damaged or were threatened today. Nationally, the center reported, 8.65 million acres have burned so far this year. The blackened 13,516 square miles represents an area bigger than Maryland.

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters today struggled to contain a wildfire burning across nearly 20-square miles of dry brush and timber in the Los Padres National Forest. The Day Fire broke out Monday about 40 miles north of Los Angeles. More than 1,380 firefighters were battling the blaze and there was no estimate on when it might be contained, said James Turner of the U.S. Forest Service. No homes have been damaged or were threatened today and no one has been hurt fighting the blaze, he said. The 12,700-acre fire burned to the shoreline of Pyramid Lake Friday, forcing the closure of several camping sites and recreation areas and charring three cabanas and picnic tables. About 1,200 campers and fishermen evacuated when the fire ignited Monday. Hot, dry weather helped the blaze grow exponentially. Cooler overnight temperatures helped slow the fire Saturday, but hot weather and high winds hindered firefighters trying to forge containment lines. The cause of the blaze, which so far has cost more than \$2.4 million to fight, remained under investigation.

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters struggled early today to prevent a fire that has charred nearly 39 square miles of brushland from crossing Interstate 5, which would force authorities to again shut down traffic on one of California’s busiest freeways. The Day fire, which was sparked on Labor Day by someone burning debris in a remote area, has burned 24,943 acres and was 25% contained, said Ed Linnquist, a spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service. It was burning in the Los Padres National Forest and the adjoining Angeles National Forest. Winds were pushing the fire, which was growing slowly to the east and the south-west. Spots of flames jumped over a fireline cut by a bulldozer next to the highway, and erratic winds were spreading the fire through embers, said Kathy Good of the U.S. Forest Service. Flames and smoke intensified along the interstate yesterday, prompting officials to close all lanes between Parker Road and State Route 138 for the second time in as many days. Authorities reopened two northbound and two southbound lanes by early today, advising motorists to drive cautiously through the area. No one has been injured and no major structures have burned, though fire officials were concerned the blaze could advance toward Paradise Ranch, a mobile home park a few miles south of Pyramid Lake. About 1,500 firefighters and a dozen helicopters and airplanes were working to draw a 26-mile containment line around the fire, which was burning on chaparral-covered ridges. Firefighting costs had risen to \$7.4 million.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES & CANADA

London, Sep 8 — A press report, dated Sep 7, states: Montana’s largest

wildfire grew to nearly 300 square miles today and officials predicted the more than two-week-old blaze in south-central Montana would keep growing because of high winds and the density of dead trees. The fire crossed into the Boulder River Valley earlier this week, but so far, flames have not reached any of the historic ranches or homes there. Fire information officer Cher Fuller said residents of 265 homes evacuated because of the fire would probably be allowed to return early tomorrow. The blaze was sparked by lightning on Aug 22 and has forced hundreds to evacuate. It was 45% contained today. Deliberate burning as part of the firefighting strategy accounted for part of the Derby Mountain fire’s increase from 185,000 acres yesterday to about 191,000 acres today, said information officer Dixie Dies. She said wind and the density of dead trees was likely to spread the fire. Smoke from the fire and others triggered air-quality warnings in south-western Montana. The Department of Environmental Quality said the air in Bozeman and in the area of the fires was “very unhealthy.” In California, a pilot and firefighter were killed yesterday when their Department of Forestry and Fire Protection aircraft crashed as they fought a fire in the remote Tulare County foothills, about 70 miles south-east of Fresno, authorities said. The crash sparked a three-acre wildfire near the other blaze. The National Transportation Safety Board was investigating the crash. In Nevada, crew leaders were hoping the arrival of more firefighters would help them gain ground on wildfires that have blackened nearly 375 square miles across the state’s north-eastern area during a four-day span. Officials reported 32 fires touched off by lightning since Sunday (Sep 3), including one in Lander County that had exploded to more than 200 square miles and was only 10% contained. No injuries or damage to homes were reported, but the fires continued to pose a threat to scattered ranches and mines as well as wildlife habitat, said fire information officer June McMillen. Air quality advisories were also issued across eastern Washington state, warning residents to take precautions against heavy smoke from more than a dozen wildfires. US and Canadian fire crews were working together on two blazes, the larger of which had burned almost 255 square miles north-east of Winthrop. Nearly 1,400 firefighters were battling the blaze, which was more than 50% contained.

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated Sep 8, states: Fire officials have pulled all crews fighting the aggressive Tatoosh blaze burning out of control near Manning Park in southern BC. Fire information officer Jeff Moore said Friday that poor weather conditions forced withdrawal of the crews to safety. No evacuation order has been issued to residents of Manning Park but they are on alert. While officials do not have an exact estimate of the more than 20-square-

kilometre blaze, Moore said they believed it had grown "considerably" in the past 24 hours. The fire began in Washington state last month and crossed the international boundary last weekend. Mr. Moore said the biggest increase in the size of the fire was on the U.S. side where it is spreading north-west in a wilderness area. Meanwhile, an evacuation alert was issued today for a remote lodge near the Border Lake fire burning between Keremeos and Princeton, about 50 km north-east of Manning Park. The Border Lake blaze tripled in size today from 425 hectares to about 1,400, said officials. Fire information officer Dale Boharja said crews had to be pulled off that fire, also for safety reasons.



C-GOYJ

London, Sep 7 — The Cessna 172M, C-GOYJ, operated by Toronto Airways, was flying night circuits at the Toronto/Buttonville Airport at 2100, Sep 4. It was seen to porpoise on landing and the flight was recalled by the duty instructor. The following morning, it was discovered that the aircraft had sustained substantial damage. The operator and Transport Canada are investigating.

C-IPHW

London, Sep 8 — On Sep 4, privately-operated Progressive Aerodyne SeaRey-80, C-IPHW, was departing from a private grass strip at Clandeboye, Manitoba. At about 100 feet the engine (Rotax 912) partially lost power, and the pilot commenced a left turn toward open terrain. The aircraft crashed in an open field adjacent to the runway. The pilot and passenger sustained serious injuries and the aircraft was substantially damaged.

CRASH, BETHESDA AREA, GWYNEDD

London, Sep 12 — One person has been killed after a light aircraft with two people on board crashed near Bethesda in Gwynedd. Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Team, who were involved in the rescue, said the other occupant of the plane had been airlifted to hospital. The aircraft, heading from Caernarfon to Herefordshire, crashed near the village of Rachub yesterday evening. North Wales Police confirmed one person had died at the scene. Another is said to be "stable" in hospital in Bangor. The crash happened near Llanllechid and Rachub, at the mouth of the Ogwen Valley. Chris Lloyd, from Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Team, said he believed the aircraft had clipped a slope and flipped over. "It looks like the aircraft was just slightly too low to get over the ridge. "Had he

been another 100ft high he would have got over." Mr Lloyd added they had been "evidence gathering" at the location "to find any traces or bits of aircraft or anything else". A team from RAF Valley was also involved in the search and rescue operation. The aircraft was on its way from Caernarfon airport to Shobdon airfield in Herefordshire.

CRASH, CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 11 — A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft crash in Conway, SC, over the weekend (Sep 9-10) is still under investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration, FAA spokeswoman Kathleen Bergen told the Rome News-Tribune today. The pilot and his co-pilot were able to walk away from Saturday's crash after being treated for minor injuries and released at Conway Medical Center. The aircraft crashed into the back yard of a Conway residence. The Conway Fire Department received the call at 1641 hrs and responded. Firefighters at the scene threw dirt on fuel puddles to cover up fuel vapors. They were about a mile from Conway airport when the engine of the home-built, high-performance aircraft died. An FAA investigation is routine for plane crashes

CRASH, ENSENADA, MEXICO

Tijuana, Sep 8 — Two U.S. medical volunteers and their pilot died today when the small plane in which they were traveling crashed near Mexico's border with the United States, a police spokesman said. A Mexican police spokesman said the plane blew up on impact with a factory wall near the Mexican city of Ensenada, killing the pilot and his two passengers, a doctor and a nurse heading further south to provide voluntary medical assistance in the town of San Quintin. They were part of a two-plane convoy of Christian missionaries from Brownfield, California, the spokesman said, adding that a technical fault was the most likely cause of the crash. — Reuters.

CRASH, IKEJA, NIGERIA

London, Sep 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A three-man crew of a Boeing 727 cargo aircraft belonging to courier company, DHL, yesterday escaped death when their plane crashed into a localizer (a landing instrument) at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Ikeja. The identity of the crew members were not disclosed by airport officials, but it was learnt that they flew into Lagos from Accra, Ghana. The accident which disrupted flight operations at the premier airport occurred about 1300 hrs, amid a heavy downpour in Lagos. The aircraft over-ran the airport's 18L runway and damaged its nose. The cost of damage to the plane was put at \$50,000 by the managing director of Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA), Mr. Rowland Iyayi. Giving

details of the incident, Mr. Iyayi said the aircraft landed safely but over-ran the runway."The plane flew in from Accra, it had a positive landing but over-ran the runway," he said. On the level of damage on the landing instrument and the aircraft, the NAMA boss pointed out that the plane's nose wheel pulled out, while the runway's damaged localizer would be put in order before Monday (Sep 11). "The plane had substantial damage as its nose wheel pulled out," he said, estimating the cost at about \$50,000. Iyayi further disclosed that construction giant, Julius Berger Plc has been contacted to evacuate the aircraft from the accident's scene as the cargo it was ferrying into the country was discharged to make the plane light. He also disclosed that investigations into the accident have commenced as officials of the accident investigation and prevention of the Ministry of Aviation have swung into action, while the aircraft's crew were moved to the NCAA headquarters, to be interviewed by investigators. Currently, the plane was still stuck in the mud near the Concord Bus Stop along the road which links the International wing of the airport and Ikeja.

CRASH, KEMEROVO REGION, RUSSIA

London, Sep 14 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Three people have been killed in a helicopter crash in the Kemerovo Region. The accident occurred at 1453, Moscow time, 19 kilometres away from the city of Novokuznetsk. The helicopter carrying two crew and two passengers crashed while landing, the sources added. Rescuers from Novokuznetsk work at the site.

CRASH, MONTREAL, CANADA

London, Sep 13 — A small aircraft crashed yesterday onto a street in southern Montreal, hitting two cars and injuring at least six people. The Cessna went down at Losch and Kimber Boulevards near the Saint-Hubert airport, injuring the aircraft's pilot and passengers and the car drivers, the reports said. Officials said none of those injured were in a critical condition. The pilot said he had been forced to make an emergency landing after its engine failed.

CRASH, NOVOKUZNETSK AREA, SIBERIA, RUSSIA

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A helicopter crashed today in Siberia, killing three of the four people aboard, an emergency official said. The MD-600 helicopter crashed about 12 miles from the city Novokuznetsk in the Kemerovo region about 1,850 miles east of Moscow, Emergency Situations Ministry spokeswoman Yulia Stadnikova said. Three of the people aboard were killed and one was injured, she said, adding that the craft was carrying two crew members and two passengers.

CRASH, ORCUTT, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated Sep 8, states: The pilot of a PA-23 (Apache) was killed when the aircraft crashed on a ranch this afternoon in Orcutt, California, the Federal Aviation Administration reported. No one else was on the aircraft, according to FAA spokesman Ian Gregor, who added there were no reports of injuries to anyone on the ground.

CRASH, ROME AREA, ITALY

Genoa, Sep 12 — Robinson C22 helicopter, after collision in flight with high voltage wires, crashed near Olevano Romano (Rome) Sep 12. Pilot, Nevio Basaglia, and passenger, Severino Coniglio, were killed in the accident and aircraft destroyed. — Lloyd's Agents.

CRASH, SPRINGVILLE AREA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

See N419DF.

EMERGENCY LANDING, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Air New Zealand says a Boeing 737 with almost 100 passengers on board has made an emergency landing in Auckland after an electrical fault in the aircraft's flight deck. The aircraft was on a domestic flight to Christchurch when it was forced to turn back to Auckland International Airport this morning. The aircraft landed safely, but a smell of fumes forced the flight crew to evacuate via emergency chutes.

EMERGENCY LANDING, BELGRADE, SERBIA

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An Alitalia flight from Rome to Bulgaria made an emergency landing yesterday in Belgrade after the crew noticed smoke inside the aircraft, state Tanjug news agency reported. No one was reported injured and the aircraft safely landed at Nikola Tesla airport in the Serbian capital. All passengers were successfully evacuated, the report said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, BRUSSELS AIRPORT, BELGIUM

Brussels, Sep 10 — A British Airways flight from London to Frankfurt made an emergency landing safely at Brussels airport today after a fire alert on board, an airport spokesman said. "There was a fire signal coming from the baggage compartment. We have no information on its causes at the moment," said spokesman Jos de Houwer. He said the 143 people on the board the airplane got off safely. — Reuters.

EMERGENCY LANDING, DELHI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, INDIA

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An Air India aircraft, flying to the US from Delhi for a change of engine, made an emergency landing at the Delhi

International Airport today after developing a technical problem. The aircraft was not carrying any passengers and landed safely at around 1000 hrs, an Air India spokesperson said. The AI 161, was on a 'ferry flight' to the US via Birmingham in the UK for an engine change, he said. However, after it took off at around 0800 hrs it developed a fault in the right engine and had to return to the Delhi airport for an emergency landing.

EMERGENCY LANDING, MIDWAY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CHICAGO, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A private leer jet experienced serious engine trouble this afternoon near Midway International Airport but landed safely. Emergency crews were on standby as a level 1 hazmat crew was called in at about 1108 hrs for an aircraft that has one engine out, according to fire media Director Larry Langford. The problem was reported when the aircraft was about 20 miles from Midway. Langford could not immediately provide information about the hazmat situation. The aircraft landed safely around 1115 hrs.

EMERGENCY LANDING, NADI, FIJI

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Fiji's national air-carrier, Air Pacific is trying to schedule flights for passengers of flight FJ911 today after the flight was disrupted yesterday due to an engine failure. Air Pacific has revealed that they are trying to arrange flights for the 400 passengers who were stranded in the country when their flight on board a Boeing 747-400 aircraft experienced engine power fluctuation shortly after take-off. The passengers, mostly tourist, were accommodated in nearby hotels last night following the cancellation of the flight. Inspection of the aircraft engine was conducted before other flights was arranged for some of the passengers to take them to their destination. Flight FJ911 departed Nadi at 0900, yesterday with more than 400 passengers and had to make an emergency return after six minutes.

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A mechanical problem that grounded a flight on Saturday (Sep 9) morning resulted in revised schedules for the country's national airline. Air Pacific was forced to change flight schedules to minimise disruptions experienced by passengers after one of its planes was forced to return to Nadi airport. In an official statement released yesterday, a company spokesperson said the revised schedules would fulfil the travel needs of customers as their engineers carry out the necessary repairs. On Saturday morning, the pilot of the Sydney bound Boeing 747-400 was forced to return to the Nadi International Airport after experiencing engine problems shortly

after take-off. Following normal operating procedures, the pilot shut down the fourth engine that was experiencing fluctuations and returned to the airport with only three engines. The flight was subsequently cancelled to allow engineers to carry out a thorough inspection. As a result of the mechanical problem, passengers were accommodated in hotels around Nadi awaiting the next available flight. On Sunday, Air Pacific chartered a B747 from Qantas to operate a Sydney service for those passengers who were accommodated for a night. The statement revealed that the inspections by engineers revealed the need for an engine change. The statement also said as a result, the airline chartered an Air New Zealand B767 to service its Auckland flight yesterday. It said the chartered flight enabled two of Air Pacific's aircrafts to service its Sydney flights.

INCIDENT AT EASTERN IOWA AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Two passengers were hurt in an emergency evacuation of an Allegiant Airlines at the Eastern Iowa Airport in Cedar Rapids last night, officials said. The passengers were taken to a Cedar Rapids hospital after they were injured evacuating an Allegiant Air Md-80 because of smoke in the cabin, airport spokesman Ron Harrelson said. Smoke was detected on Flight 436 from Las Vegas, as it was traveling to the terminal after landing about 1845 hrs, Harrelson said. The two injured passengers were among the 107 people who were evacuated via the aircrafts inflatable slides. An initial inspection of the aircraft failed to determine the source of the smoke, officials said.

INCIDENT AT LAGUARDIA AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated Sep 8, states: An Air Canada aircraft clipped wings with another aircraft while taxiing to a runway at LaGuardia Airport, briefly delaying air traffic, authorities said. No one was injured in the incident tonight, said Marc LaVorgna, a spokesman for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which oversees the airport. Air Canada flight No. 723, which was headed to Toronto, was carrying 103 passengers. The other, Shuttle America flight No. 6461, operated for Delta Airlines and en route to Chicago, had 66 passengers. The aircraft were taken out of service until officials could investigate the cause of the collision and make sure there were no malfunctions. There was minimal damage to the aircraft and that both returned to their gates. Air traffic was delayed at 1920 hrs for about an hour.

INCIDENT AT MADRID AIRPORT, SPAIN

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Ten people were injured as passengers scrambled to

evacuate a Qatar Airways plane after one of its wheels caught fire in an aborted take-off at Madrid's Barajas airport today, Spanish media reported. The injuries were sustained in the rush to get off the plane, an emergency services spokesman said on the Cadena-Sur radio station, adding that one person was taken to hospital with a fractured tibia. The pilot braked the plane sharply as it was about to take off on a flight to the Qatari capital, Doha, after he heard an unusual noise coming from the undercarriage. His action reportedly caused one of the landing wheels to catch fire, prompting the emergency evacuation of the aircraft. Emergency services put out the flames immediately.

N330PL

London, Sep 9 — Piper PA-23-150, N330PL, lost power on take off and crashed into the trees at Newton, MS, at 1500, Sep 7. The aircraft was consumed by fire.

N419DF

London, Sep 8 — North American OV-10A N419DF, operated by the USDA Forest Service, crashed near Porterville, California, at 1830, Sep 6, while carrying out fire-suppression operations. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed. (See "Crash, Springville Area, California, United States" in issue of Sep 8.)

N622DL

London, Sept 11 — Boeing 757-232, N622DL, Delta flight 565, experienced a tailstrike while landing on runway 8 at San Juan airport, Puerto Rico, at 1701, UTC, Sept 5. According to the crew, while performing an autoland land the aircraft began to drift to starboard of the runway centreline. The first officer disconnected the autopilot, aligned the aircraft with the runway and landed the aircraft. During the landing flare the nose raised to a high angle and the tail struck the runway surface. There were no injuries to the seven crewmembers or 109 passengers. The aircraft had substantial damage to the skin and stringers in the aft fuselage, and to the aft pressure bulkhead.

N812CE

London, Sep 8 — Hughes 369D N812CE crashed near Somis, California, at 2055, Sep 6. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

N944C

London, Sep 9 — Raytheon B200, N944C, operated by Cutter Southwest Aircraft Sales, hit a pothole in runway and gear shifted back at Hondo, Texas, Sep 6. Aircraft sustained substantial damage.

ZK-HVN

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A fatal

helicopter crash near Murchison last August was caused by an incorrectly assembled tail rotor drive shaft, a Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) investigation has concluded. Philip Heney, 52, a father of nine, was killed when his privately owned two-seater Robinson R22 helicopter ZK-HVN crashed just 100m from his Shenandoah home, 23km south-west of Murchison last August 25. A passenger in the helicopter, Hamish Teddy, of Wakefield, near Nelson, survived the crash with serious leg injuries. In a CAA report released today investigators found the crash was caused by the failure of a tail rotor drive shaft that had been incorrectly assembled. "One or more of the unsupervised and unlicensed maintenance personnel had incorrectly bolted the aft flange of the tail rotor drive shaft directly to the input yoke of the tail rotor gearbox which resulted in failure of the tail rotor drive shaft," the report said. "The risk taking behaviour exhibited during the maintenance of ZK-HVN allowed a critical defect to be built in to the helicopter's tail rotor drive system and then allowed it to remain undetected." Compliance with civil aviation rules and an associated advisory circular would have prevented the accident, the CAA inspector found.



ATLANTIS (Space Shuttle)

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The shuttle Atlantis has blasted off from Kennedy Space Center in Florida to continue construction of the International Space Station (ISS). The shuttle soared from its launch pad through a partly cloudy sky at 1115 hrs (1515, UTC) and nine minutes later was in orbit around the Earth. The launch comes after two weeks of frustrating delays for Nasa managers. Today had been Nasa's last opportunity to launch until at least late September. The shuttle is taking six astronauts to the \$100bn ISS to resume construction work after a gap of four years, following the 2003 Columbia shuttle disaster. Today's launch appeared to go smoothly. Cameras trained on the fuel tank checked for signs of hard foam breaking off - the problem that doomed Columbia - but a preliminary review indicated there was no major foam loss. The fuel cell sensors - which caused one of the launch delays earlier this week - also appeared to be working normally. The shuttle's twin solid rocket boosters, and later the empty fuel tank, separated from the shuttle and fell back to Earth.

Product Recalls

AUDI MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Audi AG has launched a worldwide recall of 36,000 units of its A8 model due to driver's airbag problems, a company spokesman said. He said internal checks had showed a few airbags did not open up completely. The units being recalled are A8's produced between October 2002 and March 2004. About 12,000 of the 36,000 vehicles were sold in Germany, the spokesman said.

CAMERAS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Sep 5 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Olympus Imaging America Inc., of Center Valley, Pa., today announced a voluntary recall of an additional 24,000 Various Olympus-Brand 35mm Film Cameras to their March 2006 recall. Consumers should immediately contact the Company for refund or replacement. A defect with the flash circuit in these cameras can cause it to smoke and overheat when the camera is turned on. This poses a possible burn hazard to consumers. Olympus Imaging America Inc. has received 21 reports of camera or flash circuitry overheating in the U.S. with no reports of injuries. The original recall announced Mar 14, 2006 included the Infinity Twin, AF-1 Twin, Infinity Zoom 200 series, AZ 200 series, and Quantary Infinity Zoom 222 Olympus-brand 35mm film cameras. Olympus has now added the Infinity Zoom 76 and the Promaster Infinity Twin model cameras to the recall. The model name is printed on the face of the camera. These cameras have a built-in flash. Sold at department, electronic and camera stores, and mail-order retailers nation-wide from January 1989 through December 1995 for between \$220 and \$365. Manufactured in Japan. Consumers should stop using these cameras and contact Olympus for information on receiving a free repair or, if necessary, replacement. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

CHILDRENS ACTIVITY CENTRES, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 8 — A press release, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated Sep 7, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with LeapFrog Enterprises Inc., of Emeryville, Calif., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 186,000 Learn-Around® Playground Activity Centres. A child's arm can become caught in the activity centres' plastic tube, posing a risk of injury to children. LeapFrog has received 145

reports of children's arms becoming caught in the plastic tube, resulting in 54 reports of minor scratches and bruises. The Learn-Around Playground is a multi-colored, plastic musical activity centre for young children ages six to 36 months. It includes a Slide and Sing alphabet panel and a ball drop on the left side, a Number Rock musical keyboard in the center, and a Flying Rhymes airplane, pop-up Little Leap, and a smart book on the right side. Leap Frog Baby is printed on the activity centre. Item number 10200 is written underneath the activity table below Made in China. The centres were sold at department stores and toy stores nationwide, on the web site www.leapfrog.com, and other online retailers from July 2005 through to August 2006 for about \$60.

DAIMLERCHRYSLER MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

Detroit, Sep 7 — DaimlerChrysler AG's Chrysler unit said yesterday it will recall more than 145,000 Dodge Ram light duty pickup trucks to replace the passenger air bags. "The passenger air bag may not be compatible with a limited number of rear-facing child seat models if the passenger seat is in the full forward position and an airbag deployment occurs," Chrysler said. The automaker will also replace the front passenger seat belt assembly in the same model trucks and in an additional 15,151 vehicles. The front passenger seat belt may not allow the owner to properly secure some child restraint systems, the automaker said. Chrysler will also recall more than 35,000 Dodge Durangos to check their console wiring connectors. — Reuters.

MITSUBISHI MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

Tokyo, Sep 5 — Mitsubishi Fuso Truck & Bus Corp., the Japanese unit of DaimlerChrysler AG, said today it would recall 53,571 trucks and buses, spanning five models in Japan, to repair a defect in the brake chamber. In a filing with Japan's transport ministry, the unlisted truck maker said a loose cap in the chamber could allow water to enter and the spring to rust, which could activate the hand brake. No accident has been reported from the defect, it said. The recall covers the Fuso Fighter truck, the Aero Bus and other models manufactured between July 1996 and November 2005. — Reuters.

NISSAN MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

Tokyo, Sep 7 — Nissan Motor Co. said today it would repair more than 455,000 vans and cars, mainly in Japan, for 1.58 billion yen (\$13.5 million). It was not immediately clear what the defect was. All but 1,300 units are to be repaired in the domestic market, Japan's second-biggest auto maker said. The Japanese transport ministry does not classify

the repairs as a recall, although the actions taken are the same. — Reuters.

PERSONAL COPY MACHINES, WORLDWIDE

London, Sep 14 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Canon has said it will recall more than 1.8 million personal copy machines worldwide due to a faulty connection which may cause a fire. Japan's largest maker of digital cameras and office automation equipment will recall three types of copiers — the Canon PC7, PC80 and PC100 — produced between 1987 and 1997. "The number of copy machines to be recalled will reach some 1,870,000 worldwide," a Canon spokesman said yesterday, adding that in Japan alone it will recall more than 141,200 units. "A faulty connection involving the power cord ... could, under certain circumstances, result in the emission of smoke or fire," the company said in a statement. Canon has so far learned of three cases of fire or smoke due to the problem, the spokesman said, adding that the company will exchange defective parts free of charge worldwide. "We don't expect the impact of the recall on our finance to be large because total costs related to the recall are likely to be limited to some 200 million yen (1.7 million dollars)," the spokesman said.

WATER HEATERS, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 8 — A press release, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated Sep 7, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Triangle Tube/Phase III, of Blackwood, N.J., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 3,000 Delta Performance or Delta Performance Plus Series Combination Water Heaters. The burner plate and flue hood seal on the water heaters can fail due to an improper seal causing a leak of flue gases and carbon monoxide (CO). This poses the risk of CO poisoning to consumers inside of the house. Triangle Tube has received one report of a flue leak with the recalled Combination Water Heater during installation. No injuries have been reported. The recalled Delta Performance or Delta Performance Plus Series Combination Water Heaters operate on natural or propane gas. The water heaters are white and rectangular. Triangle Tube is written on the silver-colored control panel. Delta is printed on the front of the water heater. The burner is located under a white or gray cover that protrudes outward at the bottom front of the heater. The model and serial numbers are located on the rating plate on either the front or the right side of the water heater. Manufactured in the United States, the heaters were sold at plumbing and heating wholesale companies to independent plumbing and heating contractors from August 2001 to January 2006 for about \$3,500.

Port Conditions



ITALY

Genoa, Sep 11 — Port situation/berthing delays: Genoa: No vessels waiting for berth. Savona: Two vessels waiting for normal berth. Average delay one day. One vessel waiting for special berth. La Spezia: No vessels are waiting for berths. — Lloyd's Agents.

PANAMA CANAL

Balboa, Sep 9 — Work scheduled for Sep 19 to 28 at Gatun locks is now confirmed. During the 10 days this maintenance work will last, Gatun locks will operate at reduced capacity with lane restrictions. Major impact is expected on the large vessels and customers are advised to consider the use of the booking system. The booking slot offered via auction is likely to attract special interest from users who because of ranking have little chance to secure bookings via the regular system.

London, Sep 12 — Maintenance work in September, November and December is set to cause delays to vessels seeking to travel through the Panama Canal without a transit booking. The closure of one of the traffic lanes from November 8 for eight days is likely to be most sharply felt by canal users, with the reduction of eight to 10 vessels transiting the waterway each day. Works due to begin on September 19 and finish on September 28 will reduce traffic from the average of 38 transits a day to 36 transits, having a minimal impact on traffic and the number of transit reservations available. In December, a lane will be closed while works are carried out on the Gatun locks, reducing daily transits from 38 to 26-28 a day. The closure is scheduled to begin on December 13 and last three days. Another short lane closure will take place between December 22-25. Confirmation of the maintenance works will be issued 15 days in advance. High demand from vessels moving via the waterway has resulted in delays of up to five days for ships without a booking following previous maintenance works. Backlogs of up to 93 vessels waiting to transit have brought the issue of canal capacity into focus in the days leading up to a referendum on whether to expand the waterway with the construction of a third set of locks. The \$5.25bn project would allow the transit of the largest vessels currently being built and would provide greater flexibility during the maintenance of the existing locks, built in 1914. One tool introduced to help customers avoid severe delays has been an auction system for one transit a day. The system has proved popular with users, who have paid premiums of up to

\$220,300 to transit the canal the next day. The auction has become an interesting barometer for the varying fortunes of the shipping industry. With oil and gasoline prices at record levels and containerlines suffering losses, tankers have tended to prevail when the two have been bidding against

each other, according to Jorge Quijano, ACP operations director. As a result of two months of trials the system has been extended indefinitely, but it will only be applied to additional transit slots, following discussions with users.

SUEZ CANAL

See *Al Khattab* under "Marine."

SYRIA

Aleppo, Sep 9 — Current delays for vessels berthing: two days at Lattakia and three days at Tartous. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbott Point	20-Sep-2006	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 8 vessels due by 6/10.
Brisbane	20-Sep-2006	Sep 20: Grain: 1 vessel due 30/9 to load wheat; no delays expected. Sep 18: Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 4 vessels due by 10/12.
Dalymple Bay	20-Sep-2006	Coal: DBCT berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 1 vessel due 18/9; DBCT berth 2: berth closed for maintenance until p.m. 22/9; DBCT berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 1 vessel due 20/9; other vessels not scheduled: 30 vessels due by 5/10.
Dampier	20-Sep-2006	Iron ore: Parker Point berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 22 vessels due by 7/10; Parker Point berth 2: maintenance shutdown until 23/9; Parker Point berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel loading; 8 vessels due by 29/9.
Esperance	20-Sep-2006	Sep 20: Grain: 2 vessels due by 29/9, both to load wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Sep 18: Iron ore: 3 vessels due by 30/9; no vessels anchored.
Geraldton	20-Sep-2006	Sep 20: Grain: 3 vessels due by 7/10, all to load wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Sep 18: Iron ore: 3 vessels due by 1/10; maintenance shutdown at berth No. 4 from 14-16/10.
Gladstone	20-Sep-2006	Sep 20: Grain: 1 vessel berthed to load wheat; no delays expected. Sep 18: Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 3 vessels berthed, 7 waiting; 33 vessels due by 2/12; shiploader No. 1 will be shut down from 11-15/9; Barney Point: 10 vessels due by 15/12; plant shut down for maintenance from 18.00 hrs. 8/10 to 18.00 hrs. 11/10.
Hay Point	20-Sep-2006	Coal: Berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 7 vessels due by 29/9; berth No. 1 will be closed for the month of October; Berth 2: 6 vessels due by 30/9.
Newcastle	18-Sep-2006	Sep 13: Three vessels due by 7/10, all to load wheat; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Sep 18: Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 3 vessels berthed and loading, 20 waiting; 43 vessels due by 7/10; 9-14 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 20 vessels off port awaiting berths; Dykes 4+5: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 7 waiting; 11 vessels due by 5/10; 14-16 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 7 vessels off port awaiting coal.
Port Adelaide	20-Sep-2006	Sep 20: Grain: No. 27 berth: 13 vessels due by 5/11, 5 to load wheat, 7 barley, 1 peas; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion.
Port Hedland	20-Sep-2006	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 4 vessels waiting; 3 vessels due by 27/9; there will be a 48 hour shiploader shutdown starting ca. 24/9; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed, 2 waiting; 6 vessels due by 21/9; 5 other vessels due by 5/10, no e.t.a. received; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: berth undergoing refurbishment and closed until further notice; Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 7 vessels due by 27/9; other vessels due, no eta received: 1 vessel due 20/9.
Port Kembla	20-Sep-2006	Sep 20: Grain: 1 vessel due 26/9 to load wheat; no delays expected. Sep 18: Coal: 18 vessels due by 27/10.
Port Walcott	20-Sep-2006	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 4 waiting; 16 vessels due by 29/9. Shippers currently experiencing product shortages which will effect berthing schedules
Whyalla	20-Sep-2006	Iron ore: 1 vessel loading; 6 vessels due by 26/10.
Azerbaijan		
Apsheron	18-Sep-2006	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 3 vessels due by 18/9, all to discharge, of which 1 jet fuel, 1 HPGO, 1 fuel oil.
Baku	18-Sep-2006	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; AzerTrans terminal - Nobel avenue: no vessels; Sangachal district: no vessels.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	18-Sep-2006	Eight vessels in port operating, of which 3 loading (1 sulphur, 1 copper anodes, 1 containers), 4 discharging (1 sugar, 1 steel billets, 1 metals, 1 iron ore), 1 under repairs; 1 vessel in roads to load gasoil; 7 vessels due, of which 1 to load copper concentrate, 6 to discharge (2 zinc concentrate, 2 copper concentrate, 1 coal, 1 iron ore).
Varna	18-Sep-2006	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 11-17 September: Twenty-six vessels in port operating of which 18 loading (5 bulk wheat, 1 bulk barley, 1 equipment in packing cases, 1 bulk sulphuric acid, 1 TSP, 3 soda, 1 feldspar/kaolin/silica sand, 1 technical salt, 1 containers, 1 bulk cement, 1 scrap, 1 bulk STTP), 3 discharging (1 petcoke, 1 containers, 1 equipment in packing cases/containers), 5 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in roads.
Colombia		
Barranquilla	20-Sep-2006	Max. permissible draft: 9 m fw. Shore cranes operational; Four vessels berthed (2 containers, 2 general cargo), none anchored; 8 vessels due (3 containers, 3 general cargo, 2 bulkers), with no delays expected.
Buenaventura	20-Sep-2006	Shore cranes operational. Eight vessels berthed (4 containers, 1 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 4 vessels anchored (2 containers, 2 general cargo); 24 vessels due (21 containers, 1 general cargo, 2 bulkers), with 2 days delay expected for containers/ general cargo vessels.

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

Port Conditions

Cartagena	20-Sep-2006	SPRCTG: shore cranes operational; 3 vessels berthed (2 containers, 1 general cargo), none anchored; 31 vessels due (25 containers, 3 general cargo, 3 passenger vessels), with no delays expected; MEB: shore crane operational; no vessels berthed, none anchored; 5 vessels due (3 containers, 2 general cargo), with no delays expected; CONTECAR: shore crane operational; no vessels berthed, none anchored; 4 vessels due (2 containers, 2 general cargo), with no delays expected.
Santa Marta	20-Sep-2006	Shore cranes operational. Four vessels berthed (2 containers, 1 bulker, 1 coal), 1 bulker anchored; 8 vessels due (4 containers, 3 general cargo, 1 tanker), with no delays expected.
Cyprus		
Larnaca	19-Sep-2006	Two conventional vessels discharging at berth; 1 conventional vessel due 20/9; no delays expected.
Limassol	19-Sep-2006	Three container vessels discharging/loading at berth, 3 conventional vessels discharging at berth; 3 container vessels, 2 conventional vessels, 2 passenger vessels due 20/9; no delays expected.
Egypt		
Adabiya	18-Sep-2006	Four vessels berthed (loading/discharging), all general cargo.
Alexandria	18-Sep-2006	Thirty-two vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 24 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 2 tankers, 2 containers, 1 passenger vessel; 7 vessels at inner anchorage, 5 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	18-Sep-2006	Twenty-one vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 19 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers; 9 vessel at outer anchorage, none at inner anchorage.
Dekheila	18-Sep-2006	Ten vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 4 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 1 container vessel; 2 vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	18-Sep-2006	Seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 5 container vessels.
Suez	18-Sep-2006	Five vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 2 passenger vessels; 3 tugs, no vessels dry-docked.
Suez Canal	18-Sep-2006	Twenty-one vessels transiting Northbound, 29 Southbound.
Estonia		
Tallinn	18-Sep-2006	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): One vessel berthed loading craft paper, 2 vessels discharging at berth (1 cocoa beans, 1 split peas); no vessels waiting at anchorage; 3 vessels due, with 7 days berthing delay .
India		
Kolkata	18-Sep-2006	6 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Containers-2, General Cargo), 3 vessels discharging (Logs, Containers, General Cargo) ; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 3 vessels under repair; 3 vessels under arrest; 1 vessel under repair at shipyard quay; 3 vessels due (Containers-2, Logs).
Haldia	18-Sep-2006	14 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (Iron Ore, Steel), 11 vessels discharging (Crude, POL, CTPH, Coke, General Cargo, Sulphur, Fertilizer, Net Coke), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers ; 9 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (3 to load, 5 to discharge, 1 to load and discharge), 8 vessels waiting at anchorage (7 to discharge, 1 to load and discharge); 4 vessels due (Containers, Crude, POL, Carbon Bulk Feed Stk).
Paradip	18-Sep-2006	10 vessels operating at berth of which 6 vessels loading (Iron Ore-4, Ch. Con., Ch. Ore), 4 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-2, Lame Coke, Sulphar); 4 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to load; 22 vessels due.
Visakhapatnam	18-Sep-2006	18 vessels operating at berth of which 6 vessels loading (Iron Ore-5, Granite, Thermal Coal-2, Product Tanker), 11 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-3, DAP, Crude & Product-2, Alumina, Urea, Bauxite, Timber, Wheat), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 8 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to discharge; 34 vessels due (Iron Ore-4, Steel Cargo, Ferro Manganese, CP Coke, Sillco Manganese, Manganese Ore, Product Tankers, DAP, Urea,-2, Sulphar, Liquid ammonia, MOP, Phosphoric Acid, Coking Coal-6, Steel Pipes, Met Coke, Caustic Soda-2, Steam Coal-3, Container-2, Timber, Wheat).
Chennai	18-Sep-2006	17 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Sugar, Barytes, Iron Ore), 11 vessels discharging (Wheat-2, Pala Oil, Steel Pipe, Sulphar, Urea, Steam Coal-3, Thermal Coal, Fruance Oil/ Low Sulp. Heavy Stk), 3 vessels loading and discharging (Containers-2, Project/Granite Block); 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to discharge; 5 vessels due (Supply-Containers/ Container, Iron Ore).
Tuticorin	18-Sep-2006	10 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (Ilminte, General Cargo), 8 vessels discharging (Wheat-2, Thermal Coal, Logs, LPG, Raw Cashew, Copper Con. Rock Phosphate), 1 vessel for repair works (bunkering); 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to load, 3 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (2 to load, 1 to discharge).
Cochin	18-Sep-2006	7 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels discharging (Crude, Wheat, Rock Phosphate, Palm Oil), 3 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge.
New Mangalore	18-Sep-2006	10 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Iron Ore Fines-4, Containers), 5 vessels discharging (Timber, Fertilizer, LPG, POL Crude, POL Product); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 15 vessels due (Iron Ore Fines, Timber-2, POL Product-4, Phosphoric Acid, Fertilizer, Bentonite, Iron Ore (P), Cr. Palm Oil, Ammonia, POL Crude-2).
Mormugao	18-Sep-2006	4 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (Iron Ore, Alumina), 2 vessels discharging (S. Slabs, Phosphoric Acid) ; 3 vessels working at midstream and loading (Iron Ore-2, Pig Iron); 3 vessels under dry docked; 5 vessels due (Coking Coal, Met Coke, IronOre-3).

Port Conditions

Mumbai	18-Sep-2006	19 vessels operating at berth of which 8 vessels loading (Steel/H/Pkgs/General/ Project-5, Fly Ash in Bags/Veh., POL-2), 11 vessels discharging (Steel/Project/General-6, Wheat/Peas in bulk-3, Rock Phosphate); 1 vessel not ready to work at anchorage to load, 1 vessel awaiting order at anchorage to discharge, 5 vessels waiting order at anchorage (2 load, 3 to discharge); 10 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 7 vessels under arrest; 25 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 42 vessels due (Containers-17, Oil, Other Dry Bulk, Fertiliser (Raw Material), General Cargo-22).
J.N.P.T.	18-Sep-2006	8 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel discharging Naptha, 7 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to load and discharge; 1 vessel due Containers.
Kandla	18-Sep-2006	17 vessels operating at berth of which 7 vessels loading (Naptha, Other Liquid, Agriculture Product, Steel Slab, Cement-2, Rice), 10 vessels discharging (Vegetable Oil, Other Liquid-3, Wheat, Timber Logs-3, MAP/DAP-2); 3 vessels working at midstream and discharging Timber Logs; 8 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (3 to discharge, 5 to load), 8 vessels not ready to work at anchorage (2 to discharge, 6 to load).
Ennore	18-Sep-2006	1 vessel operating at berth anchorage discharging Iron Ore; 1 vessel due (MV An Ho (Coal).
Israel		
Ashdod	18-Sep-2006	No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 14 vessels discharging at berth (8 general cargo, 6 bulkers), 3 vessels loading/discharging at berth (2 containers, 1 car carrier); 9 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 general cargo, 7 bulkers); 18 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	18-Sep-2006	No labour problems. One general cargo vessel discharging at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; no vessels due, with no delays expected.
Haifa	18-Sep-2006	No labour problems. Three vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 7 loading/discharging at berth (3 containers, 2 car carriers, 2 tankers); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 1 bulker); 4 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 2 awaiting orders; 19 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Kazakhstan		
Aktau	18-Sep-2006	Oil products: 4 vessels berthed, of which 1 completed loading crude oil, 3 loading crude oil; 6 vessels in roads, all to load unknown cargoes; 2 vessels due by 18/9, both to load unknown cargoes.
Poland		
Gdansk	18-Sep-2006	Six vessels loading at berth (2 coal, 2 bulkers, 2 general cargo), 2 tankers discharging at berth; 14 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 22 vessels due.
Gdynia	18-Sep-2006	Three vessels loading at berth (1 coal, 1 general cargo, 1 grain), 7 discharging at berth (1 grain, 5 general cargo, 1 tanker); 18 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 49 vessels due.
Russia		
Novorossiysk	18-Sep-2006	Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 10 loading (1 bulk cement, 1 HBI, 1 slabs, 3 wheat, 1 pipes, 1 steel billets, 1 NPK/bulk urea/bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 cellulose), 1 discharging/loading containers; 6 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 2 wheat, 1 bulk cement, 1 cellulose, 1 slabs, 1 steel billets; 62 vessels due, of which 56 to load (7 copper, 5 wheat, 1 wire rods, 3 DRI, 1 bulk urea, 1 steel billets/coils, 1 WRIC/steel billets/pipes, 1 vehicles, 2 soda ash, 5 steel billets, 1 WRIC, 3 aluminium, 2 H-beams, 6 slabs, 5 coils, 1 steel billets/coils, 1 HBI, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 4 diesel oil, 1 bulk NPK, 1 pipes, 1 scrap, 1 cellulose, 1 bulk cement), 5 to discharge (1 vegetable oil, 1 zinc concentrate, 2 coils, 1 debars), 1 to discharge/load containers; Oil terminal: 3 tankers berthed, all loading, of which 2 crude oil, 1 diesel oil; 2 tankers in roads, both to load crude oil; 4 tankers due, all to load, of which 3 crude oil, 1 diesel oil.
Spain		
Bilbao	18-Sep-2006	Thirty-four vessels operating (3 tankers, 31 other vessels), of which 4 loading, 19 discharging, 11 loading/discharging.
Sagunto	18-Sep-2006	Sixteen vessels in port operating, of which 1 loading cement, 15 discharging (9 steel products, 3 gas, 1 fruit, 1 timber, 1 anhydrous ammonia); no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.
Sri Lanka		
Colombo	18-Sep-2006	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Twenty vessels loading at berth (18 containers/feeders, 1 essential services, 1 general cargo), 23 discharging at berth (17 containers/feeders, 1 bulk cement, 1 bulk LPG, 2 bagged soya bean meal, 1 motor vehicles, 1 steel billets); 6 container/feeder vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 6 vessels dry-docked; 11 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays expected.
Trincomalee	18-Sep-2006	One vessel discharging at berth, 1 loading at berth; no vessels waiting.
Turkmenistan		
Turkmenbashi	18-Sep-2006	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed of which 1 loading HPGO, 1 gasoil, 1 discharging crude oil; 3 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 gasoil, 1 HPGO, 1 unknown cargo.

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

Port Conditions

Ukraine

Mariupol	18-Sep-2006	Thirteen vessels in port operating, of which 12 loading (6 steel, 2 fire-clay, 1 barley, 1 coal, 1 coke, 1 wheat), 1 to discharge load foodstuffs; 7 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 3 steel, 1 coal, 2 fire-clay, 1 bran; 63 vessels due, of which 58 to load (37 steel, 5 coal, 6 fire-clay, 1 barley, 2 wheat, 1 pitch, 1 ammonium nitrate, 1 ammonium saltpetre, 1 kaolin, 1 sunflower beans, 1 sunflower beans/husks, 1 equipment), 2 to discharge (1 pipes/equipment, 1 equipment), 3 to discharge/load (1 feldspar/fire-clay, 1 chrome ore/ferrous metals, 1 equipment/containers).
Odessa	18-Sep-2006	Fourteen vessels in port operating, of which 7 loading (1 ore, 3 metal, 1 pig-iron, 1 coal, 1 general cargo), 3 discharging luggage, 3 discharging/loading containers, 1 passenger vessel; 13 vessels in roads, of which 6 to load (1 metal, 1 scrap, 1 pig-iron, 1 ferro alloy, 1 grain, 1 wheat), 2 to discharge (1 metal, 1 barley), 5 to load/discharge containers; 65 vessels due, of which 32 to load (21 metal, 4 pig-iron, 1 ore, 1 peas, 1 grain, 1 barley, 1 timber, 1 ferro alloy, 1 ore pellets), 4 to discharge (1 bananas, 1 citrus, 1 ore, 1 equipment), 29 to discharge/load containers.

United States

Beaumont, TX	19-Sep-2006	Louis Dreyfus terminal: no delays.
Galveston, TX	19-Sep-2006	No new restriction in draft (normal 39 ft. 6 ins. b.w. max. deep draft enforced - 40 ft. with ideal conditions). Channel open under normal traffic; ADM-Farmland terminal: 3 days delay.
Kalama, WA	19-Sep-2006	Kalama export terminal: 1 day's delay; United Harvest terminal: no delays.
New Orleans, LA	19-Sep-2006	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 3-4 days delay expected; Cargill-Westwego: 2 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 2-3 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 2 days delay; ADM/Destrehan: 2-3 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 2-3 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 2 days delay expected; ADM/Paulina: 2-3 days delay expected; Zen-Noh/Convent: 1-2 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: no delays; Mile 158.0 Myrtle Grove midstream terminal: 2 days delay; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 2 days delay.
Portland, OR	19-Sep-2006	Columbia Grain terminal: 2 days delay; CLD Irving terminal: no delays; CLD, O Dock terminals: 1 day's delay.
Seattle, WA	19-Sep-2006	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 1 day's delay.

Published by Lloyd's MIU, Sheepen Place, Colchester, Essex CO3 3LP.

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ISSN 0047 4908

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