

## Energy sector counts toll of Katrina and Rita carnage

Norton reveals three quarters of platforms in Gulf of Mexico were in path of Katrina or Rita, writes Martyn Wingrove — Thursday October 06 2005

**U**P to 108 oil and gas platforms were destroyed by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, plus 53 platforms were significantly damaged, said US Interior Secretary Gale Norton.

Fortunately the industry suffered no loss of life or major oil spills from the two storms that crashed through the US's most important hydrocarbon producing region in September.

Of the 4,000 platforms operating in the Gulf of Mexico, around 3,050 were in the path of at least one of the two hurricanes with the oldest platforms suffering the most damage.

### Destroyed

The Minerals Management Service, part of the Department of Interior said 108 platforms, all of them known as 'end of life' facilities were destroyed and 53 suffered significant damage.

These platforms, built prior to 1988, account for 1.7% of the region's 1.5m barrels per day of oil production and 1% of its natural gas output.

"Those offshore facilities that withstood the storms best were those constructed to the 1988 MMS upgraded design standards," Ms Norton said.

"Of all of the facilities constructed after the 1988 upgraded standards, only one platform was significantly damaged.

"We are currently working to determine whether the damage was a result of the storm or whether another facility collided with it."

She was talking about Chevron's Typhoon tension-leg platform, which was found floating upside down after Rita, and some have suggested it was hit by a free-floating drilling rig.

But in her statement, Ms Norton does not take into account the serious damage to Shell's Mars TLP, where the derrick collapsed.

### Evacuated

According to the latest MMS figures, 342 platforms and 17 rigs remain evacuated and a vast volume of the region's hydrocarbon production is shut-in.

The MMS said production of 1.3m barrels of oil and 10bn cu ft of gas per day were closed down up until Tuesday night.

Cumulative oil production closures since August 26 due to Katrina and Rita is heading towards 50m barrels and 10% of the region's annual output.

A major concern of the MMS is the number of mobile drilling rigs that break their moorings or are detached from their legs to end up grounded or floating uncontrolled around the region.

Ms Norton said 19 rigs were torn from their moorings by the two hurricanes and

has called for a conference on November 17 to address this issue.

Gulf of Mexico operators are beginning to bring their production back on-stream.

Shell said it was ramping up production at the Brutus TLP, Bullwinkle platform, plus the Glider, Enchilada, Popeye, Fairway and North Padre Island fields, but a rupture to the gas line from the Auger deepwater platform will keep this TLP closed down for weeks.

US independent Anadarko said it had brought all its production back on-stream including the Marco Polo and K2 deepwater oil fields.

### Schedule

But the Houston-based firm said damage to rigs Noble Paul Romano and GlobalSantaFe's Celtic Sea, working on the K2 field means this development is behind schedule and full year production will be down 2.2m barrels this year and 2m barrels in 2006.

Apache Corp said it had started one third of its oil and half of its gas production, but lost one platform during Rita.

- Mexican state oil firm Pemex had to evacuate staff and close down production platforms in the Gulf of Mexico off Veracruz due to Hurricane Stan that crashed into Latin America this week. Workers are expected to return to work by the weekend.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>ACOR B.</i>	container	PRT	GL	3,981	5,003	1997	Reported Sep 26 adrift due main engine damage about 140 miles NW St. Michael's Island. Owners contracted tug to tow her to Ponta Delgada. In tow and ETA Ponta Delgada Sep 29.
<i>CANADIAN LEADER</i>	bulker	CAN	LR	18,045	28,260	1967	Had blackout & grounded off buoy D38 in lat 46 33 41N, long 72 07 56W, Deschaillons, Sep 26. Taking water in forepeak & double bottom tanks. Tug on scene. Refloated Sep 28 and proceeding Quebec.
<i>EVONTIM</i>	general	DMA	—	597	930	1963	Reported capsized after taking on water in lat 13 12N, long 60 24W, Sep 26. Crew abandoned vessel. Sank in lat 13 18.3N, long 60 38.4W, Sep 26.
<i>GRETA R.</i>	bulker	MMR	LR	37,519	68,772	1989	Aground vicinity of Mile 53, lower Mississippi River in lat 29 36 02N, long 89 50 29W, Sep 23. Had lost starboard anchor & punctured fuel tank when grounding. Gash in hull above waterline. Refloated Sep 23 & anchored Wills Point.
<i>MAIKE-C.</i>	general	GBR	—	5,581	7,601	2005	Towed to Salalah port, where arrived Sep 23, due engine problems. Repairs in progress & ETD Sep 28.
<i>MELISSA</i>	general	PRK	—	1,591	2,020	1962	Sank off Sinop Province, northern Turkey, Sep 23. Crew abandoned ship after water started to come in through a hole.
<i>PATRIZIA D'AMATO</i>	bulker	PAN	NK	39,727	76,633	2004	Refloated by Smit Salvage Sep 1 after grounding during hurricane "Katrina". At anchor in lat 30 40. 21N, long 88 02.14W, Sep 27.
<i>REGINA BALTICA</i>	passenger	EST	LR	18,345	2,830	1980	Had blackout and grounded in the Stockholm archipelago Sep 27. Refloated under own power. Damage sustained to bulb and forepeak. Some ingress. Proceeded to Kapellskaer. To drydock Turku Sep 30.
<i>RUNGHOLT</i>	ferry	DEU	GL	2,268	331	1992	In collision with ro/ro <i>Schleswig-Holstein</i> off Dagebuell Sep 24. Sustained damage but back in service.
<i>SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN</i>	ro-ro	DEU	GL	1,743	349	1988	In collision with ferry <i>Rungholt</i> off Dagebuell Sep 24. Sustained damage. Repairing at Husum. ETC one week.
<i>SIGAS MONARCH</i>	lpg	SGP	LR	1,552	1,648	1985	Anchored in lat 50 47N, long 00 48 49E, 220 deg Dungeness Point 9.8 nm Sep 25 with main engine failure. Crew unable to effect repairs & being towed to Flushing for repairs. Entered Hook of Holland in tow.
<i>TRANSOCEAN MARIANAS</i>	drilling platform	PAN	AB ABS	20,461	27,764	1979	Reported Sep 27 forced off drilling location during hurricane "Rita" and grounded in at Eugene Island block 133. Damage to mooring system believed significant.
<i>XIANG TU</i>	general	CHN	CS	3,948	5,206	1986	On fire & adrift in lat 33 58.5N, long 129 11.6E, Sep 26. All crew rescued. Coast Guard vessel in vicinity & tug ETA Sep 27.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



## ACOR B. (Portugal)

Ponta Delgada, Sept 26 -- C.c. Acor B. (3981 gt, built 1997) is presently adrift due to main engine damage reportedly about 140 nautical miles north-west of St. Michael's Island. Understand the owners have contracted local harbour tug Pero de Teive to proceed to the area in order to tow the vessel to the port of Ponta Delgada. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Acor B. sailed Leixoes Sept 24 for St.Michael's.)

Ponta Delgada, Sep 29 -- C.c. Acor B. is presently under tow of local tug Pero de Teive and expected to arrive at Ponta Delgada by this evening for repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

## ADRIATIC VII

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

## AEGEAN BREEZE (Singapore)

London, Sep 28 -- Vehicle Aegean Breeze arrived Vigo Sep 27.

## ALLIANCE (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Torshavn, Sep 26 -- General cargo Alliance (1751 gt, built 1980) is presently under repair at Torshavn, and is expected to complete repairs at the end of this week. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Alliance arrived Torshavn around Sep 20 and was reported to have sustained reduction gear damage.)

## ARION (Greece)

London, Sep 23 -- Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the afternoon of Sep 22, passenger ro/ro Arion, that had grounded on Feb 11 at Cape Korakia, Chios, was refloated on Sep 16. The vessel then departed under tow of tug Megas Alexandros bound for Aliaga, Turkey, for demolition.

## BALTIMAR VENUS (Bahamas)

Durban, Sep 27 -- General cargo Baltimar Venus sailed Durban Sep 27 for Mossel Bay. -- Lloyd's Agents.

## BARKA (Turkey)

London, Sep 28 -- General cargo Barka was reported passing through the Dardanelles, in a westerly direction, on Sep 21.

## BLUE HAWK (Liberia)

London, Sep 29 -- Vehicle Blue Hawk (40711 gt, built 1978) on voyage from Sagunto to Ghent, with a cargo of cars, struck the entrance of the Terneuzen lock, on the north side, while entering the main lock at about 1330, local time, Sep 28. Because some damage was caused the authorities held the vessel for about half an hour until the insurance papers had been signed and the ship could then proceed to Ghent.

Blue Hawk arrived at Ghent at 1515 hrs and sailed at 1929, same day for Bremerhaven.

## CANADIAN LEADER (Canada)

London, Sep 27 -- Bulk Canadian Leader (18045 gt, built 1967) had a "blackout" and grounded off Buoy D38, lat 46 33 41N, long 72 07 56W, off Deschailions, St. Lawrence River, at 0118, EDST, Sept 26. Vessel is taking water in the forepeak and double bottom tanks. Awaiting next tide.

London, Sep 27 -- Following received from St.Lawrence Alerting Network, Quebec, timed 2255, UTC, Sept 26: Bulk Canadian Leader, Seven Islands for Hamilton (Canada), cargo iron ore, is still aground and taking water in No.1 hold and water is spreading internally to the vessel's other five holds. A tug has been on scene all day and tried to pull the vessel back into the channel without success. Another tug is enroute from Quebec. Divers are also on scene.

London, Sep 28 -- Following received from St.Lawrence Alerting Network, Quebec, timed 2340, UTC, Sep 27: Bulk Canadian Leader is still aground. An attempt to refloat the vessel is to be made at 0500, local time, Sep 28.

London, Sep 28 -- Following received from St.Lawrence Alerting Network, Quebec, timed 1512, UTC: Bulk Canadian Leader was refloated at 0445, local time, today. The vessel is currently proceeding to Quebec, ETA later today.

## CHIEN-HSING (China)

Taipei, Sep 28 -- General cargo Kin Hsing (also reported as Chien-hsing) was refloated Sep 20 with tug assistance. The vessel sustained scratching/denting to bottom plating. Immediate repairs were not needed, and the vessel had sailed on its normal coastal route among Taiwanese ports. It is presently berthing at Kinmen and will sail Sep 29 for Kaohsiung. -- Lloyd's Agents.

## CHIOS BEAUTY (Panama)

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

## COMAR PRIMO (Italy)

Ancona, Sept 27 -- Floating crane Comar Primo: Salvage operations were completed Sept 25. Comar Primo is now floating in the port of Ortona where it should be lifted and stored on the pier of local shipyard for repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

## CONCORDE (Luxembourg)

London, Sep 26 -- Product tanker Concorde sailed from Vigo on Sep 22, bound for Bilbao, where it arrived on Sep 24. The vessel departed from Bilbao on Sep 25.

## CORA (Germany)

London, Sep 23 -- Information received from Kiel, today, states: Product tanker Cora was successfully refloated on one of the next tides and is, after inspection, back in service as it sustained no severe damage.

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



**CRYSTAL RUBINO (Italy)**

London, Sep 25 -- Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 1003, UTC: At 0739, UTC, chemical/oil carrier Crystal Rubino (5045 gt, built 1992), ICCR, Rotterdam for Porvoo, laden with 5,000 tons of chemicals, reported it was in lat 56 14.5N, long 17 10.5E, and had a fire in the engine-room. The fire was subsequently extinguished and the vessel has since resumed its voyage, under its own power. (Note -- Crystal Rubino sailed from Rotterdam at 0630, Sep 22.)

London, Sep 28 -- Chemical/oil carrier Crystal Rubino, now named Rubino arrived at Skoldvik on Sep 26 and sailed on Sep 28, for Paldiski.

**DEEPSEA NAUTILUS (Panama)**

See "Hurricane "Rita" under "Weather & Navigation".

**DISHA (Malta)**

London, Sep 28 -- Lng Disha was reported arriving at Fujairah Anchorage on Sep 22, departing later the same day, bound for Dehej.

**DOCTOR HOOK**

See Quickcat.

**DONGJIN PHOENIX (South Korea)**

London, Sep 22 -- Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 1920, UTC, today: General cargo Dongjin Phoenix remains aground in the same position.

**EAST EXPRESS (DIS)**

Cadiz, Sep 23 -- The Cadiz Fire Brigade were called to a fire which broke out on board general cargo East Express (3504 gt, built 1983) at 0845 yesterday while the vessel was under repair in dry dock at the Navantia Shipyard. Staff from the shipyard assisted the fire brigade in fighting the fire, which was extinguished by 1200 hrs. The cause of the fire is still unknown, although an electrical fault has not been ruled out, as the source of fire was close to an electrical panel in the engine-room. As a preventive measure, the vessel's lower deck was flooded with foam. No injuries were reported. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Cadiz, Sep 29 -- Before the fire on board general cargo East Express, the vessel was expected to complete repairs in about eight to 10 days. The current estimated completion date is not known. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**ESTEOFX (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Sep 27 -- General cargo Estefox sailed from Piraeus port at 1700, local time, Sep 26, bound to Italy. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**EUGENIO****(St.Vincent & Grenadines)**

London, Sep 28 -- As of yesterday general cargo Eugenio was at the Dormac repairyard, Durban.

**EVONTIM (Dominica)**

London, Sept 26 -- Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 0308, UTC: General cargo Evontim

(597 gt, built 1963) is report to have capsized after taking on water in approximately 13 12N, long 60 24W. The 16 crew members have abandoned the vessel to a liferaft.

London, Sep 26 -- Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 1435, UTC, today: General cargo Evontim reported sank in lat 13 18.3N, long 60 38.4W.

**FOWAIRET (Qatar)**

London, Sep 23 -- After grounding near Buoy 53a in the River Scheldt on Sep 20, c.c. Fowairet has been towed by several tugs back to Flushing. The vessel was bound for Antwerp from London with a cargo of about 1200 containers, of which about 10 percent contain dangerous and inflammable goods. Last night a decision was made on the discharge of the containers from the vessel, which is now moored on the buoys in the Sloe harbour at Flushing, between the salvage company Multraship at Terneuzen and the shipowners. In the mean time the port authorities Zeeland Seaports, Rijkswaterstaat and the regional firebrigade have accepted the plan of how to discharge this damaged ship. This morning they started to discharge the containers with the floating crane Ovet 9 onto a barge. It has not been decided yet where and how these containers will be transported from Flushing. There is still an oil boom around the ship and salvage vessels are on standby in case of emergencies.

London, Sep 25 -- After making a start to discharging the containers from c.c. Fowairet using floating crane Ovet 9 onto a barge on Sep 23, the crisis team of the municipality of Flushing gave an emergency order to stop the discharge of the containers on the mooring buoys in Flushing Sloe harbour. The deputy-mayor of Vlissingen wanted to wait for the discharge plan of Zeeland Seaports, which will guarantee that the vessel will be discharged in such way that no harm will be done to the environment. However, the salvors Multraship protested and went to the court in Middelburg, saying that the situation of the vessel was not stable and that the sooner the cargo had been removed, the sooner the vessel can go to a repair yard. The judge of the Middelburg court ruled yesterday morning that the discharge of the vessel was allowed again under strict safety rules. The discharging of the containers was restarted at about 1300 hrs with floating cranes Ovet 9 and Ovet 10 onto barges. The deck cargo of containers will be removed first. Thereafter a new discharge plan has to be made and approved by the authorities. The total discharge of the vessel could take a long time.

London, Sep 26 -- When the discharge of the containers recommenced last Saturday, the salvors brought a third floating crane named Anna 4 to damaged c.c. Fowairet. Yesterday night, Sep 25, about 200 of the 600 containers had been removed from the decks of the

Fowairet. The discharging of the containers has to be done very careful and the stability of the containership is monitored all the times. The salvors expect to have completed the unloading of the containers on deck by tomorrow evening or Wednesday (Sep 28.) morning. They are being transported by barge in the Sloe harbour to Verbrugge Terminals and are stored there. After having removed the deck cargo, Zeeland Seaports and the salvors will submit another plan for the discharge of the containers in the holds, to the crisis team. They will also review the condition of the containership, in particular to assess whether it can be shifted to the quay for further discharged there.

London, Sep 28 -- The salvor combination of Multraship and the Unie van Reddings-en Sleepdienst will today start to discharge the containers from the holds of c.c. Fowairet. Last night, the unloading of the 600 containers from the decks of the containership onto barges was completed. Also yesterday part of the fuel oil onboard the vessel, was unloaded from the fuel tanks. The plan for the discharging of the holds, drawn up by the salvors, together with Zeeland Seaports, the regional fire brigade and Rijkswaterstaat, was approved yesterday by the deputy-mayor of Flushing. At 0800 hrs, this morning Fowairet was towed from the buoys in the Sloe Harbour to the quay at Verbrugge Terminals. There an oil boom was laid around the vessel. The unloading of the containers was immediately started. About 60 personal from the salvors team are currently involved in the operation. It is estimated it will take another 10 days to unload all 1300 containers from the holds. It has not yet been decided where the vessel is going to go, after the discharge of her cargo has been completed.

**FREY (Malta)**

Helsinki, Sep 27 -- General cargo Frey is still in port at Tallinn. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**GAS BAUHINIA (Liberia)**

London, Sep 25 -- Following received from Coast Guard San Francisco, timed 1815, UTC: Floating storage Gas Bauhinia (47048 gt, built 1977) reported at 1612, UTC, with steering problem in lat 19 19N, long 111 28E, 40 miles west of Hainan, and drifting towards approaching typhoon and in danger of grounding.

London, Sept 26 -- Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0100, UTC: Master of floating storage Gas Bauhinia reports the eye of the typhoon has passed and everything is OK and the vessel is proceeding south at five knots. At 0600, local time, today, vessel was in lat 19 08N, long 110 53.7E.

London, Sept 26 -- BP was sending a task force today to examine the extent of damage sustained by its floating storage Gas Bauhinia at the weekend. The vessel was blown off track by typhoon "Damrey" in waters close off

Hainan Island BP said. The ship which is employed as an LPG floating storage facility off the province of Zhuhai in southern China was taking shelter in the South China Sea when it was hit by the worse typhoon in the province for thirty years. While a full inspection of the vessel is yet to be undertaken it seems certain there were no injuries and no cargo leakage according to a source at BP

#### GC 55

See Kiperousa.

#### GENERAL MEHMANDAROV (Azerbaijan)

Baku, Sep 22 -- Product tanker General Mehmandarov is still under repair, ETC not presently known. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### GEORGE T. (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Sep 26 -- Bulk George T. arrived at Tees on Sep 10, and sailed on Sep 15, bound for Tubarao.

#### GLOBAL EXPLORER (Myanmar)

London, Sep 26 -- Bulk Global Explorer arrived at Niihama, Japan, on Sep 10.

#### GRETA R. (Myanmar)

London, Sep 24 -- Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1815, UTC, Sep 24: Bulk Greta R. (37519 gt, built 1989) reported at 1000, local time, Sep 23, aground in vicinity of Mile 53, lower Mississippi River, in lat 29 36.02N, long 89 50.29W. Vessel had lost starboard anchor and punctured fuel tank while grounding. Vessel had one metre gash in hull about 4-6 metres above waterline. Around 10 barrels of fuel oil spilled. Fuel oil lightered and leakage stopped. Tugs on scene and refloated vessel at around 1415, local time, Sep 23. Vessel now at Wills Point Anchorage at Mile 66, lower Mississippi River. (Note -- Greta R. sailed Belfast Sep 4 for Santos.)

#### GRETE THERESA (Singapore)

Noumea, Sep 23 -- Chemical/oil carrier Grete Theresa is moored at Noumea TERMINA. The repairs have commenced and are expected to be completed during the second fortnight of next month. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### GSF ARCTIC I (Vanuatu)

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

#### GSF CELTIC SEA (Vanuatu)

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

#### GSF DEVELOPMENT DRILLER I (Vanuatu)

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

#### GSF DEVELOPMENT DRILLER II (Vanuatu)

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

#### HANSEATIC (Bahamas)

London, Sep 27 -- Passenger Hanseatic departed from Hamburg at 1835 hrs, Sep 26.

#### HELIO

London, Sep 25 -- A press report, dated Sept 24, states: Egyptian passenger Helio, owned by Travco travel agency, caught fire this morning, but 86 Irish tourists on the boat were rescued safely, the official MENA news agency reported. The incident took place in Aswan in southern Egypt where the Luxor-Aswan Nile cruise docked. The fire broke out in the end section of the vessel. Six fire brigades rushed to the scene, and all tourists were rescued and moved to a nearby hotel, said MENA. Initial losses were estimated at Egyptian pounds one million (US\$175,438), but there were no losses in human lives or luggage, Travco Director Ashraf Mokhtar said. The fire damaged the kitchen, the restaurant, eight cabins and the boat's power engine, he added. The Egyptian Ministry of Interior has opened an immediate investigation into the causes of the fire, according to the report.

#### HERA (NIS)

Dubai, Sep 24 -- Understand lpg Hera sailed from Dubai Drydocks to Dubai Anchorage on Sep 14 and understand from the port that the vessel is awaiting orders. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### HIGH ISLAND III

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

#### HOHEBANK (U.K.)

Gothenburg, Sep 29 -- General cargo Hohebank (1687 gt, built 1977), bound Varberg, ran aground outside Varberg at around 0430, this morning. Vessel sustained a hole in a ballast tank containing water, no outlet of oil noted. The grounding occurred at "Skrivareklippan" located 600 metres north of Getter island outside Varberg. The vessel was empty and hole in ballast tank did not cause any major alarm. No injury noted and vessel arrived Falkenberg yard where it arrived this morning. Vessel will go into drydock this afternoon. The cause of this incident is under investigation. -- Westax Marine Services AB.

#### INGWENYA (South Africa)

See Umfolozi.

#### ISERAN (France)

Falmouth, Sep 23 -- Fishing Iseran arrived at Newlyn at 1213 hrs, Sep 15, in tow of the Penlee lifeboat. The ingress of water into the engine-room was traced to a leak in a stern gland and was duly stopped. The water in the engine-room was pumped out and repairs were made to the electrics. The vessel departed Newlyn, in tow of its sistership fishing Tourmalet at 0200, Sep 16, bound for Concarneau, arriving on Sep 17. The vessel is understood to be currently in dry dock at Concarneau. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Lorient, Sep 26 -- Fishing Iseran arrived in Concarneau on Sep 17 and having completed the repairs, is now awaiting the Port State Control, to check the repairs. Departure is expected on Sep 28. -- Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Sep 26.)

Lorient, Sep 29 -- Fishing Iseran is still alongside at Concarneau due to propeller shaft problems. The vessel is expected to sail on Oct 3. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### JAMES PRIOR (U.K.)

London, Sep 26 -- Following received from the Port of London Authority, dated today: General cargo James Prior has been towed to Acorn Shipyard, Rochester.

#### JETFERRY 1 (Greece)

London, Sep 27 -- Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Ro/ro Jetferry 1 (4423 gt, built 1995) sustained port main engine damage while sailing from Skiathos to Agios Konstantinos during the evening of Sep 25. Following the incident the vessel arrived safely at Agios Konstantinos, where departure was prohibited pending inspection of the repairs by the Marine Inspectorate of Stylidas.

#### JUPITER 6 (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

See Satsang.

#### KHUZOZHNIK KUSTODIYEV (Russia)

See "Netherlands" under "Port State Control."

#### KIEFERNWALD (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Sep 27 -- Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo Kiefernwald is still lying in the Kreishafen in Rendsburg, where it arrived shortly after the collision with general cargo Michelle.

#### KIPEROUSA (Malta)

London, Sep 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Salvage experts are fighting a race against time to remove logs onboard the stricken bulk Kiperousa. Giant logs on board the disintegrating vessel have started spilling into the sea. The vessel ran aground in June when the 15 000 tonne log carrier hit a reef off the East London coast in the Eastern Cape. Strong winds and a powerful surf over the weekend have caused some of the logs to discharge from the vessel. Terry Taylor, East London port spokesperson, says salvage experts are fighting a race against time to remove the logs from the disintegrating vessel before they turn into hazards to other vessels. The log's total value is estimated to be around R250 million.

London, Sep 27 -- A press report, dated Sep 26, states: Storms and strong winds in East London have caused the hull of stranded bulk Kiperousa to break up, sending about 800 giant logs into the sea. Terry

Taylor of the East London Ports Authority, said weekend storms accompanied by strong winds and surf had opened the hull up to the sea. "About half of the logs will sink and half will stay afloat," he said. "Attempts are being made to secure the logs and get them to shore." "These logs do pose a navigational hazard and a warning has been sent out to all ships. "There is a danger to anyone using the sea at this stage," said Taylor. He said salvors were hoping for favourable winds which would see currents washing the logs ashore. SvitzerWijsmuller's senior salvage master, Captain Nick Sloane, said all salvors were there, investigating the situation. He could not say what measures would be taken to speed up the removal of the logs to prevent further spillage into the sea until the investigation had been completed.

London, Sep 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: A warning has gone out to shipping along the Eastern and Southern Cape coasts of South Africa to maintain a sharp lookout for logs in the sea after an estimated 800 logs were lost overboard from the grounded bulk Kiperousa at the weekend. The hardwood logs were released from No.2 hold on Sunday night (Sep 25) as the crippled ship began breaking up during a severe storm. About 250 of these have washed up along the shore nearby but the majority of the others are unaccounted for, leading to the warning issued yesterday by the South African Maritime Safety Authority. A large barge (GC 55) brought to the area from the Middle East to assist with the salvage was damaged in transit and is undergoing repair at East London.

London, Sep 29 -- As of yesterday barge GC 55 was still at East London under repair.

#### **LOK RAJESHWARI (India)**

Tunis, Sep 23 -- Bulk Lok Rajeshwari has had undergone necessary temporary repairs to enable it to be sold. However it is still under arrest by local cargo receivers, in respect of a claim over cargo damage. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **LOLA 1 (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

London, Sep 28 -- General cargo Lola 1 sailed from Aalesund on Sep 2, bound for Bergen, arriving on Sep 6. The vessel departed later the same day.

#### **LONG XUYEN (Vietnam)**

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

#### **MAERSK BARCELONA (Bahamas)**

See "Brittany, France" under "Pollution."

#### **MAIKE-C. (U.K.)**

Muscat, Sep 26 -- General cargo Maik-C. (5581 gt, built 2005), Singapore to Rotterdam, towed to Salalah port by tug Seaways 2. Vessel

arrived Salalah at 1800, Sep 23. Engine repairs in progress and vessel expected to sail from Salalah Sep 28. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MELISSA (North Korea)**

London, Sep 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: North Korea general cargo Melissa (1591 gt, built 1962), Russia for Istanbul, sank off northern Turkey today, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported. The cargo ship was found half-sunken in the middle of the sea off Sinop province. Eight crew members were rescued and brought to Sinop. The crew members, including a Turk, were all hospitalized in Sinop and they were in stable condition, doctors concerned were quoted as saying. The survivors said that water started to ooze due to a hole in the ship, and they had to leave the ship since it was impossible for them to repair it.

#### **MICHELLE (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Sep 23 -- Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1247, UTC, today: General cargo Michelle: Salvage operations are continuing, understand vessel will be moved to a safe area away from ship navigation for the winter months.

London, Sep 23 -- SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV reports state: Dated Sept 22: This morning the SvitzerWijsmuller salvage team had removed some 160 m3 of fluids, some 150 m3 of which were heavy fuel oil, from the three double bottom tanks of the semi sunk general cargo Michelle. Pumping continues on the last two main tanks in the double bottom and further access to other tanks is being prepared. Dated today: At 2300, local time, yesterday pumping of heavy fuel oil from Michelle was completed. In total 180 m3 of fluid was recovered by the SvitzerWijsmuller team of which an estimated 165 m3 was heavy fuel oil. Further operations continue on the vessel.

London, Sep 28 -- A SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV report, dated Sep 27, states: The SvitzerWijsmuller salvage team succeeded in lifting general cargo Michelle from its original position in the deepwater route off the Dutch coast at 1535, local time, Sep 23, in order to move the vessel out of the fairway. The vessel was kept afloat as far as necessary to move it and once out of the deepwater route, it was allowed to settle again.

#### **MIKE (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Sep 23 -- General cargo Mike arrived at Rotterdam at 0620 hrs, Sep 20. It sailed at 2205 hrs, Sep 21, bound for Amsterdam, where it arrived at 0445 hrs, Sep 22 and departed later the same day, at 1905 hrs, bound for Bilbao.

#### **NAUSSICAA (Italy)**

London, Sep 28 -- Following received from Larnaca RCC, timed 1215, UTC: Yacht Naussicaa, 12 metres, Marmara to Cyprus, five persons on board,

grounded on rocks and subsequently sank off Limassol at about 1700, UTC, yesterdays. All crew safely rescued.

Limassol, Sep 29 -- Yacht Naussicaa, reportedly of English ownership, Atlamonte Ltd, after hitting a hard object and sustaining an ingress of water off Cape Zevgari, south-east Cyprus, sent an SOS which was responded to by the Limassol Port Authority. A rescue boat was sent to the scene. All persons on board were rescued and brought to Limassol. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **NCC MADINAH (NIS)**

London, Sep 26 -- Chem.tank NCC Madinah sailed Singapore Sep 18.

#### **NOBLE AMOA RUNNER**

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

#### **NOBLE JIM THOMPSON (Panama)**

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

#### **NOBLE JOE ALFORD (U.S.A.)**

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

#### **NOBLE LORRIS BOUZIGARD (Liberia)**

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

#### **NOBLE MAX SMITH (Liberia)**

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

#### **NOBLE PAUL ROMANO (Liberia)**

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

#### **NOBLE THERALD MARTIN (Liberia)**

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

#### **NORASIA TAURUS (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Sep 23 -- C.c. Norasia Taurus (now renamed Norasia Balkans) arrived at Hong Kong on Aug 28. The vessel sailed on Sep 2, bound for Port Klang, arriving on Sep 6. It sailed later the same day for Damietta, where it arrived on Sep 19, sailing on Sep 20, bound for Constantza.

#### **NORTRANS (NIS)**

Trondheim, Sep 27 -- Fishing Nortrans arrived Fosen Gjevning on Sep 23, (in tow), from Harstad. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ORIENT BRILLIANCE (Panama)**

Lima, Sept 26 -- Bulk Orient Brilliance arrived Callao yesterday escorted by a navy vessel, where it is now anchored five miles in front of Callao and full repairs will be carried out later. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ORUBA (Panama)**

London, Sep 23 -- Chem.tank Oruba was reported passing through the Straits of Gibraltar, in an easterly direction, at 0814 hrs, Sep 22, destination Vasto.



**OUR LADY OF FATIMA (Philippines)**

Manila, Sep 24 -- Ro/ro Our Lady of Fatima was cleared to sail by the Philippine Coast Guard yesterday (Sep 23) after undergoing repairs to its engine. The vessel left Cebu at 2400 hrs, yesterday, for Ormoc in Leyte island and returned to Pier No.4, Cebu, the following day. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**PACIFIC RAINBOW (Cambodia)**

London, Sep 23 -- Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0445, UTC: General cargo Pacific Rainbow (3847 gt, built 1980) sustained engine failure in the South China Sea and reported adrift in lat 17 31N, long 113 44E at 0850, UTC, Sep 22. All crew evacuated by Cambodian general cargo Sea Champion, which headed for Saigon. Pacific Rainbow reported by general cargo Chelyabinsk in lat 17 23.8N, long 113 53E at 0001, UTC, Sep 23. NUC light on, deck lighting, AIS working, one liferaft alongside on port side. Wind 300 deg, 12-14 metres per second.

Vladivostok, Sep 23 -- The crew has left general cargo Pacific Rainbow which was drifting in the South China Sea and have been taken on board general cargo Seachampion which was proceeding to the port of Bangkok. According to information obtained from the Vladivostok RCC the main engine of Pacific Rainbow was disabled. The vessel was abandoned by her crew according to shipowner orders, as a typhoon, threatening the safety of the crew/vessel, was approaching the distress area. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sept 25 -- Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0340, UTC: General cargo Pacific Rainbow was last reported in lat 17 23.1N, long 113 56.7E, at 0330, UTC, Sept 24.

**PASCAL PAOLI (France)**

See "France" under "Labour Disputes".

**PATRIZIA D'AMATO (Panama)**

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

**POLYHRONIS (Malta)**

London, Sep 26 -- Bulk Polyhronis was reported to have arrived at Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala on Sep 25.

**QUICKCAT (New Zealand)**

London, Sep 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: A "role model" ferry captain has been banned from skippering a vessel for three months and ordered to pay \$16,000 for his part in an Auckland Harbour boat collision that claimed the life of a 74-year-old woman. Wayne Williams privately met the family of his victim after being sentenced at the Auckland District Court yesterday. He wept as he left the court building. The court was told the 32-year-old was a role model after working his way up from kitchenhand to master in 15 years with Fullers Ferries. All that

unravelling in "less than two minutes in an otherwise unblemished career", defence counsel Michael McCarthy told the court at an earlier hearing. Williams was sailing the 10am Waiheke-bound ferry Quickcat on Jan 4 when it and a chartered fishing boat collided. On board the fishing boat were Gisborne woman Moira (known as Margaret) Newman and six members of her family, who all suffered some injuries. Mrs Newman had head and internal injuries and died in hospital three weeks later. Williams pleaded guilty to two charges under the Maritime Transport Act relating to careless operation of a ship. He failed to use an extra lookout despite visibility from the bridge being restricted by a cargo crane. "You were the master of a large vessel, with a lot of passengers on board, travelling at high speed through a narrow channel known to be hazardous, and with a significant number of vessels around," said Judge Anthony Fitzgerald at yesterday's sentencing. But he said that Williams, who is married with two children, was "remorseful and obviously of good character". "No penalty that I impose can bring back Mrs Newman or restore the loss to her family," the judge said. "I've no doubt you are truly horrified that Mrs Newman's death was caused by your actions." Williams was disqualified from operating a vessel for three months and ordered to pay a \$5000 fine and \$11,000 reparation. The 456-tonne ferry was carrying eight crew and 377 passengers when the accident happened. None was injured. The 8m charter boat Doctor Hook was also carrying Mrs Newman's husband Rex, daughter Christine, son-in-law John Rutherford and their three children. They were on a fishing trip to celebrate Mr Newman's 75th birthday. After Williams left court yesterday, Mrs Rutherford said it was time for the family to move on. "I've no bad feelings [towards Williams] and I wish him well," she said. Since the accident a separate fast lane has been introduced into the busy Motuihe Channel to avoid the risk of similar collisions. Maritime New Zealand, which brought the case, said the sentence send a clear message to all skippers. The organisation is also prosecuting the skipper of Doctor Hook, Bruce Newbury, on similar charges. He has pleaded not guilty.

**REGINA BALTICA (Estonia)**

Gothenburg, Sep 28 -- At approximately 2140 hrs, Sep 27, passenger ro/ro Regina Baltica (18345 gt, built 1980), Stockholm for Tallinn, ran aground in the Stockholm archipelago. Weather conditions at the time: winds force seven to eight. According to the local news and various statements, the vessel had experienced problems with the electricity power on board and the grounding was caused by a total "black-out" on board. No injuries were reported and there was no immediate danger to any of the 373 passengers and 169 crew. With the assistance of

the pilot and after an inspector/surveyor had checked the vessel, it managed to refloat under its own power. However, the vessel sustained damage in bulb and forepeak and took in some water. The Regina Baltica had departed Freeport terminal Stockholm at 1730 hrs, bound for Tallinn, but due to Customs procedures was required to make a short stop at Mariehamn. However, after the vessel refloated, it proceeded to Kapellskaer where passengers could choose to proceed to Estonia with other Tallin ferries, or return to Stockholm. -- Westax Marine Services AB.

Stockholm, Sep 28 -- Passenger ro/ro Regina Baltica grounded outside Kapellskaer while on voyage to Tallinn. The vessel sustained a hole in its bottom and proceeded to Kapellskaer to disembark the passengers. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 29 -- Tallink passenger ro/ro Regina Baltica was on its way to Turku for repairs after running aground five miles east of Kapellskaer in the Stockholm archipelago late on Tuesday night. The vessel, which had 373 passengers and 169 crew on board at the time of the incident, had a total power failure. The ferry was subsequently refloated as power was restored. The ship sustained forepeak damage in the grounding, although a spokesman for Tallink said this was not believed to be serious as the ship was only travelling at four knots at the time the accident took place. There were no injuries to passengers. The ship is due to be drydocked in Turku for repairs tomorrow. It was too early to say how long the repairs were expected to take, the spokesman said.

**RICKMERS GENOA (Marshall Islands)**

London, Sep 28 -- Following received from the operators of general cargo Rickmers Genoa, dated today: Rickmers Genoa is still under repair at Shanghai, ETC unknown.

**ROGER BLOUGH (U.S.A.)**

London, Sep 23 -- Bulk Roger Blough arrived at Two Harbors (from Gary Hbr.) on Sep 19 and sailed on Sep 20, bound for Conneaut. Bulk Walter J. McCarthy Jr. arrived at Duluth on Sep 19 and sailed on Sep 20.

**ROTA (Belize)**

Liverpool, Sep 28 -- General cargo Rota has been detained pending receipt of insurance documents from Russia. The damaged lock gates are currently being inspected. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**ROWAN FORT WORTH (U.S.A.)**

See Hurricane "Rita" under "Weather & Navigation."

**ROWAN HALIFAX (U.S.A.)**

See Hurricane "Rita" under "Weather & Navigation."

**ROWAN LOUISIANA (U.S.A.)**

See Hurricane "Rita" under "Weather & Navigation."

**ROWAN ODESSA (U.S.A.)**

See "Hurricane "Rita" under "Weather & Navigation".

**RUNGHOLT (Germany)**

See Schleswig-Holstein.

**SATSANG (Panama)**

London Sep 26 -- Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0822, UTC, today: Following Navigational Warning issued: Salvage tug Jupiter 6 (323 gt, built 1975), towing bulk Satsang (16066 gt, built 1971) from Walvis Bay to India. Owner of Jupiter 6 has had no contact with Jupiter 6 since Sep 6. Cape Town Radio also tried to contact the vessel, but with no response. Last known position, as of Sep 5: lat 35 52.1S, long 23 25.9E. All vessels are requested to keep a sharp lookout and are requested to report any sightings of Jupiter 6 and Satsang to Cape Town Radio or Hydrosan.

Following received from master of bulk Poseidon, SVIU, dated Sep 25: Have altered course at 1645, UTC, Sep 25, and proceeding to the unknown vessel (drifting not under command) in position: lat 38 00.2S, long 28 57.4E, in order to render assistance. ETA to the aforementioned position: 0505, UTC, Sep 26.

Following received from master of bulk Poseidon, SVIU, dated today: At 0450, UTC, have arrived close to the vessel (not under command) in position: lat 37 48S, long 25 59E. After a complete turn around the above vessel, have observed the following: Name: Ithomi. Port of Registry: Valetta. Hull: grey, without any external damage. Weather conditions: north-westerly, force six. Swell west-south-west, four metres. Cloudy. Due to heavy rolling and pitching of both vessels, it is dangerous to use life boat to search Ithomi. Is the tow unmanned?

At 0822, UTC: Bulk Posiedon has been released to proceed on its passage, as it has been established Ithomi is unmanned. (Note -- Ithomi is on break-up voyage from Cuba for Bangladesh, under tow of Jupiter 6. Vessels departed from Cuba "about eight or nine months ago". Jupiter 6 was reported arriving at Port of Spain on Jan 6, 2005. The vessel was next reported arriving Fortaleza on Mar 18, sailing on Mar 19. Vessel was next reported arriving at Walvis Bay on Jul 1 for repairs, sailing on Aug 9. While the tug was in Walvis Bay Ithomi remained at anchorage outside the port.)

**SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN (Germany)**

London, Sep 28 -- Information received from Kiel, dated today: Ferry Rungholt (2268 gt, built 1992) in collision with ro/ro Schleswig-Holstein (1743 gt, built 1988) off the Northsea port Dagebuell on Sep 24. Both vessels were severely damaged, Schleswig Holstein went to the Husum shipyard for repairs which are estimated to last one week. The Rungholt is already back in service. Both vessels connect the islands Amrum and Foehr with the mainland.

**SEA HARVEST (Liberia)**

London, Sep 26 -- Understand bulk Sea Harvest (17859 gt, built 2000) arrived in Tauranga Aug 21 and commenced discharging coal at No.9 berth Mt Maunganui. On Aug 22, a grab weighing 12 tonnes lifted approximately 15 tonnes of coal from the No.1 hold using the No.1 crane, SWL 30 tonnes). As the load was swung over the deck on the port side, the hoist wire parted, dropping the load onto the deck of the vessel. There were no injuries. (Note -- Sea Harvest subsequently sailed Tauranga Aug 26 and arrived Incheon Sept 14.)

**SEA WAAL (Gibraltar)**

London, Sep 23 -- Understand that general cargo Sea Waal (1843 gt, built 1985), St. Petersburg for Hull, has sustained engine trouble and has entered a Polish port, probably Szczecin to effect repairs.

Poznan, Sep 23 -- General cargo Sea Waal is berthing at 1700 hrs, today, in a shipyard at Szczecin. Stay should last 24 hours. Some measurements have to be made. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Poznan, Sep 27 -- General cargo Sea Waal sailed from Szczecin on Sep 24, bound for Hull. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**SEMLOW (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

See "Somalia" under "Piracy."

**SHAN HAI (China)**

London, Sep 28 -- As of yesterday bulk Shan Hai was still at Durban.

**SIGAS MONARCH (Singapore)**

London, Sep 26 -- Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC: Timed 2337, Sept 25: Lpg Sigas Monarch, 9V6674, (1552 gt, built 1985), Grangemouth for Fawley, cargo 948.7 tonnes raffinate, anchored in lat 50 47N, long 00 48.49E, 220 degrees Dungeness Point 9.8 nautical miles, with main engine failure and attempting to identify problem. Timed 0315, UTC: Vessel awaiting technical advise from owners, which expected this afternoon.

London, Sep 27 -- Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1405, UTC: Lpg Sigas Monarch: Understand crew are unable to effect repairs and awaiting a tug from Dieppe.

London, Sep 27 -- Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0748, UTC: Lpg Sigas Monarch, under tow of firefighting tug Chambon Sirocco, now on passage to Flushing, for repairs.

London, Sep 28 -- Lpg Sigas Monarch is currently anchored near Europoort, in lat 51 58 47N, long 04 07 12E.

Maassluis, Sep 29 -- Lpg Sigas Monarch entered the Hook of Holland, under tow of firefighting tug Chambon Sirocco, at 1420 hrs, yesterday. At the moment, the vessel is moored at buoy 85 in Europoort. First it has to unload its cargo of raffinate. The problem is that the main engine gearbox is out of order. According to its agents, it is likely that the vessel will have to go into a dock for approximately four-six.

However, this has not yet officially been confirmed by the owner. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**SILVA (Cambodia)**

Esbjerg, Sep 29 -- General cargo Silva is still in port at Esbjerg. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**SKS TAGUS (NIS)**

Tallinn, Sep 28 -- Bulk/oil SKS Tagus (63515 gt, built 1997), with a pilot onboard, touched the ground while entering Muuga at 1915, Sep 27. No damage was noted by the underwater survey. The loading of the vessel commenced at 1230, local time, today. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**SM 88 (Singapore)**

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

**SOUTHERN TIARE (New Zealand)**

Wellington, Sep 28 - General cargo Southern Tiare (1185 gt, built 1988), Napier for the Chatham Islands, broke down this morning. Apparently it has gearbox/clutch problems on the propeller shaft. At 0500 hrs it was 40 nautical miles south-east of Cape Kidnappers (lat 39 39S, long 177 06E), about 38 nautical miles from the nearest coast, and drifting east-north-east at 1.5 knots. Eastland Port Ltd may be able to send a tug. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 28 -- Following received from Maritime New Zealand, timed 0230, UTC: A tug, name not known, is proceeding from Gisborne, to assist general cargo Southern Tiare with an ETA of 2030, local time, today. The vessel is drifting away from the coast, and was last reported about 45 miles off.

London, Sep 29 -- Following received from Maritime New Zealand, timed 0250, UTC: General cargo Southern Tiare is now alongside at Napier.

**STURDY FALCON (Vietnam)**

London, Sep 29 -- As of yesterday general cargo Sturdy Falcon was still at East London.

**TMM OAXACA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Veracruz, Sep 22 -- C.c. TMM Oaxaca completed repairs Sep 14. A number of adjustments were made Sep 15-16, the vessel's main engine was started for dock trials at 1300, Sep 16, and it underwent sea trials Sep 17-18. The vessel loaded a cargo of containers and departed for Puerto Cortes Sep 19, ETA Sep 22. After cargo operations are completed at Puerto Cortes, the vessel is due to sail for Puerto Limon. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**TRADER (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Valencia, Sep 28 -- General cargo Trader is still at Cartagena. Repairs have commenced and are expected to be completed next week. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**TRADEWIND SUNRISE (Panama)**

London, Sep 23 -- Chemical/oil carrier Tradewind Sunrise sailed



Chaguaramas on Aug 26, bound for Curacao.

### **TRANSOCEAN MARIANAS (Panama)**

See "Hurricane "Rita" under "Weather & Navigation".

### **UMFOLOZI (Cyprus)**

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Twenty per cent of the oil spilled in Walvis Bay Harbour when c.c. Umfolozi was in collision with trailing suction hopper dredge Ingwenya last weekend, still has to be cleaned up. This is expected to be done in the next two to three weeks if good weather prevails, according to a spokesman for the Namibian Ports Authority. Eighty cubic metres of heavy fuel oil and marine diesel oil have successfully been recovered from the sea. According to a marine researcher at Swakopmund, the remaining oil pollution is more difficult to clean up, since the oil is spread in a thin layer on top of the water. A larger percentage of water is now being sucked up along with the oil. At the oyster farm Beira Aquaculture and Walvis Bay Salt Refiners near the harbour, executives are satisfied that their businesses aren't under immediate threat from the oil spill. NamPort authorities yesterday said the cause of the accident has not been determined because an investigating team is yet to be announced by the Directorate of Maritime Affairs. South African company Smit Salvage has been appointed to salvage the remaining 121 containers on board the Umfolozi. The containers are believed to hold products such as copper, salt, plastics, granite, hunting trophies and fishmeal. Thirty-five of the containers are empty. Salvaging is expected to last about four weeks.

London, Sept 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: A cleanup operation to remove about 100 tonnes of fuel oil spilled when c.c. Umfolozi was holed and subsequently sank at its berth in Walvis Bay is underway and by yesterday it was being reported that about three quarters of the spilled oil had been cleared. The salvage operation to recover the remainder of the containers remaining under deck on the vessel flooded holds has been awarded to Smit Salvage. Eighty-six of these boxes contain a variety of cargo while the balance of 35 are empties. The other vessel involved in the collision outside the port, trailing suction hopper dredge Ingwenya has damage above the waterline although it is also believed the vessel has damage to the bow thrusters.

Cape Town, Sept 27 -- C.c. Umfolozi is still partly submerged at the berth in Walvis Bay with main deck awash at high tide and that all compartments and the engine-room are flooded. Further understand that Smit Salvage has been appointed as salvors and that the salvage is being planned. -- Lloyd's Agents.

### **VASSILIKI T. (Greece)**

London, Sep 29 -- Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the afternoon of Sep 27, bulk Vassiliki T. (1636 gt, built 1982) grounded in shallow waters next to the rocky islets of Bourtsi Naflion. On board were eight crewmembers and one passenger. All are in good health. The vessel was subsequently refloated with the assistance of a tug.

### **VOC GALLANT (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Dubai, Sep 28 -- Bulk VOC Gallant is still under repair at Dubai Drydocks. - Lloyd's Agents.

### **WALTER J.MCCARTHY JR. (U.S.A.)**

See Roger Blough.

### **WARALEE NAREE (Thailand)**

See "Hurricane "Rita" under "Weather & Navigation".

### **WILLOW (Bahamas)**

Maassluis, Sep 29 -- General cargo Willow is expected to complete repairs within two weeks. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents. (See issue of Sep 2.)

### **XIANG TU (China)**

London, Sept 26 -- Following navigation warning issued today: General cargo Xiang Tu, 3948 gt, (built 1986) on fire and adrift in lat 33 58.5N, long 129 11.6E at 0800, UTC, Sept 26.

London, Sept 26 -- Following received from Coast Guard Japan, timed 2215, UTC: All 20 crew have been rescued from general cargo Xiang Tu, loaded containers. A Coast Guard rescue vessel is in the vicinity of the vessel and a tug is due on scene later this morning (Sept 27).

London, Sep 28 -- Following Navigation Warning, dated today, states: General cargo Xiang Tu adrift in lat 33 34.9N, long 129 20.6E at 1350, UTC, Sep 27.

### **YASA AYSEN (Turkey)**

London, Sep 28 -- Bulk Yasa Aysen is reported to have arrived at Fujairah Anchorage on Sep 25, from Bahrain.

### **YIOMARAL (Liberia)**

London, Sep 23 -- Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1310, UTC: Crude oil tanker Yiomaral (156408 gt, built 1993), bound China, had a crankshaft explosion Sep 17 and is anchored in lat 57 48, long 17 14E. Repairs have been effected but vessel is awaiting class inspection. (Note -- Yiomaral sailed Gdansk Sep 12 for China.)

London, Sep 26 -- Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1100, UTC, today: Crude oil tanker Yiomaral has resumed its voyage to China.

### **ZIEMIA GORNOSLASKA (Liberia)**

London, Sep 23 -- Bulk Ziemia Gornoslaska arrived at Duluth on Sep 16 and sailed on Sep 20.

### **ZWERVER (Belgium)**

Zeebrugge, Sep 29 -- Fishing Zwerwer is still berthed at Ostend, and repairs are under way. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.



### **SOMALIA**

Nairobi, Sep 22 -- Somali pirates took a hijacked U.N. aid ship out to sea again today, dashing hopes for an end to the three-month saga and release of their ten hostages. The gunmen have been holding general cargo Semlow -- with 10 crew members from Kenya, Tanzania and Sri Lanka, plus 850 tonnes of food aid sent by the U.N. World Food Programme -- since Jun 27. In what appeared to be a deal to end the stand-off, the militiamen on Monday (Sep 19) brought the vessel into El Maan port, north of Mogadishu. However, today, the ship left again with the food and hostages on board after the pirates apparently issued new ransom demands to the Kenyan shipping agent leasing the vessel. WFP spokesman Robin Lodge told Reuters in Nairobi. "They have made new financial demands...The port authorities said they would not allow the ship to stay, so they left this afternoon, in the direction of Mogadishu it seems." Inayet Kudrati, director of Mombasa-based Motaku Shipping Agency which leased the ship, said he was extremely worried for the eight Kenyan crew, Sri Lankan captain and Tanzanian engineer on board. The latest development was very confusing, he added. "She sailed out from the port. Where she is going we don't know," he told Reuters by telephone from Mombasa. "They want ransom. They haven't set a figure. I don't know now why they left when they were supposed to discharge the cargo. I don't know which direction they're going." The militiamen had initially demanded a \$500,000 ransom, then demanded the rice for their home area in northern Somalia, before this week agreeing to a face-saving deal whereby the new Transitional Federal Government (TFG) would distribute the aid. -- Reuters.

London, Sep 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: Somali pirates who have been holding World Food Programme general cargo Semlow in central Somalia since June have captured another vessel. The identity of the second vessel is not known yet but witnesses in the area, where both vessels are being held, said it is likely a freighter. Hijackers boarded it on their way back from Mogadishu, where negotiation with WFP fell apart. The hijackers agreed last week to free the Semlow after intense and long

negotiations with WFP and officials. However, negotiations broke down after the vessel was moved to Mogadishu area port for unloading. Reports say El Ma'an port authority ordered the vessel to leave the port after the armed men onboard produced new demands and the WFP nullified all agreements with them. WFP Somalia deputy country director, Leo van der Velden said "It is now clear that the hijackers are not demonstrating any meaningful actions towards finding the necessary resolution of this problem." In a statement issued yesterday, WFP said the hijackers failed to comply with a deal to end the three month saga and release the vessel, its 10-man crew and 850-ton humanitarian cargo of rice. "In the light of their failure to comply with the deal reached this week and the earlier agreement to end the crisis on Aug 5, we have no choice but to declare that from our standpoint, the agreements reached so far are null and void," Mr. Velden said.

Nairobi, Sep 28 -- The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) today blasted Somali pirates who seized general cargo Semlow carrying its food aid three months ago for reneging on a deal to free the vessel, its crew and cargo of food. Gunmen have been holding the vessel -- with 10 crew members from Kenya, Tanzania and Sri Lanka, plus 850 tonnes of food aid sent by WFP -- since Jun 27. The pirates had agreed to release the vessel at the port of El Maan, just north of Mogadishu but it sailed from there last Thursday (Sep 22). WFP said residents of the coastal town of Harardheere had reported it was anchored some 50 km offshore. Harardheere residents say the Semlow is close to another vessel, which they believe was hijacked last week near El Maan by the same pirates, WFP said, adding that the second vessel was believed to be laden with cement from Egypt. "I'm deeply worried for the crew and their families who have been waiting more than 90 days for this ordeal to be over," WFP executive director James Morris said in a statement. "Besides being a violation of international law, it's especially shameful as this food was intended to assist the victims of the tsunami." The WFP said it condemned the pirates' backtracking on an agreement with Somalia's transitional federal government and community leaders to release the vessel. "WFP demands the unconditional release of the vessel, its crew and its cargo," the agency said in an advertisement placed in newspapers in Somalia. The pirates initially demanded \$500,000 from the vessel's agents in Mombasa and have made various demands for money since then. WFP says it does not pay ransoms for the return of food aid. The agency has resumed food shipments to Somalia after suspending them following the hijack. -- Reuters.

## Port State Control



### NETHERLANDS

Maassluis, Sep 28 -- Bulk Khudozhnik Kustodiyev (16228 gt, built 1978) is currently detained at Rotterdam. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note -- Khudozhnik Kustodiyev arrived Rotterdam Sep 25 from Milos.)

### NEW ZEALAND

Wellington, Sept 26 -- A press report, dated Sept 24, states: Maritime New Zealand (MNZ) is cracking down on deficient tonnage entering local waters as the global capacity shortage drives shipping companies to operate older vessels. MNZ monitoring and compliance deputy director Bruce Maroc said there have recently been "a number of incidences" with such vessels involving different shipping companies. "We have made it abundantly clear to the operators of this tonnage that substandard ships will not be tolerated," he said. "We are looking at going beyond our normal port state inspection routine -- which involves looking at documentation and safety aspects -- and also looking at structural issues, load-line issues and ISM (International Safety Management) issues. If we are finding deficiencies we will either treat them as repair before sailing, detain until fixed or detain and temporary repairs for permanent repairs overseas." Mr Maroc said MNZ was also taking the proactive stance of advising the relevant maritime authorities in other countries of such deficient tonnage. The new Kiwi service introduced by Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) appears to have been the most afflicted, with Mr Maroc expressing the personal view that some ships were being used "at the end of their commercial life". "The vessels are in the age group of 25 to 30 years, which are very old for converted general cargo ships into container vessels. There is such a worldwide shortage of tonnage, that MSC made the strategic decision to operate these ships in this trade because they can't get other tonnage. We started getting concerned with c.c MSC Immacolata (17304 gt, built 1979, which was last reported to have arrived Singapore Sept 6). But the worst one was c.c MSC Federica (21296 gt, built 1974, which was last reported to have sailed Auckland Aug 27) about a month ago. We discovered problems with the transfer of ballast, load lines, structural issues and ISM compliance and it was detained for about 12 days in Auckland. It ended up going directly to repair berths in China where it is undergoing extensive repairs. We have required, and MSC management did, come down from Hong Kong to New Zealand and we told them in no uncertain terms do not bring in

substandard tonnage. They have responded to that and have also subjected themselves to an ISM compliance order at our request." However, at the time of writing, reports came to hand c.c. MSC Paola (20295 gt, built 1978) was being detained for MNZ inspection at the port of Napier after experiencing engine failure on arrival. MSC New Zealand general manager Kevin Cooper said MSC Paola had a "slight mechanical issue" and that MNZ had been advised "out of courtesy". He said the recent tonnage deficiencies were no longer an issue. "That stuff is almost close to a month old," he said. "These ships have gone off to Singapore and been repaired, prior to their class surveys and being fully refurbished." Trans-Tasman shippers appear to have been the most affected by the recent detentions and other reported vessel breakdowns. For example, having been away in drydock for three months, the Chief Container Service (CCS) general cargo Tauranga Chief (6030 gt, built 1992) had an engine failure on its return to operations. Although, CCS trans-Tasman trade manager Stuart Craker said this only added a "couple of days" delay. The joint P&O Nedlloyd-ANL trans-Tasman service has been significantly affected by the untimely drydocking of both vessels in June. The service has subsequently operated on a fortnightly basis via just the c.c. P&O Nedlloyd Wellington, with the arrival of a new ANL vessel expected later this month. -- Lloyd's Agents.

## Seizures & Arrests



### AGIOS ARSENIOS (Greece)

See under "Tsoukalas Naftiki Eteria".

### AGIOS DIONYSSIOS (Greece)

See under "Tsoukalas Naftiki Eteria".

### AGIOS SPYRIDON K. (Greece)

London, Sep 23 -- A report in the today issue of "Newsfront" states: After being having been seized on several previous occasions, in pursuit of a Euros 5,628 claim against the registered owners, ro/ro Agios Spyridon K. has been again been listed for auction. The new scheduled date for auction is Oct 5. Lying at Salamina, the vessel carries a start-up price of Euros 350,000.

### AQUARIUS MATSAS III (Greece)

London, Sep 23 -- A report in today's edition of "Newsfront", states: Tug Aquarius Matsas III (165 gt, built 1982) has been seized by the Piraeus Port Authority in pursuit of a Euros 52,976 claim against the registered owners.



**HERKULES II (Poland)**

London, Sep 26 -- Tug Herkules II sailed from Dordrecht at 1720 hrs, Sep 19, bound for Flushing.

**MERWEDESTROOM (Netherlands)**

Maassluis, Sep 28 -- C.c. Merwedestroom (7713 gt) is under arrest in the Rotterdam area. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**MICRONESIAN NAVIGATOR (Marshall Islands)**

London, Sep 22 -- C.c. Micronesian Navigator, chartered by the Philippines, Micronesia and Orient Navigation Company has been stuck at Honolulu Harbour with its cargo aboard since last month because of a payment dispute between the shipping company and stevedoring firm McCabe, Hamilton and Renny Co. Ltd. PM&O Line president Robert Colson said the it was arrested under a maritime lien from McCabe, Hamilton and Renny. He estimated the vessel has slightly more than 100 20-foot containers from Asia and Micronesia that need to be unloaded here. The U.S. Marshals Service seized the vessel on Aug 23, state transportation officials said. "We are trying our very best to diligently proceed to get the ship running, just coming to some solution about who owes what," Colson said. "Right now they're working as diligently as they can, both sides, to see if they can get this thing with the arrest lifted so we can discharge the cargo and continue on to the West Coast." Kraig Kennedy, executive vice president of McCabe, Hamilton and Renny, said the lien on the vessel, which is currently at Pier 1, "has to do with money owed to McCabe" and that Stevedoring Services of America on the West Coast and another stevedoring firm have joined in the dispute against PM&O. Both Kennedy and Colson would not specify the amount of money involved or other details of the dispute. Colson only said the amount "is not monumental; it's relatively small in relation to the costs that we've incurred." Kennedy said arresting a vessel under a lien is rare and that if the dispute is not worked out, "then we move forward to sell the ship, and at that point I think the owners of the ship will step in." "We certainly recognize the problem this has created for all of the small-business people particularly who are waiting for cargo," Kennedy said.

**QIANG RONG 1 (Panama)**

Kolkata, Sep 26 -- Bulk Qiang Rong 1 (12897 gt, built 1980) has been arrested and detained at Haldia port by Admiralty suit No: 341/2005, passed by the High Court of Kolkata. It has been learnt that vessel was supposed to discharge her cargo at Haldia Port, but instead discharged her cargo at "anchorage port Diamond Harbour into barge". -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Qiang Rong was reported to have arrived at Haldia on Sep 17.)

**RED POINT (Italy)**

Maassluis, Sep 28 -- Chemical/oil carrier Red Point (27001 gt, built 1984) is currently under arrest at Rotterdam. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note -- Red Point arrived Rotterdam Sep 25 from Le Havre.)

**TSOUKALAS NAFTIKI ETERIA**

London, Sep 23 -- A report in today's issue of "Newsfront" states: After being previously seized a number of times, general cargo Agios Dionyssios and general cargo Agios Arsenios have again been seized in pursuit of respective claims of Euros 5,859 and Euros 21,550 against the vessels' owners, Tsoukalas Naftiki Eteria. Both vessels are presently lying at Larimna and both are scheduled to be auctioned on Oct 5. Agios Dionyssios carries a reserve price of Euros 500,000 and Agios Arsenios has a reserve price of Euros 600,000

**TURAMAN (Panama)**

London, Sep 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two senior crew members of a Cambodian-flagged vessel have been charged with illegally fishing for Patagonian toothfish in Australia's sub-Antarctic waters. The master and fishing master were among crew arrested earlier this month aboard the fish factory Turaman under suspicion of operating illegally in the Macquarie Island exclusive economic zone. They each face a maximum penalty of Aus\$825,000 and the vessel, catch and fishing gear could also be forfeited. Federal Fisheries Minister Ian Macdonald said yesterday the Australian Fisheries Management Authority had laid charges of illegal fishing against the two crewmen. Senator Macdonald said the 76m vessel, which weighs 2145 tonnes, had been escorted to Hobart for further inquiries by AFMA. "Investigations revealed the vessel was carrying 143 tonnes of Patagonian toothfish," Senator Macdonald said.

**UGO FOSCOLO (Greece)**

London, Sep 23 -- A report in today's issue of "Newsfront" states: Passenger ro/ro Ugo Foscolo (12798 gt, built 1986) was seized in the second half of September by private creditors in respect of claims of Euro 147,964.94 and Euro 12,644.17 against the vessel's registered owners.

**Pipeline Accidents****MRAVOK, IRAN**

London, Sep 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: A gasoline pipeline explosion possibly caused by an electrical spark killed at least three people yesterday in western Iran, an eyewitness and state-run radio reported. The explosion happened in

Mravok, a village of 300 people some 400km southwest of the capital, Teheran, and burned down dozens of buildings, in which several people were trapped, witness Mahmoud Chaharmiri said. Gasoline was flowing in the allies of our village when I got up in the early morning. Several buildings were burnt down and the heavy smoke filled the village air, he said. Chaharmiri said he saw the bodies of at three people pulled out of several houses. State-run radio also quoted local officials as saying at least three people were killed. Rescue workers were still trying to douse the flames and find survivors, while investigators are probing for the cause of the accident. Village council member Mohammad Chaharmiri said an electric spark from a local water pump may have ignited gasoline leaking from a nearby pipe that had broken, he told the official Islamic Republic News Agency. The pipeline transfers fuel to northern Iran from a refinery in southwestern Iran and passes next to the village.

**SINDH-BALUCHISTAN PROVINCE, PAKISTAN**

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

**TOCCATE AREA, PERU**

London, Sep 23 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A district mayor threatened yesterday to sue the operators of a pipeline that transports natural gas liquids from the Camisea gas fields in the country's southern Amazon after it sprang a leak in one of his villages. Transportadora del Gas del Peru, or TGP, which runs the Camisea liquids pipeline, said today that it had evacuated about 200 people from the village of Tocate and temporarily closed a highway following the spill.

**Pollution****ASSAM, INDIA**

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated Sep 21, states: The oil well fire in Assam continued to rage for the seventh day today with an estimated production loss of about 54,000 barrels of crude, officials here said. A spokesperson for state-owned exploration firm Oil India Limited (OIL) said efforts were on to put out the fire and then cap the well at Dikom, 520 km east of Assam's main city Guwahati. The cause of the oil spill was yet to be ascertained as the intense heat from the well fire was preventing workers from moving closer. "The Dikom oilfield with 30 producing wells has been shut down since the oil spill began on September 13," OIL group general manager J K Talukdar told IANS over the phone from the company headquarters Duliajan in eastern Assam. "We are



yet to assess the actual damage caused by the fire. Our priority now is to control the fire," the spokesperson said. Oil India authorities tried to douse the flames but gave up and summoned experts from the Texas-based Boots and Coots International Well Control. About 600 fire-fighters under the supervision of four US experts from Boots and Coots were working round the clock in shifts to douse the flame. "The final assault to extinguish the fire might take another six to seven days as we are yet to get some heavy equipment and a special variety of sand required by the US experts to start their operation," Talukdar said. "Some machinery has arrived and we are expecting some more, being transported by road, to reach the site in the next few days. All the equipment and sand are being brought from various parts of the country." The US team was planning to spray water at a high pressure accompanied by a 'sandstorm' to put out the fire and then start capping the leaking oil well. Some 5,000 people, most of them tea plantation workers, were evacuated soon after the oil spill as a precautionary measure, but most have since returned to their homes, the OIL spokesperson said.

London, Sep 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters battling a massive 12-day blaze at a burst oil well in Assam will take another five days to launch a final assault to douse the fire, officials said yesterday. A spokesperson for the state-owned exploration firm Oil India said an estimated 200 workers were trying to put out the fire and then cap the well at Dikom. A four-member US team of experts from Boots and Coots International Well Control was supervising the operations.

#### BRITTANY, FRANCE

Brest, Sep 23 -- Understand c.c. Maersk Barcelona was authorised to depart Brest today following the payment of a guarantee of euros 500,000 required by the French court in respect of the pollution observed Sep 20. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### PERVAYA RECHKA RIVER, RUSSIA

London, Sep 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: The dwellers of the dolphinarium of the Pacific Scientific Research Fisheries Centre (TINRO Centre) may suffer from the oil spill in Vladivostok. The dolphinarium where eight white whales are currently living is located in the Amur Bay at the embankment at Sportivnaya Harbor of Vladivostok. Clots of petroleum products mixed with adsorbent that is used to clean up the spill are now getting into the dolphinarium. So far this has caused no visible damage to the dolphinarium inhabitants, however, scientists are worrying about possible hazardous effects of contacts with petroleum products on the health of white whales. The large oil spill occurred in Vladivostok on the night of Saturday, (Sep 24). A total of 48 tonnes of fuel oil

and waste oil spilled from a petroleum storage depot of the Pacific Fleet. Most of the oil leaked into the Pervaya Rechka River. About a tonne of petroleum products reached the Amur Bay contaminating beaches of Vladivostok. According to the city commission for emergency situations, over 100 tonnes of mixture of water with petroleum products have been collected. At present specialists are cleaning up the Amur Bay water area with the use of special adsorbents.



#### BAY OF BENGAL

London, Sep 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of Bangladeshi fishermen have begun returning to their homes in coastal areas after riding out a deadly storm in the Bay of Bengal earlier in the week, officials said today. The storm swept across the bay on Monday (Sep 19) before lashing coastal areas of India and Bangladesh and leaving a trail of destruction. In Bangladesh a tidal wave caused by the storm forced 12,000 people out of their flooded homes. At least 9,000 Bangladeshi fishermen from 600 boats had now reported back to their landing stations in the southern coastal district of Barguna, sub-district executive officer Abdul Bari told AFP. Around 85 men on board six boats were still unaccounted for, said Bari adding that it was too early to say if they had perished. They would not yet be listed as officially missing as it was possible they had anchored off the Indian coast or were not yet due back, he said. "From what the fishermen have told us we believe that 15 to 20 boats capsized in the storm and the crews were rescued by nearby boats," he added. Barguna is one of several districts used as a base by thousands of fishermen in southern Bangladesh. Abdus Salam Talukder, president of the fishing association in neighbouring Patuakhali district, said they had no reports of any deaths although the situation could change as more fishermen returned with eyewitness accounts of the storm. "Fishermen who have returned so far told us that no fishermen has died in the storm. We are expecting that some of the missing fishermen were rescued in the Indian part of the ocean," he said. The storm killed at least 64 people in the east Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa and displaced tens of thousands. (See issue of Sep 23.)

Hyderabad, Sep 23 -- Helicopters and boats distributed food, water and medicines today to hundreds of people stuck on rooftops in an Indian state after a storm caused severe flooding, officials said. Large areas of the southern coastal state of Andhra Pradesh were still inundated after the powerful Bay of Bengal storm crossed

India's eastern coast on Monday (Sep 19), and they feared a spike in cases of malaria, diarrhea and other diseases. More than 75 people have been killed due to electrocution, house collapses and drowning in Andhra Pradesh after the storm caused heavy rains and flooding. In western Gujarat state, heavy rains, lightning strikes and flooding had killed 12 people since yesterday and thousands had been evacuated to higher ground, officials said. In Andhra Pradesh, flood waters had largely receded and rains had eased, but thousands of people were still homeless or stranded in waterlogged villages and in several towns. Across the 12 flood-hit districts, helicopters were dropping medicines as well as food packets and water to flood victims. Aid was also being distributed by boats, officials said. About 150,000 people are crammed into schools, government buildings and community centers which have become relief camps. -- Reuters.

#### EUROPE

London, Sep 29 -- A press report, dated Sep 28, states: Severe flooding in the Alps has caused 2.6 billion Swiss francs (\$2 billion) in damages, more than earlier thought, Swiss insurers said today, making it their country's second most costly natural catastrophe on record. The damage estimate for the August floods -- from an organisation of state insurers -- is up from an earlier estimate of 1.8 billion francs. Of the 2.6 billion franc total, 1.85 billion was insured and the remaining 800 million was infrastructure costs that were not covered, the state insurers said. The increase comes one day after Switzerland's private insurers raised their estimate for total claims to 1.335 billion francs, from 800 million earlier. The estimate by the state insurers includes the 1.335 billion figure mentioned by the private insurers. The sums make the floods the second-costliest catastrophe Switzerland has ever witnessed. Several Swiss insurers have given their forecasts for claims from the floods, which followed days of torrential rainfall. Zurich Financial Services has said it expects to pay aggregate claims of around \$100 million, while Baloise had to give up a financial target after it took a 100 million franc hit from the floods.

#### HURRICANE "JOVA"

London, Sep 23 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Jova" centre located near lat 22.2N, long 149.9W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 60 nautical miles. Present movement toward the north-west or 325 degrees at 10 knots. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots with gusts to 65 knots. Forecast position lat 23.3N, long 151.0W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 50 knots, gusts 60 knots. Forecast position lat 24.9N, long 152.4W at 0600, UTC, Sep 24. Maximum winds 40 knots, gusts 50 knots.

**HURRICANE "KATRINA"**

London, Sep 26 -- A press release from GlobalSantaFe, dated Houston Sep 14, states: GlobalSantaFe today provided a preliminary estimate for the expected start of operations for its four offshore drilling rigs damaged by Hurricane "Katrina." Most of the damage to the four rigs was to their mooring systems. Three of these rigs, crane ship GSF Arctic I, semi-sub pontoon GSF Celtic Sea (24125 gt, built 1982) and drill ship GSF Development Driller II (30236 gt, built 2005), are projected to begin normal operations in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico during the fourth quarter of 2005. Drill ship GSF Development Driller I (30270 gt, built 2003), which also sustained water damage to some of its thruster control systems, is projected to start work in the first half of 2006 due to longer delivery times for critical replacement parts. All of the damaged rigs are covered under a hull and machinery insurance policy with a combined deductible of \$10 million for this event. In addition, GSF Arctic I, GSF Development Driller II and GSF Development Driller I are insured under a policy that provides reimbursement to the company for 100% of each rig's contracted dayrate following 60 days of lost revenue, up to a maximum of 270 days per rig.

London, Sep 28 -- A SMIT Salvage BV report states: With wind speeds of 280 kilometres an hour hurricane "Katrina" struck the US Gulf Coast and caused havoc across Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee. The expertise of SMIT Salvage was called upon to provide assistance for two grounded bulk carriers in the Mississippi. Salvage teams from Rotterdam and Houston were dispatched to the disaster area. SMIT Salvage obtained Lloyd's Form contracts for bulk Patrizia D'Amato (39727 gt, built 2004) and bulk Chios BeautyM (see issue of Sep 15). These vessels were in ballast when the hurricane struck. Using local hired tugs, the two ships were refloated on Sep 1 and 3. (Note -- Patrizia D'Amato was at anchor lat 30 40 21.78N, long 88 02 14.88W, Mobile area, at 1635, Sep 27.)

**HURRICANE "KENNETH"**

London, Sep 24 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Kenneth" located near lat 16N, long 138.3W, at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate to within 45 nautical miles. Present movement towards the west, or 270 deg, at 3 knots. Maximum sustained winds 40 knots with gusts to 50 knots.

London, Sep 26 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Hurricane "Kenneth": Hurricane centre located near lat 15.6N, long 140.0W, at 0300, UTC, Sep 26. Position accurate to within 30 nautical miles. Present movement towards the west-south-west, or 240 deg, at three knots. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots with gusts to 80 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 10 nautical miles.

Radius of 50-knot winds 20 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 70 nautical miles. Radius of 12-foot seas 130 nautical miles. Forecast for 0001, UTC, Sep 27: Position lat 15.4N, long 141.1W. Maximum sustained winds 60 knots with gusts to 75 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 20 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 70 nautical miles.

London, Sep 27 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 1200, UTC, today, the centre of hurricane "Kenneth" is predicted to be near lat 15.8N, long 142.4W, with maximum winds of 60 knots and gusts to 75 knots. The radius of 50 knot winds: 20 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 70 nautical miles in all four quadrants. At 0000, UTC, Sep 28, the centre is predicted to be near lat 16.4N, long 143.6W, with maximum winds of 55 knots and gusts to 65 knots.

London, Sep 28 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Kenneth": Storm centre located near lat 17.1N, long 144.2W, at 0900, UTC, Sep 28. Position accurate to within 45 nautical miles. Present movement towards the north-west, or 315 deg, at 10 knots. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 70 nautical miles north semicircle, 30 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 12-foot seas 100 nautical miles north semicircle, 60 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Sep 29: Position lat 19.0N, long 147.7W. Maximum sustained winds 40 knots with gusts to 50 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 60 nautical miles north semicircle, 25 nautical miles elsewhere.

**HURRICANE "RITA"**

London, Sep 23 -- Hurricane "Rita" located near lat 25.4N, long 88.7W at 1500, UTC, about 460 miles south-east of Galveston Texas and about 445 miles south-east of Port Arthur Texas. "Rita" is moving toward the west-northwest near 9mph. A gradual turn to the northwest is expected during the next 24 to 36 hours. Maximum sustained winds have decreased to near 165mph with higher gusts. "Rita" is a Category Five hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale. Some slight weakening is forecast during the next 24 hours but "Rita" is expected to remain an extremely dangerous hurricane.

PORT: Port Arthur, Texas: The US Coast Guard has requested all vessels in the Port Arthur/Beaumont port areas to plan to depart 12 hours prior to Hurricane "Rita" making landfall.

PORT: Lake Charles, Louisiana: The US Coast Guard Captain of the Port yesterday (September 21) set Hurricane Condition Whiskey for the Port of Lake Charles. All commercial vessels and barges greater than 500 gross tons must immediately advise the Captain of the Port of their intent to remain in port or to depart. Commercial vessels and barges greater than 500 gross tons desiring to

remain in port must arrange safe mooring and shall contact the COTP in writing for approval, within 24 hours of Hurricane Condition Whiskey being set. It is expected that all commercial vessels and barges greater than 500 gross tons discontinue cargo operations and depart the port within 24 hours of Hurricane Condition Whiskey being set. Vessels bound for the Port of Lake Charles are advised to seek an alternative destination.

PORT: Houston, Texas: The Port of Houston Authority has advised that the Barbours Cut Terminal gates will be closed today and tomorrow. They are due to reopen on Monday (Sep 26), depending on conditions at that time. Houston Pilots have advised that that no more vessels will be boarded inbound. Once vessel operations are complete today at BCT, everything will be secured and the terminal closed. (See issue of Sep 23.)

London, Sep 23 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Rita" centre located near lat 26.8N, long 91.0W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 15 nautical miles. Present movement toward the north-west or 305 degrees at eight knots. Maximum sustained winds 120 knots with gusts to 145 knots. Forecast position lat 27.6N, long 92.2W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 125 knots, gusts 155 knots. Forecast position lat 28.9N, long 93.6W at 0600, UTC, Sep 24. Maximum winds 120 knots, gusts 145 knots.

London, Sep 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than a million people are fleeing towns and cities in Texas and Louisiana as the US Gulf Coast prepares for the arrival of Hurricane "Rita" today. Their flight inland has been slowed by traffic jams stretching up to 100 miles, with fuel shortages reported. Texas is due to bear the brunt of the storm but forecasters say its path may shift east, increasing the risk heavy rains may test New Orleans' flood defences. Texas has called on the federal government to put 10,000 troops on standby for search and rescue work. The Gulf Coast from Louisiana as far west as Mexico is on alert, with officials warning "Rita"'s course remains unpredictable. In other developments: About 1,000 state troopers and 5,000 National Guard are already making preparations for the storm in Texas; National Guard lorries are taking badly-needed fuel to petrol stations and stranded motorists around Houston and Oil companies are closing refineries in Texas and moving workers from offshore rigs. According to the National Hurricane Centre, "Rita" weakened yesterday to a Category Four, but was still carrying winds of 140mph this morning. The storm remains "extremely dangerous", being at least as powerful as "Katrina" and threatening 370 miles of coastline. Houston's busy airports will close at noon local time (1700, UTC) ahead of "Rita"'s expected landfall late today. A mandatory evacuation order in the island city of Galveston was rapidly



observed and 90% of the city's 57,000 residents had left by yesterday afternoon. The escape from Galveston has been gruelling, with those who left spending much of the past 24 hours stuck in traffic jams in stifling humidity. Many have been left stranded on the roadside, out of petrol, low on water and food, waiting for help from the police or the Texas National Guard. In Houston low-lying areas at risk from flooding were also emptying. To the north of the city, a traffic queue up to 100 miles long was reported as people headed inland in temperatures reaching 37C. Scores of hospitals along the main evacuation routes out of Houston closed their doors to new patients today after being swamped by people suffering heat exhaustion, AFP news agency reports. In neighbouring Louisiana, Governor Kathleen Blanco urged people to leave the south-western coast, already battered by Hurricane "Katrina". She estimated that between 300,000 and 500,000 people would go. Engineers have been seeking to bolster the floodwalls in New Orleans, which were overcome by "Katrina"'s storm surges. Some estimates say even a few inches of rain would overcome the weakened flood defences. Mexico has not evacuated its coastal state of Tamaulipas where tropical storm conditions are predicted. However, the state is on a "yellow alert" in case "Rita" should veer west, away from Texas.

London, Sep 24 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Rita": A hurricane warning remains in force from Sargent, Texas, to Morgan City, Louisiana. At 0900, UTC, tropical storm warning discontinued south of Port O'Connor, Texas. Tropical storm warning remains in effect for the south-eastern coast of Louisiana, east of Morgan City to the mouth of the Pearl River, including metropolitan New Orleans and Lake Pontchartrain, and from south of Sargent to Port O'Connor. Hurricane centre located near lat 29.6N, long 93.9W, at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate to within 15 nautical miles. Present movement towards the north-west, or 325 deg, at 10 knots. Maximum sustained winds 105 knots with gusts to 130 knots. (See issue of Sep 26.)

London, Sep 24 -- A Press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Rita" has pounded the US Gulf Coast with driving wind and rains, leaving a trail of destruction. Electricity stations exploded and fires erupted as power lines came down, resulting in the loss of power for about a million people in the region. The cities of Houston and Galveston, which were braced for severe weather, escaped a direct hit, as the storm strayed east from its original path. "Rita" has weakened to a Category One hurricane but heavy rains continue. The US National Hurricane Center said winds of up to 120mph were recorded when the hurricane hit land at about 0600, UTC, but winds had since dropped to around 75mph. "Rita" crashed ashore

with a 20ft storm surge into low-lying areas along the Texas-Louisiana border, prompting fears of flooding. The towns of Sabine Pass in Texas and Cameron in Louisiana took the initial fury of the hurricane. It is not yet clear what damage has been done to the oil refineries and facilities near Beaumont and Port Arthur. There was however renewed flooding in New Orleans. A surge of water flowed over one of the protective levees which had been patched up after the floods caused by Hurricane "Katrina" last month. The storm following the violent winds was also expected to dump up to 25in of rain. Heavy rains fell in Lake Charles and powerful winds are reported to have caused considerable structural damage to property. As well as ripping off rooftops, the storm knocked a container vessel from its moorings in Lake Charles and the vessel threatened to hit a highway bridge, news reports said. Hotel worker Rainey Chretien, of the Elegante Hotel in Beaumont, Texas, said the storm blew out windows, brought down a chandelier and ripped the roof off another section of lobby. Chief Micky Bertrand, of the Beaumont Fire and Rescue, said it had been a rough night with a number of house fires and power lines down across the region. Flood waters and winds had prevented some emergency services from reaching the fires. But they are now starting to get out to assess the damage, officials said. There were 16 arrests for burglary in Houston overnight but few reports of lawlessness in other areas.

London, Sept 25 -- A press report, dated Sept 23, states: Transocean Inc said that its drill platform Deepsea Nautilus broke free of a tug and is floating about 40 miles south of Grand Isle, La., said company spokesman Guy Cantwell. It is east of the eye of Hurricane "Rita", but in an area being lashed with heavy winds and waves. Before "Rita"'s arrival, the Houston-based company was repairing the rig at sea to fix minor damage it sustained during hurricane "Katrina" last month. It was being towed away from the storm when the tow bridle broke in rough seas. Fourteen people on Deepwater Nautilus had to be taken off by helicopter, but as of 1700 Friday (Sept 23), the evacuation was complete. Deepwater Nautilus is now essentially at the mercy of the storm. The multiple story structure is at risk of being blown into one of the 4,000 platforms that dot the Gulf Coast or even into shore. The company is tracking its position by transponder, says Mr. Cantwell.

London, Sept 25 -- A press report, dated Sept 24, states: Hurricane "Rita" pummeled east Texas and the Louisiana coast today, triggering floods and demolishing buildings, yet the dominant reaction was relief that the once-dreaded storm proved far less fierce and deadly than "Katrina". Authorities pleaded with the roughly three million evacuees not to hurry home too soon, fearing more chaos. In any other hurricane season, "Rita"

might have seemed devastating. It knocked out power for than a million customers, sparked fires across the hurricane zone and swamped Louisiana shoreline towns with a 15-foot storm surge that required daring boat and helicopter rescues of hundreds of people. But the new storm came in the wake of Hurricane "Katrina", with its 1,000-plus death toll, cataclysmic flooding of New Orleans and staggering destruction in Mississippi. By contrast, "Rita" spared Houston, New Orleans and other major cities a direct hit, and by midafternoon today federal officials said they knew of no storm-related fatalities. "The damage is not as serious as we had expected it to be," said R. David Paulison, acting director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. "The evacuations worked." Damage to the vital concentration of oil refineries along the coast appeared relatively light, although industry officials said it was too early to assess whether there would be an impact on oil prices. Valero Energy Corp. said its 255,000-barrel-per-day Port Arthur refinery sustained significant damage to two cooling towers and a flare stack, and would need at least two weeks for repairs. "The petrochemical industry is looking good," said Texas Emergency Management State Coordinator Jack Colley. "We're working to get power restored." He said the total number of power outages in the state dropped to 800,000 as of 1500, CDT, today in the affected areas, after an initial estimate of more than one million. The Coast Guard reported there was minor damage at most to Houston-area crude-oil ports and to the docks of Port Arthur, Texas. "Rita" roared ashore at 0330, EDT, close to the Texas-Louisiana border as a Category 3 hurricane with top winds of 120 miles per hour and warnings of up to 25 inches of rain. By midafternoon, it was downgraded to a tropical storm with top sustained winds of 50 mph as it moved slowly through east Texas toward Shreveport, La. Before it weakened, "Rita" showed its strength across a broad region between Houston and New Orleans. In Beaumont, trees of all sizes and power lines were down, street signs were shredded, and one brick wall of an office building had collapsed. In Port Arthur, which is virtually a ghost town, a number of neighbourhoods suffered minor flooding, with about a foot to two feet of water rising near doorsteps in some areas. Some storefronts were torn apart, and bricks from those buildings litter several streets. Some of the worst flooding occurred along the Louisiana coast, where transformers exploded, roofs were torn off and trees uprooted by winds topping 100 mph. Floodwaters were nine feet deep near town of Abbeville; farther west in Cameron Parish, sheriff's deputies watched appliances and what appeared to be parts of homes swirling in the waters of the Intracoastal Waterway. The



region was largely evacuated ahead of "Rita", but some residents stayed behind and were rescued by helicopter. New Orleans, devastated by "Katrina" barely three weeks ago, endured a second straight day of new flooding that could seriously disrupt recovery plans. The Army Corps of Engineers said it would need at least two weeks to pump water from the most heavily flooded neighbourhoods, notably the impoverished Lower Ninth Ward, after crews plug a series of levee breaches. As Rita's winds swept past, several fires broke out in and around Houston, including one in a two-story apartment building that damaged at least eight units. Several buildings were damaged or destroyed by fire in Galveston, and a blaze broke out before dawn at a shopping complex in Pasadena. As the sun came up in downtown Beaumont, a port city of 114,000, the few people who stayed behind emerged to find some blown-out windows, damaged roofs, signs twisted and lying in the street and scattered downed trees. There was some standing water, but no significant flooding. In Beaumont's nine-story Elegante Hotel, wind blew out massive windows in the lobby, bringing down a chandelier and ripping part of the roof off.

London, Sep 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: Damage caused by hurricane "Rita" as it swept across parts of Texas and Louisiana yesterday, was perhaps only one-seventh as severe financially as the devastation that hurricane "Katrina" inflicted on Mississippi and eastern Louisiana, according to initial estimates by insurance experts. The early estimates suggested that there had been property damage of about \$5 billion or less from "Rita", not including the effects of flooding and the impact on offshore oil rigs, which are not covered in most of the calculations. The storm struck less heavily populated areas, with less force than "Katrina", mostly bypassing Galveston and Houston, where damage of up to \$30 billion had been feared. Claire Souch, a senior analyst and manager at Risk Management Solutions, a company that calculates storms' effects, said that her company was still assessing the flood damage, but that so far, "From the wind, from the storm surge, we're not seeing the devastating effects, the catastrophic damage that we saw in "Katrina"." Early estimates indicate that Hurricane Rita would still be one of the 10 most expensive storms in history. AIR Worldwide, another hurricane-tracking company, in Boston, said its first computer-based calculations indicated losses from "Rita" of \$2.5 billion to \$5 billion. Robert P. Hartwig, the chief economist for the Insurance Information Institute, a trade group in New York, estimated Rita's damage at perhaps \$4 billion to \$5 billion. Hartwig said: "Every passing hour seems to indicate that the storm is not as severe as had originally been anticipated." He said he might revise his estimate as more

information came in, including the condition of the energy infrastructure, which is included in his calculations. "My only concern is that there may be some offshore energy issues, damage to oil platforms, that we just don't know about," he said. Another company that calculates storm damage, Egecat, put the number at \$3 billion to \$6 billion. Souch of Risk Management said the estimates of \$5 billion or less were "in line with what we're seeing."

London, Sept 26 -- A Coast Guard St. Louis press release, dated Sept 25, states: More than 4,000 Coast Guardsmen continue to save lives and assess the damage to waterways, aids to navigation, the environment and maritime transportation system infrastructure in the wake of hurricane "Rita". To date, the Coast Guard has rescued 120 people imperiled by flood waters and has medically evacuated two others from hospitals in the hurricane-impacted area. Coast Guard rescuers continue to work closely with local and state officials as well as the Department of Defense, to determine the number of people in need of rescue and to ensure help is delivered as swiftly as possible. Two Disaster Response Units (DRUs) were dispatched to the Lake Livingston, Texas, area while three more DRUs were deployed to Port Arthur, Texas, to aid in relief efforts. DRUs are equipped with flood punts that are able to navigate through flooded areas to rescue people and assist in recovery efforts. Waterways assessment continues today as the Coast Guard works with the maritime industry to safely restore commerce. In Texas, the ports and waterways of Houston, Galveston, Freeport, Texas City, Port Arthur, Beaumont, Victoria Barge Canal and Port of Orange remain closed to vessel traffic, while the ports and waterways of Brownsville, Corpus Christi and Port Lavaca are open. In Louisiana the ports and waterways of Sabine Pass, Lake Charles, Baton Rouge, Morgan City, Fourchon, Houma, New Orleans, Venice, Plaquemines, St. Bernard Parish, Grand Isle and Port of Shreveport remain closed. The Lower Mississippi River is open however deep draught vessels are limited to daylight operations only below Head of Passes (mile marker 0.0). The Red River and Atchafalya River are now open. Facility and vessel operators are reminded to check for updated port and waterway information via Coast Guard Broadcast Notice to Mariners and Marine Safety Information Bulletins, as port conditions continue to be updated. Several barge breakaway incidents were reported in conjunction with Hurricane "Rita" including one in which barges reportedly allided with the I-10 bridge in Port Arthur and came to rest against the West Lake Railroad Bridge. Damage to the bridges was being assessed at release time. Among the reports of damaged vessels are: A Cameron Ferry assist tug sinking at the Bulk Terminal No.4 at Port

Aggregates. Of the 38 Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODUs) reported in the path of Hurricane "Rita", eight are reported adrift. Assessments to critical infrastructure continue but preliminary reports indicate major refineries in the area sustained only minor damage. Of the 819 manned oil and gas facilities in the Gulf of Mexico, 745 remain evacuated. At this time, no major pollution incidents have been reported as a result of damage from "Rita". The Coast Guard received a report of approximately 24 oiled birds in Calhoun County, Texas. The source of the oil was attributed to runoff from streets where vehicles were caught in floodwaters. The Coast Guard has received 143, 96-hour, advanced notices of arrival for vessels calling on ports in the Houston and Galveston areas of responsibility. At this time there are no delays associated with these vessel arrivals as a result of "Rita". The Coast Guard is working in concert with the maritime industry, state and local officials, U.S. Navy, Minerals Management Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the oil and gas exploration and production industry to open waterways and facilitate maritime commerce as soon as safely possible.

London, Sep 24 -- Coast Guard is still trying to get damage information on the Mississippi River, at this time the River remains closed. NOAA reported that Tropical Storm and Tornado Warnings would be in effect for most of the area until 1600 hrs or so today. Bulk Waralee Naree (15282 gt, built 1982) broke free from the St. James Buoys. This vessel was reported to be in danger of colliding with another vessel in a buoy system, and posing a danger to the Sunshine Bridge. Attempts were being made to maintain this vessel and get a Pilot on board and more tugs to assist. There were 40 mile an hour sustained winds in this area at the time. The Coast Guard reported that the Port Allen and Old River Locks were believed to be operational, though there was a report that one of the bridges near the Port Allen Locks was locked in a down position. The Bar Pilots reported sending boats and Pilots down to assess the damage at Pilottown and the SWP Pilot Station. The Bar Pilots are hoping to be set up to resume service tomorrow afternoon. The pilot boats were instructed to report damage on their voyage down river. The NOBRA Pilots reported that the vessel, which is believed to have allided with the Gramercy water intake, is anchored in the channel in the Gramercy area. There was also another vessel anchored in the channel near Burnside. There were reports being made by harbor tugs that many anchored vessels' sterns were also over or near the channel in this reach of the river. The Corps reported their dredge Mcfarland would be arriving at SWP tonight and was to survey on the way up the river enroute to station at Venice. There were reports from Lake Charles that

the Port and City had flooded. The vessel or barge had broken free, the latest word was that this vessel was now secure. There will be several more telecons today and SALA will continue to keep our members updated. The Coast Guard Helicopters had not been able to flyover the river yet because of the high winds still in the area. Indications were that once the winds died down and more surveys could be completed by air and water that certain stretches of the river may be opened either later tonight or at first light tomorrow.

London, Sep 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Rescue teams are resuming their search for victims in coastal communities of the US states of Texas and Louisiana, two days after Hurricane "Rita" struck. Only two people are so far reported dead in the region, after the storm missed major population centres, but low-lying towns and villages in the immediate path of the hurricane have been devastated, and hundreds are still feared stranded. New Orleans residents were told they could return to some areas of the city. According to a plan drawn up by city Mayor Ray Nagin, residents can return to the Algiers district and workers to the business district, four weeks after Hurricane "Katrina" caused massive devastation and flooding. The plan was delayed for a week by Hurricane Rita, which overcame some flood defences for a second time. Meanwhile people have already begun to return to Houston. Military helicopter crews, coastguards and volunteers have been scouring the worst-hit areas, where many people are thought to have defied evacuation orders. In some communities, 90-100% of buildings were destroyed by the high winds, while many low-lying areas in the Louisiana wetlands were under 9ft of water. Only stilts to hold buildings up were left standing in Holly Beach, Louisiana, the Associated Press said, while in nearby Cameron almost all homes were destroyed. Meanwhile Texas Governor Rick Perry, touring the worst affected areas, said his state had got off relatively lightly. "Even though the people right here in Beaumont and Port Arthur and this part of Orange County really got whacked, the rest of the state missed a bullet," he said. One man was reported killed by a falling tree in Texas, while a person died in a tornado in Mississippi caused by the hurricane. No deaths have been reported in Louisiana. Mr Perry estimated that the state had sustained around \$8bn of damage, but predicted that most of the vital oil refineries had been spared and could resume production soon. In Houston, special routes have been set up to let people enter section by section, as power remains down in parts of Texas, and schools and courts remain closed. Local sources report that residents are returning, but to order. While it is a slow process, it is so far running smoothly though the city is still effectively closed for business.

London, Sep 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Houston Pilots were due to start inbound ship traffic beginning at 0600 hrs, this morning. All transits are currently daylight-restricted, but it is hoped that this restriction may be lifted soon. Due to many offshore buoys being off position, only vessels with a draft of 34 ft fresh water are being accepted. This draft limitation is expected to be lifted in due course. US Coast Guard offshore assets are expected to arrive by tomorrow morning to begin repositioning navigational aids.

London, Sep 26 -- A press release from GlobalSantaFe Corporation, dated Houston today, states: Offshore oil and gas drilling rigs GSF Adriatic VII and GSF High Island III, could not be found on their drilling locations during a search by fixed-wing aircraft yesterday. There were no signs of any major damage from Hurricane "Rita" to the company's other rigs in the Gulf of Mexico. All of the company's rigs are insured under a hull and machinery policy subject to a total deductible of \$10 million for this event. The two missing jackup rigs had a combined net book value at Jun 30, 2005, of \$22.2 million and are insured for a total of \$125 million. The rigs contributed \$5.3 million of the company's total \$135.3 million of net income for the first six months of 2005.

London, Sept 27 -- A Rowan Companies Inc press release, dated Sept 26, states: Rowan Companies, Inc announced today that, in the aftermath of hurricane "Rita", its jack-up drill platforms Rowan Odessa (7221 gt, built 1977) and Rowan Halifax (6456 gt, built 1983) were not at their pre-storm locations. In addition, the hull of the jack-up Rowan Louisiana (7222 gt, built 1975) apparently detached from its legs and is aground offshore Louisiana. The Company was also unable to account for drill platform Rowan Fort Worth (6627 gt, built 1978), via a high-altitude aerial survey conducted yesterday. Each of the Company's other Gulf of Mexico rigs was identified, though an assessment of their condition will depend upon closer inspection. The Company will conduct more extensive aerial surveys as soon as weather conditions allow. Rowan Odessa, Rowan Halifax and Rowan Louisiana were operating under contracts that provided for total revenues of approximately \$210,000 per day. The rigs are collectively insured for an amount that exceeds their aggregate carrying value. The Company does not maintain insurance against loss of revenue.

London, Sept 27 -- A Nabors Industries Ltd press release, dated Sept 26, states: Nabors Industries Ltd today announced the results of its preliminary assessment of damage incurred during Hurricane "Rita". Nabors had a number of rigs in the immediate path of the hurricane. The Company has confirmed that all rigs on various sites on the Outer Continental Shelf are in place and

appear to have sustained little or no damage, although personnel have not yet been able to board most of the rigs to complete detailed assessments. The Company's deep drilling barge rig 300, which was operating in inland waters just east of Cameron, Louisiana was submerged but remained on station and sustained water damage to the electrical, power, mud pump and other systems. The rig will be moved to a shipyard as soon as possible for repairs and the company hopes to have it back in service within weeks. Nabors also had five Jackup rigs in Sabine Pass with at least two sustaining damage; a cursory inspection of the other rigs indicates little to no damage. The Dolphin 111 had windows in the pilot house and quarters blown out, resulting in water damage to control systems and the quarters. The mast on Jackup rig 54 was blown over but the company has a substitute mast available and should be able to return the rig to service in a few weeks as well. There is a possibility that some damage was incurred to components of other rigs stored at a yard proximate to the Port of New Iberia that incurred flooding, but our nearby offices are dry and still functioning. Nabors land operations had nearly 40 rigs proximate the storm's path and has determined that all but one are without any significant damage. The remaining rig, Rig 409 located in Jefferson County Texas, remains inaccessible. However, prior to the storm Nabors had removed all of the engines, mud pumps and electrical distribution equipment from the site and lowered the mast. Although the full extent of any economic loss net of insurance still is not known, Nabors does not expect it to have any material adverse effect on its operating results or financial position. The information above includes forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Such forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties, as disclosed by Nabors from time to time in its filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. As a result of these factors, Nabors actual results may differ materially from those indicated or implied by such forward-looking statements. For further information, please contact Dennis A. Smith, Director of Corporate Development of Nabors Corporate Services, Inc. at 281-775-8038. To request Investor Materials, call our corporate headquarters in Hamilton, Bermuda at 441-292-1510 or via email at dan.mclachlin@nabors.com. CONTACT INFORMATION Nabors Corporate Services, Inc. Dennis A. Smith, 281-775-8038

London, Sep 27 -- A press report, dated Sep 26, states: The Houston Ship Channel was reopened today to vessels with a draft of less than 35 feet, according to the U.S. Coast Guard, but it is only for daylight tug and barge traffic, however. The Houston Pilots expect to move about

45 vessels back into the Port of Houston by the end of today, said Capt. Mike Morris, presiding officer of the pilots. However, larger vessels, such as tankers carrying crude, will not be able to enter under the restrictions imposed by the Coast Guard, since those vessels, at least when they are fully loaded, need a deeper channel. Tomorrow tankers carrying crude and other large vessels will probably be allowed to enter the Port of Houston. About 20 or so vessels are scheduled to enter tomorrow morning, Morris said. Plans call for the Houston Port's facilities to be reopened tomorrow for commercial trucks assigned to transport cargo in and out of the facilities. The Port of Houston Authority's facilities sustained minimal damage from Hurricane Rita, Port officials reported. Those facilities were re-opened today for Port employees and related personnel. An investigation of damage to the ship channel as a result of Hurricane "Rita" was ongoing today.

London, Sep 28 -- A Noble Corporation press release, dated Sugar Island, Texas, Sep 27, states: Noble Corporation reported that its offshore drilling units located in the main path of hurricane "Rita" were safely evacuated prior to the storm's arrival and that all the company's units in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico have been secured. Four semisubmersibles operating in Green Canyon blocks, Noble Therald Martin (7339 gt, built 1975), Noble Paul Romano (13718 gt, built 1981), Noble Amoa Runner (13780 gt, built 1982) and Noble Max Smith (12852 gt, built 1980) broke away from their mooring lines as "Rita" passed. The company was able to track the location of the units during the storm using global positioning system (GPS) technology installed onboard each of the units. Noble Therald Martin, Noble Paul Romano, Noble Amos Runner and Noble Max Smith moved approximately 89 miles, 118 miles, 75 miles and 123 miles, respectively, off their original locations. Noble assessment crews have been on board each unit for preliminary evaluations of condition. In addition, drill platform Noble Lorris Bouzigard (7339 gt, built 1974) broke at least one of its 10 mooring lines, with the remaining lines holding the unit in position approximately 0.8 of a mile off its original location, and drill platform Noble Joe Alford (6391 gt, built 1982) moved approximately 8 miles off its original location. Principal damage to Noble Max Smith comprised a hole of approximately 8 feet by 20 feet in its starboard outboard column at the 96 foot level, a crossover deck on the starboard side, and the main deck outboard of an anchor winch. An industry publication has erroneously reported that Noble Max Smith was "blown off location and straight into Chevron's Tension Leg Platform Typhoon. After its mooring lines broke, Noble Max Smith passed approximately 2.5 miles to the south and west of the fixed location of the Typhoon TLP, based on the rig

direction indicator data from Noble's GPS technology on board. Principal damage to Noble Joe Alford comprised bent or broken support members below the hull. Based on the limited and preliminary investigations conducted to date, the company believes it will need to make repairs to Noble Max Smith and Noble Joe Alford in a shipyard, while it may be possible to complete an investigation and damage assessment, and make any necessary repairs, of the other units without taking them to a shipyard. The company has secured slots for the units if necessary in shipyards in Sabine Pass, Texas, and Pascagoula, Mississippi. The company is not able to make a complete assessment of the condition of the units until additional crew members and other technical personnel are able to conduct further surveys. High levels of offshore drilling activity in recent periods have led to reduced availability and extended delivery times of some offshore drilling equipment, materials and supplies, which could result in delays in returning units to operational status. Latent damage to the units or delays in shipyard repair projects could also adversely impact schedules to return the units to operational status. In Noble's marine package insurance program, the company maintains retention (a deductible) of \$10,000,000 per any one occurrence, with a \$40,000,000 annual aggregate deductible. Based on the information currently available, the company expects hurricane "Rita"-related claims under its insurance program to exceed the company's \$10,000,000 retention. During hurricane "Rita", drill platform Noble Jim Thompson (13722 gt, built 1982) was ballasted down in a designated anchorage location in the Sabine River, where it was undergoing inspection and repairs of damage to its mooring systems sustained during hurricane "Katrina". Our onboard GPS technology noted no movement of the unit during the storm. Noble crews have not inspected the unit due to restrictions on movement within Sabine Pass and southeast Texas following the storm. The company expects to have Noble personnel on board the unit today. The company further reported, also based on limited and preliminary investigations, that its other two submersibles and its two jackup rigs operating in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico appeared not to have sustained damage of a material nature. The company expects these units to return to operations in due course.

London, Sep 28 -- A Transocean Inc, press release, dated Houston, Sep 27, states: Transocean Inc today reported that its moored semi-submersible drill platform Transocean Marianas (20461 gt, built 1979) was forced off its drilling location during hurricane "Rita" and is grounded in shallow water at Eugene Island block 133 approximately 140 miles north-west of its pre-storm location. An initial assessment of the rig indicates

significant damage to the unit's mooring system, but a more complete rig inspection is ongoing. The well was secured and all personnel were safely evacuated before the arrival of the storm. Also, the company reported that the moored semisubmersible drill platform Deepsea Nautilus (see issue of Sep 27), which sustained damage to its mooring system during hurricane "Katrina" and was undergoing repairs, was set adrift following the failure of a tow line utilised by a vessel engaged in towing the rig to a location away from the projected path of the storm. A partial crew on board Deepwater Nautilus utilised the rig's thruster-assist capabilities to navigate the unit to a location approximately 40 miles south of Grand Isle, Louisiana, where the rig remains grounded. All crew members were safely evacuated. The company will provide more information on the condition of both units, including an estimate of rig downtime, once damage assessment efforts have concluded. The company's two other active moored semisubmersible rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, Falcon 100 and Transocean Amirante, were safely evacuated and remain on location in the aftermath of the storm. Initial assessments of these two rigs have not revealed any damage. The company's six dynamically positioned rigs successfully moved out of the projected path of the storm prior to its arrival and are in the process of recommencing operations.

London, Sept 29 -- A BHP Billiton press release, dated Sept 27, states: An initial assessment of BHP Billiton assets in the Gulf of Mexico following hurricane "Rita" has revealed that the Typhoon tension leg platform, located in 2,000 feet of water in Green Canyon area Blocks 236/237, approximately 165 miles south-southwest of New Orleans, was severed from its mooring and sustained severe damage during the storm. The facility has been located and is being secured. Chevron, the operator of the Typhoon field, has mobilised appropriate resources to address any environmental concerns. No employees are at risk as all were evacuated prior to the storm, and production was shut-in. BHP Billiton holds a 50% interest in the Typhoon field with Chevron holding the remaining 50%. The facility commenced production in 2001.

#### INDIA

London, Sep 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: A landslide in the Indian constituency of Rakhdong Tintek has caused extensive damage and evacuations. Over 200 families have been forced to leave their homes, as officials feared for their safety. Houses, roads, power lines and agricultural land have all been destroyed by the mud and debris that hit the area following torrential rains. Many residents have also been left short of food and other supplies as roads to the area remain blocked off. Officials have stated that the clean-up operation could take up to a month to complete.



**MEXICO**

London, Sep 28 -- A press report, dated Sep 27, states: Intense rains throughout southern Mexico and parts of Central America have caused rivers to overflow, killing at least three people and forcing thousands to flee their homes, officials said today. In southern Mexico, local officials declared a state of emergency in parts of Chiapas state and some 2,000 people were living in temporary shelters today. In neighbouring Oaxaca state, more than 1,000 people were evacuated from their homes and were staying in shelters.

**NEPAL**

London, Sep 28 -- At least 15 people were killed when landslides and floodwaters engulfed a village in western Nepal, police said today. However newspaper reports said at least 25 people were missing in the village of Sirsha in Dadeldhura district after the landslides, which were triggered by several days of heavy rain.

**ROMANIA**

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least six people died in floods which hit southeastern Romania overnight, damaging hundreds of homes and disrupting traffic on the Black Sea shore towards Bulgaria, state agency Rompres reported. Torrential rains have swept across the Balkans for most of the summer, killing dozens of people in Romania and its neighbour Bulgaria and causing damage to houses, road bridges and crops. The victims drowned in the swollen waters close to the Black Sea towns of Costinesti and Tuzla. Local police said a main road was closed linking Romania's biggest Black Sea port of Constanta with the Bulgarian port of Varna. Meteorologists said more rain was expected over the next few days.

Bucharest, Sep 23 -- The Sulina Channel was closed at 1200, Sep 20 due to bad weather, wind north north-east beaufort 6-7 (strong breeze- near gale), sea five to six feet and it is still closed at present. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Bucharest, Sep 26 -- The Sulina Channel was re-opened at 1400 hrs, Sep 24, but was closed again at 1230 hrs Sep 25, due to bad weather: winds north-north-east force six-seven. It was re-opened today at 0610 hrs, today. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Sep 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two South African Airways (SAA) aircraft and parts of the Johannesburg International Airport's car park and arrivals hall were damaged in a storm that whipped through parts of Gauteng on Monday night, the Airports Company of SA said on Tuesday. "Two SAA aircraft, the size of a Boeing 737, were slightly damaged when ground handling equipment was blown into the aircraft during the high winds," said communications manager Solomon

Makgale. No flights were delayed or diverted, but three pieces of corrugated iron sheeting blew off the multi-storey car park and 18 pieces of prefabricated acoustic ceiling panels fell off during vibrations caused by the storm. All areas affected by the storm were repaired and operations continued unaffected, he said. At least one person is known to have been killed by a tree felled by the winds in Zevenfontein informal settlement, north of Johannesburg, and many homes are believed to have been damaged.

**THAILAND**

London, Sep 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: A big clean-up began yesterday in Chiang Mai city, after floods caused one billion baht in damage, as water in the Ping river dropped back to normal. However, water still caused problems for residents living near Suvarnabhumi airport. Several low-lying areas remained inundated, but the situation was expected to go back to normal by late evening. Deputy Interior Minister Sermsak Pongpanit, who inspected the scene with the provincial governor and the mayor, estimated the flood caused about one billion baht in damage. The flood on Aug 13 which wrought havoc in the city and other places in the northern province, caused damage of five billion baht, said Mr Sermsak.

**TROPICAL STORM "KENNETH"**

See "Hurricane 'Kenneth.'"

**TROPICAL STORM "NORMA"**

London, Sep 26 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Norma": Storm centre located near lat 19.4N, long 113.5W, at 0900, UTC, Sep 26. Position accurate to within 45 nautical miles. Present movement towards the north-west, or 320 deg, at seven knots. Maximum sustained winds 40 knots with gusts to 50 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds and 12-foot seas 75 nautical miles. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Sep 27: Position lat 21.1N, long 115.3W. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 60 nautical miles.

London, Sep 27 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0300, UTC, today, the centre of tropical depression "Norma" was located near lat 21.0N, long 115.4W. The position is accurate to within 30 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the north-west or 315 degs at seven knots. The estimated minimum central pressure 1006 mb. The maximum sustained winds are 30 knots with gusts to 40 knots. At 1200, UTC, Sep 28, the centre is predicted to be near lat 21.5N, long 118.1W, with maximum winds of 20 knots and gusts to 25 knots.

**TYPHOON "DAMREY"**

London, Sep 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Sixteen people were killed after two weather disturbances battered Luzon in a span

of two weeks, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) said yesterday. Tropical depression "Labuyo" (international codename: "Damrey") blew out of the country on yesterday, leaving two people dead due to drowning. Late last week, a low pressure area dumped heavy rains in Northern Luzon, triggering floods and landslides that killed 14 people, the report said. OCD deputy administrator and spokesman Anthony Golez said the death toll was revised since casualties earlier attributed to "Damrey" were discovered to have been caused by the low pressure area. Damage to agriculture due to heavy rains brought by "Damrey" was estimated at 1.2 million pesos in Quirino province, 20 million pesos in Albay province, and 34.6 million in Camarines Sur province. Floodwaters forced 96 people in Nabua town, Camarines Sur province and six others in Solsona town, Ilocos Norte province. Flooding was also reported in low-lying villages in the provinces of Quirino, Cagayan, and Albay. At 1400, yesterday, "Damrey" was estimated to be 180 kilometres north northwest of Laoag City, Ilocos Norte with maximum sustained winds of 95 kilometres-per-hour near the centre and gustiness of up to 120 kph. It is forecast to move west northwest at 11 kph, the state weather bureau said in its latest weather bulletin. Storm Signal number 2 remains in effect over the provinces of Cagayan, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Abra, Kalinga, Apayao, and the Calayan and Batanes island groups. Storm Signal number 1 remains over the provinces of Isabela, Ifugao, Mountain Province, Benguet, and La Union.

London, Sep 23 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Damrey" near lat 20.2N, long 117.1E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 270 degrees at 10 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots. Forecast position lat 20.0N, long 115.5E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots. Forecast position lat 19.8N, long 113.7E at 0600, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots.

Beijing, Sep 26 -- The strongest storm to hit China's southern resort island of Hainan in decades plowed along its coast today after killing two people and forcing more than 170,000 from their homes. Typhoon "Damrey" had caused casualties, flattened houses and damaged crops on an island often referred to as China's Hawaii since it made landfall yesterday, but the full extent of the destruction was unknown, a disaster relief official said. "The primary threat now is strong winds, but judging from our experience in recent years, river floods are also possible if the heavy rains continue," he told Reuters. He said more than 170,000 people had been evacuated to safety. There was no immediate word of damage to hotels. Two people were killed in Wanning,

the coastal city where the typhoon made landfall yesterday, when their houses collapsed, Xinhua news agency said. Some 5,000 people were left stranded at the airport in the coastal city and provincial capital of Haikou after dozens of flights were canceled. A Haikou official said power was cut to parts of the city as well as other areas of Hainan. She did not elaborate. The storm packed winds of up to 200 km per hour, Xinhua news agency said, and state television showed banana trees snapped in two. Experts warned rice and rubber crops could sustain major damage. In nearby Guangdong province, 16,000 people were evacuated in Zhanjiang city, state television said, and a fisherman has been reported missing after three boats capsized in choppy seas. "The typhoon, with the wind speed of 55 metres per second at the centre, dwarfs all those that have hit Hainan since 1960," apart from a storm that struck the province on September 13, 1973, it quoted Cai Qinbo, deputy director of the Hainan Provincial Meteorological Station, as saying. The west-moving typhoon swept down the island's southeastern coast and was headed for Vietnam, where state forecasters have warned the storm is expected to dump heavy rains on more than 10 northern and central provinces. The typhoon should miss the Central Highlands coffee belt, which lies further to the south. Vietnam is the world's second-biggest coffee producer after Brazil. The Defense Ministry-run Quan Doi Nhan Dan newspaper said helicopters had been scrambled to tell more than 19,000 fishermen to return to port while soldiers were dispatched to reinforce dykes and help evacuate several hundred people. -- Reuters.

London, Sep 26 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Typhoon "Damrey" near lat 18.4N, long 110.0E, at 0600, UTC, Sep 26. Movement past six hours 235 deg at eight knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots with gusts to 90 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 30 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 20 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 15 nautical miles north-east quadrant and five nautical miles north-west quadrant. Radius of 50-knot winds 50 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 40 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 30 nautical miles north-east quadrant and 25 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Radius of 34-knot winds 140 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 100 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 90 nautical miles north-east quadrant and 80 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Forecast for 0001, UTC, Sep 27: Position lat 18.5N, long 106.4E. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots with gusts to 80 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 10 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 20 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 50 nautical miles south-west

quadrant, 60 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 65 nautical miles elsewhere.

Hanoi, Sep 27 -- Typhoon "Damrey" smashed into Vietnam today, tearing into vital networks of sea dykes on a long stretch of coastline after more than 300,000 residents had been evacuated. Prime Minister Phan Van Khai had ordered young people, police and soldiers to stay behind to watch over dykes built to keep the sea out of rice fields, but the barriers were soon breached in some areas. "The waves are high, rising across the dyke now," Agriculture Minister Cao Duc Phat told state-run Vietnam Television from the northern province of Nam Dinh as the typhoon whipped up sea surges made worse by high tides. Nguyen Van Hop, head of the People's Committee in Nam Dinh's Nghia Phuc commune, told Reuters that two km of dykes had been damaged seriously in his area. "We are not able to save the dyke but people are safe and we have our rescue mission ready," he said. The sea dykes were built to withstand strong gales, but "Damrey" was blowing at 133 kph as it came ashore in Thanh Hoa province, cutting electricity supplies and tearing up trees. State forecasters said they feared sea surges of up to 5.5 meters in six northern and central provinces. Flash floods and landslides were other possibilities. Vietnam Television said four people were injured and several hundred homes flooded in Thanh Hoa when powerful sea surges breached sections of dyke. The typhoon had weakened slightly after hitting land and moving west, but still poured down torrential rain, the national weather bureau said. Fears of breached dykes had prompted the mass evacuation by truck and bus from vulnerable coasts to solid buildings, such as schools, well before "Damrey" stormed ashore and headed inland. But traders said the typhoon missed the Central Highlands coffee belt further to the south. Vietnam is the world's second-biggest coffee producer after Brazil. Thailand also issued flash flood warnings for the north and northeast, which forecasters said could expect three days of heavy rain until the typhoon petered out. Parts of Laos were also likely to be hit, but drought-stricken Cambodia saw only benefit. "We are on the tail of the typhoon, so there will be rain across our country which is good for areas hit by drought," said Mao Hak, a senior official at the Water Resources Ministry. When it moved across Hainan in southern China, "Damrey"'s winds were gusting up to 180 kph, making it the strongest storm to hit the island in 30 years. Major power grids could be fixed in two to three days, but to repair the whole network would take a month, the official Xinhua news agency quoted a Hainan official as saying. Sea water soaked low-lying areas and crops of tropical fruit and rice were damaged or flooded, contributing to economic losses from the storm estimated at 10 billion yuan, the China Daily said. -- Reuters.

London, Sep 27 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today. At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Damrey" was located near lat 19.7N, long 105.0E, approximately 90 nautical miles south-southwest of Hanoi, Vietnam and has tracked westward, or 280 degs, at 11 knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds 45 knots, with gusts to 55 knots, but dissipating as a significant tropical cyclone over land. Radius of 34 knot winds: 80 nautical miles in the north-east and south-east quadrants and 50 nautical miles in the south-west and north-west quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Sep 28, the centre is predicted to be near lat 20.8N, long 101.4E, with maximum sustained winds of 20 knots and gusts to 30 knots, but dissipated as a significant tropical cyclone over land. This is the final warning on this system by the joint typhoon warning centre (navpacmetoccen). However, the system will be closely monitored for signs of regeneration.

London, Sep 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: China's south-eastern province of Hainan is cleaning up after Typhoon "Damrey" tore through the island, killing at least 16 people and causing extensive damage. The typhoon, packing winds of 200 km per hour, pummelled Hainan yesterday, uprooting trees, flooding roads and causing an island-wide power blackout. The Civil Affairs Ministry said that as of last night the storm had caused nearly 8.5 billion yuan (\$1.05 billion) in damage in Hainan, Guangdong and Guangxi provinces, while 436,000 people had been evacuated. By today, the typhoon had slammed ashore in Vietnam, breaching a network of sea dikes and forcing the evacuation of nearly 300,000 people along the coastal region. Hainan Vice Governor Wu Changyuan said that 20,000 homes had been flattened on the island province, while 380 km of roads had been damaged and 704,000 hectares of cropland ruined, Xinhua news agency said. By this evening, Xinhua put economic losses at 10 billion yuan and the death toll at 16. Extensive damage to Hainan's electrical grid would also require costly repairs, while the island's oil industry was facing damage to facilities and potential cutbacks in production, press reports said. "Damrey," the most powerful typhoon to hit northern Vietnam in a decade, injured nine people after it landed in Thanh Hoa province early on today, packing winds of up to 102 km per hour, said Le Van Thao of the National Meteorology Centre. About 144,000 people from Thanh Hoa and another 145,000 from three surrounding provinces were evacuated from low-lying homes, schools and local government buildings before the storm hit, said provincial disaster official Tran Quang Trung. Initial damage is estimated at \$5.2 million in



Thanh Hoa alone, disaster relief officials said. Some 950 homes were completely destroyed while another 9000 had their roofs blown off. A power blackout was reported in Thai Binh and Thanh Hoa provinces. More than 25,000 soldiers have been sent to help reinforce sea dikes and evacuate people, state media reported.

Hanoi, Sep 28 -- Flash floods spawned by Typhoon "Damrey" killed at least four people in Thailand today and hard-hit Vietnam reported 22 swept away in similar torrents in its northern mountains. The deaths took the known toll to at least 41 in "Damrey"'s rampage across the main Philippine island of Luzon, the southern Chinese island of Hainan -- where the economic damage was estimated at \$1.2 billion -- Vietnam, Laos and northern Thailand. Despite waning after hitting land in Vietnam yesterday, "Damrey" was still pounding wide areas with heavy rain and a Thai official said water spilling from a breached dam threatened the northern city of Chiang Mai. "Heavy rain broke the reservoir and the water will flow into Chiang Mai today. Right now, the city is throwing up walls of sand bags," said Prasert Indee, a senior official in the area. Vietnam, where five people are known to have been killed, issued flood warnings after "Damrey"'s 130 kph winds and five-meter sea surges shattered sections of the network of sea dykes protecting a key rice growing area. State television said soldiers had been sent to the mountainous northern province of Yen Bai to look for the 22 people swept away. The area in Vietnam most likely to suffer floods was the province of Ninh Binh, 90 km south of Hanoi, the government's Committee for Flood and Storm Prevention said. The lashing rains "Damrey" brought were swelling rivers very quickly and it ordered five other northern provinces to reinforce dykes yet further. The rains also struck Laos, where the government said it had no immediate reports of major damage. "We've had heavy rain all night and we are monitoring the flooding situation closely, but there is nothing major so far. Just some roofing gone," government spokesman Yong Chanhthalansy said. Vietnam's dyke system, built to withstand strong gales and protect rice fields in the north, buckled under the power of winds and sea surges. Sections crumpled in four provinces, power supplies and telecommunications were hit and thousands of homes swamped, state media said. The government said at least 180,000 hectares of rice in seven provinces were damaged, but the typhoon did not hit the Central Highlands coffee belt further to the south and had no impact on crude oil output as Vietnam's offshore rigs are well to the south. The government said in a statement read out on national television yesterday it was rushing emergency food and supplies to devastated areas to which 330,000 people evacuees returned only to find homes and rice fields under water.

Nguyen Thi Nguyet, general secretary of the Vietnam Food Association, said the government was expected to take food relief from national reserves and would have no impact on exports. The northern region incorporating the Red River Delta is Vietnam's second-largest rice growing area after the Mekong Delta in the south. It produces about 36 percent of Vietnam's rice, which is used mainly for domestic consumption, and shrimp and fish farms in the area also suffered typhoon damage. But the disruption to production in flooded areas will reduce supplies of vegetables and seafood to regional markets, including Hanoi, home to three million people where prices have already started rising. -- Reuters.

Hanoi, Sep 28 -- The death toll from flash floods spawned by typhoon "Damrey" more than doubled today as the hardest-hit Vietnam said it had recovered the bodies of 33 people swept away in the northern mountains. The deaths took the known toll to at least 74 in the typhoon's rampage across the main Philippine island of Luzon, the southern Chinese island of Hainan -- where the economic damage was estimated at \$1.2 billion -- Vietnam, Laos and northern Thailand. State-run Vietnam Television said 38 people were swept away last night as the worst floods in 40 years struck Yen Bai Province, 180 km north-west of Hanoi, and soldiers had so far retrieved 32 bodies. The broadcaster said another person was killed by landslides in neighbouring Lao Cai Province. Four died in similar torrents in Thailand while China and the Philippines each reported 16 deaths. Despite waning after hitting land in Vietnam yesterday, "Damrey" still pounded wide areas with heavy rain and water spilling from a cracked dam threatened the northern Thai city of Chiang Mai. The city threw up walls of sandbags five metres high in vulnerable areas along the river but the top official in the region said the water was seeping relatively slowly from the reservoir, which has a capacity of two million cubic metres. "We are keeping eyes on the water level, but we are quite sure we can hold it," Chiang Mai Governor Suwat Tantipat said. Vietnam has issued flood warnings after the typhoon's 130-kph winds and five-metre sea surges shattered sections of the network of sea dykes protecting a key rice growing area. Prime Minister Phan Van Khai at a Cabinet meeting today called on rescue missions to seal off the broken dykes and pump out water to help farmers finish rice harvesting. The area in Vietnam most likely to experience floods was the province of Ninh Binh, 90 km south of Hanoi, the government's Committee for Flood and Storm Prevention said. It ordered five other northern provinces to reinforce dykes. The rains also struck Laos, where the government said it had no immediate reports of major damage. Vietnam's dyke system, built to withstand strong gales and protect rice fields in the

north, buckled under the power of winds and sea surges. Sections crumpled in four provinces, power supplies and telecommunications were hit and thousands of homes swamped. The government said at least 180,000 hectares of rice in seven provinces were damaged. The government said it was rushing emergency food and supplies to devastated areas to which 330,000 evacuees returned only to find homes and rice fields under water. Nguyen Thi Nguyet, general secretary of the Vietnam Food Association, said the government was expected to take food relief from national reserves and it would have no impact on exports. "Rice from the region's warehouses can be used to meet the food demand," she said, adding that the region was harvesting a bumper crop this year. The northern region incorporating the Red River Delta is Vietnam's second-largest rice growing area after the Mekong Delta in the south. It produces about 36% of Vietnam's rice, used mainly for domestic consumption, and shrimp and fish farms in the area also suffered typhoon damage. However, the disruption to production will reduce supplies of vegetables and seafood to regional markets, including Hanoi, home to three million people where prices have already started rising. -- Reuters.

Hanoi, Sep 29 -- Vietnam widened the search today for victims of flash floods spawned by Typhoon "Damrey" which Prime Minister Phan Van Khai said had caused "extremely serious losses". With 54 people dead or missing in the north, a letter from Khai read out on state television asked the Fatherland Front, the Communist Party's mass organisation, to appeal to the nation for help. Khai also urged provincial governments "to organise for the people living in the areas with high risk of landslides and flash floods to move to safety". So far, soldiers had recovered the bodies of 25 of the 51 people swept away in Yen Bai province, 180 km northwest of Hanoi, a provincial official told Reuters. "The search is still under way, so we have no final toll yet," he said. State television said 32 bodies had been found while one person was reported killed by a landslide in the neighbouring province of Lao Cai and two more died in Hoa Binh. The television showed pictures of flattened houses, submerged schools and rescuers searching for bodies along rivers. Three people drowned as floods struck Phu Tho province and two died in Nghe An and Ninh Binh, state media said. Seven died in similar torrents in Thailand while China and the Philippines each reported 16 deaths. The deaths took the known toll to at least 84 in "Damrey"'s rampage across the main Philippine island of Luzon, the southern Chinese island of Hainan -- where the economic damage was estimated at \$1.2 billion -- Vietnam, Laos and northern Thailand. In some areas of Vietnam hit by "Damrey"'s 130-kph winds and five-metre sea surges on Tuesday (Sep 27), thousands of people were being



evacuated for the second time as rivers swelled and breached sea dykes still posed danger. Emergency food aid has been distributed to areas hit by the typhoon, mainly instant noodles and bottled water. The government has yet to come up with an estimate of the overall damage, but power supplies and telecommunications were hit and thousands of homes swamped. -- Reuters.

#### **TYPHOON "LONGWANG"**

London, Sep 27 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Longwang" was located near lat 21.7N, long 140.1E. The movement over the past six hours: 290 degs at nine knots. The position is accurate to within 20 nautical miles and is based on the eye being fixed by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 85 knots, with gusts to 105 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds - 15 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 100 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 80 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Sep 28, the centre is predicted to be near lat 23.1N, long 137.0E, with maximum sustained winds of 100 knots and gusts to 125 knots.

London, Sep 28 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Typhoon "Longwang" near lat 22.5N, long 136.7E, at 0600, UTC, Sep 28. Movement past six hours 285 deg at eight knots. Position accurate to within 20 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 120 knots with gusts to 145 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 15 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 20 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 25 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 25 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 30 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 35 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 95 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 105 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 110 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Sep 29: Position lat 23.2N, long 134.6E. Maximum sustained winds 130 knots with gusts to 160 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 30 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 35 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 50 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 55 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 115 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 125 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 120 nautical miles elsewhere.

#### **TYPHOON "NABI"**

London, Sep 27 -- General cargo Long Xuyen sailed from Pohang on Sep 23, bound for Busan, where it arrived on Sep 24.

#### **TYPHOON "SAOLA"**

London, Sep 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: A strong typhoon was headed toward the main Japanese island of Honshu today, bringing

strong winds along the Pacific coast, the meteorology agency said. Typhoon "Saola", which may pass by Tokyo by Sunday (Sep 25) morning, was 300 kilometres west of Chichijima island in the Pacific at around 0600, UTC, the agency said. Packing winds up to 144 kilometres per hour, "Saola" was moving west-north-west at 15 kilometres per hour, the agency said.

London, Sep 23 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office dated today: Typhoon "Saola" near lat 27.7N, long 139.1E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 305 degrees at 11 knots. Position accurate to within 30 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 90 knots, gusts 110 knots. Forecast position lat 28.8N, long 137.7E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 90 knots, gusts 110 knots. Forecast position lat 30.1N, long 137.3E at 0600, UTC, Sep 24. Maximum sustained winds 90 knots, gusts 110 knots.

London, Sep 26 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Saola" near lat 37.0N, long 147.2E, at 0600, UTC, Sep 26. Movement past six hours 060 deg at 10 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. extratropical. Radius of 34-knot winds 130 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 100 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 85 nautical miles north-west quadrant and 70 nautical miles south-west quadrant. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Sep 27: Position lat 40.0N, long 157.4E. Maximum sustained winds 30 knots with gusts to 40 knots. Extratropical.

#### **UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated Sep 21, states: Flood damage to lengthy portions of the Delaware Canal State Park could cost at least \$23 million to repair, according to park manager Rick Dalton. Damage to the canal park from the September and April floods includes areas from Easton to Narrowsville as well as Lumberville, Upper Black Eddy and from Point Pleasant to Centre Bridge. In addition, trail repairs and erosion also must be addressed in Washington Crossing near the David Library of the American Revolution. A blowout of stone walls occurred in Easton, and a blowout also occurred at Raubsville. A total of 15 projects must be put to competitive bid. The initial \$23 million estimate has been submitted for approval to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, but repairs are awaiting approval from the agency, according to Mr. Dalton, and no one knows when that will come. "It will probably end up being more than \$23 million," Mr. Dalton said. The state must provide 25 percent of the repair cost, according to Mr. Dalton. He said, "It was bad after (Hurricane) 'Ivan'," but he added the damage from 'Ivan' does not compare to the current state of the canal after the spring flood. In the spring, the water crested three to four feet higher than previous floods,

touching places 'Ivan' never reached. In areas where 'Ivan' caused damage, the spring flood "made the damage worse," Mr. Dalton said. Portions of the park remain closed, including the towpath from Easton to Upper Black Eddy. From New Hope at Odette's restaurant to Washington Crossing Park also is closed.

#### **VIETNAM / CAMBODIA**

London, Sep 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Thirty-five people, most of them children, have perished in floods ravaging the Mekong delta in Cambodia and southern Vietnam over the last several weeks, according to official tolls. The Vietnamese provinces of Dong Thap, An Giang and Long An, situated along the Cambodian border, were severely hit by the floods, which are an annual feature the authorities are at pains to combat. Nineteen people, all but one of them children, were killed as waters in the Mekong went above the danger level in An Giang, a provincial flood control official said today, adding they would "continue to rise in the days ahead."

## Earthquakes



#### **ETHIOPIA**

London, Sep 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale caused the eruption of a long-dormant volcano in northern Ethiopia at the weekend but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries, geologists said today. The quake, which struck the remote region of Afar, about 980 kilometres north-east of the capital on Saturday (Sep 24), was followed by the eruption of Mount Arteale, Ethiopia's only active volcano which has been largely dormant for the past six decades, they said. "The magnitude of the earthquake, accompanied by a severe volcanic eruption, was measured at 5.5 on the Richter scale," Laeke Asfaw, the head of physical observatory in seismology department of the Addis Ababa University. Molten lava spewed from the volcano, covering large portions of its slopes and surrounding areas and thick blankets of ash and plumes of smoke were reported in the region, another seismologist at the university, Gezahegn Yirga, said.

#### **HONDURAS**

London, Sep 23 -- A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1348, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.8 event has been located offshore Honduras in lat 16 15N, long 87 49W, depth 10 km.

#### **INDONESIA**

London, Sep 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: A magnitude 5.6

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undersea earthquake rocked eastern Indonesia today, but there were no immediate reports of damages or casualties, Indonesia's Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said. The earthquake struck in the morning and was centered beneath the Maluku Sea, about 115 miles east of Manado, a provincial capital on Sulawesi island in northeastern Indonesia, said Lukito, an official at the agency's Jakarta office. The earthquake's epicentre was 20 miles beneath the Earth's surface. Today's quake jolted Manado and North Maluku's provincial capital of Ternate, added Lukito.

#### JAPAN

London, Sep 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.9 jolted Japan's northern Hokkaido province this morning, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage from the 1125 hrs quake. No tsunami warnings were issued. The quake registered four on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of seven in some areas, the agency said.

#### PERU

London, Sep 26 -- At least one person was killed and 20 were injured in northern Peru late yesterday when a strong earthquake shook the region, local authorities announced, downgrading an earlier toll. The tremor measuring seven on the Richter scale shook an area north of the city of Moyobamba at 2055 hrs, according to the Geophysical Institute of Peru. US experts said the quake had a magnitude of 7.5. Initial reports put the death toll at between four and 10, but authorities acknowledged they had been issued amid confusion in the immediate aftermath of the tremor. They also said they expected damage to be limited. The epicentre of the quake was located about 115 kilometres underground and therefore it did not produce significant damage, scientists said. The quake proved to be strong enough to destroy at least 30 houses in the community of Lamas, officials said. The victims were found under the rubble of these homes. Power was knocked out in most local communities. Residents of the town of San Martin converged on their central plaza, saying they would spend the night outside for fear of aftershocks, local radio reported. The earthquake was also registered in southern Colombia, where authorities were checking on damage late yesterday.

Lima, Sep 26 -- A powerful 7.5 magnitude earthquake that shook Peru's northern jungle over the weekend has killed five people and made several thousand homeless, regional authorities said today. The quake hit yesterday evening at 2055 hrs (0155, UTC, today) and its epicenter was 56 miles northeast of the coffee-growing town of Moyobamba, 445 miles north of Lima.

The worst damage occurred in the nearby hilltop town of Lamas in the San Martin region, where a 72-year-old woman, a nine-year-old boy and a man were killed, Lamas Mayor Rafael Saavedra told CPN radio. A woman in the neighbouring La Libertad region died when her house collapsed on top of her, rescue workers said. A fifth unidentified person died in the San Martin region, Peru's emergency disaster agency INDECI said and warned of more deaths as rescue workers search for victims. "In Lamas, we've got 102 destroyed homes and another 498 houses that are uninhabitable, which leaves 3,000 people homeless right now," Saavedra said. President Alejandro Toledo arrived in Lamas this afternoon to survey the damage and the central government sent doctors, blankets, tents, food and medicine to the area, officials said. The quake was felt strongly in Lima. In Moyobamba, which is also a major flower and tobacco growing area, a police spokesman said the walls of some buildings had collapsed, including parts of the prison, but the inmates were accounted for. Radio reports said residents in Moyobamba, afraid of aftershocks, slept in the streets. -- Reuters.

#### SAMOA ISLANDS

London, Sep 23 -- A 5.8 earthquake struck in lat 16 02S, long 172 64W at 0007, UTC, Sep 22. Depth 10 km.



#### COLIMA, MEXICO

London, Sep 27 -- A small eruption today of the Volcano of Fire in western Mexico scattered ash onto adjacent towns, the Jalisco state civil defence agency said. No injuries were reported. Clouds obscured the plume of gas and ash triggered by the eruption at 0507 hrs. The towns affected were to the west and south-west of the volcano, the agency said.

#### MOUNT ARTEALE, ETHIOPIA

See "Ethiopia" under "Earthquakes".

#### SHIVELUCH, RUSSIA

London, Sep 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Kamchatka's Shiveluch volcano has steadied but ash discharges of up to eight kilometres are still possible, a source in the Emergency Situations Ministry Kamchatka department said today. Local tremors and ash discharges of up to 6,500-7,000 metres lasted for nearly 5.5 hours on Sep 22. Volcanic fragments tumbled down to a distance of 15 kilometres, and volcanic ash fell down on the village of Klyuchi, nearly 30 kilometres away from Shiveluch.

## Political & Civil Unrest



#### AFGHANISTAN

London, Sep 20 -- Seven people were killed overnight in two separate ambushes in southern Afghanistan in the wake of parliamentary polls, officials said. The first attack was at 1000, local time, in the Gizab district of Uruzgan province when Taliban rebels attacked the district police chief Haji Said Wali, wounding him and killing three of his colleagues. "He was wounded with three other policemen. Three police and one Taliban were also killed in the fighting," said Uruzgan governor Jan Mohammad Khan. Three Taliban were killed after a group of rebels attacked a police patrol in neighbouring Zabul province's Mizan district today.

Kabul, Sep 25 -- A U.S. military helicopter crashed during an anti-militant operation in Afghanistan today, killing all five American crew members, just days after President Hamid Karzai questioned the need for military operations. The crash of the CH-47 Chinook in the southern province of Zabul came after a series of clashes between U.S.-led forces and Taliban insurgents following September 18 legislative elections that the guerrillas failed in their vow to derail. U.S. military spokesman Colonel Jim Yonts said the helicopter crashed in Zabul's Dai Chopan district while returning to base after dropping off troops during an anti-militant operation. He said it was too early to determine the cause of the crash, but all indications were that hostile fire was not to blame. "Five crew members on board were killed," he said. "People on the ground have just started a preliminary investigation and recovery operations are under way." Yonts said that while militant forces were in the area of the operation, the aircraft, part of a flight of helicopters involved in the mission, came down in a rugged, remote area where there was no civilian population. "Indications are from crew members' ... reports that there was no hostile fire that caused this crash," he said, adding that a mechanical problem may have been to blame. In the past six months four Chinooks have crashed in Afghanistan killing 56 people, mostly American servicemen. In another incident early today, two guerrillas were killed and two wounded trying to plant a roadside bomb in Helmand province, provincial spokesman Haji Mohammad Wali said. -- Reuters.

London, Sep 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two U.S. troops were killed in separate militant attacks in southern and eastern Afghanistan, just over a week after the country held landmark elections, the U.S. military said today. One U.S.



soldier died during a "ground assault operation" by Afghan and U.S. forces west of the southern city of Kandahar yesterday, when militants fired rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire at their vehicles, the military said in a statement. Another U.S. soldier was wounded. The coalition forces returned fire, killing two militants and wounding a third. Also yesterday, a U.S. forward operating base near the eastern city of Asadabad came under mortar, rocket-propelled grenade and small-arms fire, the statement said. One U.S. Marine was killed.

Kabul, Sep 28 -- At least nine people were killed and 27 wounded in a suicide attack today on buses carrying Afghan troops leaving a military training camp on the outskirts of the capital Kabul, officials said. "Eight of those killed were national army officers and soldiers; it was a suicide attack but we don't know exactly how it happened," a Defence Ministry official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The other person killed was an Afghan civilian, he said. Mohammad Akbar, the police chief of the eastern city district where the blast occurred said it happened in the car park of the army training base. He said he had reports of four dead and that it was a suicide attack. -- Reuters.

Kabul, Sep 29 -- The United Nations said today it had restricted movements of its staff in Kabul after a suicide bombing killed at least 10 people, while the Taliban said it had 45 more suicide attackers awaiting orders to strike. Yesterday's bombing at a military training centre set up by U.S.-led forces to train a new national army was the worst suicide attack in the capital since the Taliban's 2001 overthrow. The Taliban claimed responsibility and vowed more. U.N. spokesman Adrian Edwards said U.N. staff in the city, already under night-time curfew, had been placed on restricted movement as a precaution. "While we are assessing the situation, there is restricted movement on staff," he said. The security office serving non-governmental organisations has advised against unnecessary movement and told staff to stay on high alert. Taliban spokesman Abdul Latif Hakimi has vowed more attacks on foreign forces and said 45 suicide bombers were awaiting orders from Taliban commanders. "American and British forces are our first target and then we will launch attacks on others," he said. The attack has again raised fears that insurgents may be importing Iraqi-style tactics into Afghanistan. Newsweek magazine this month quoted a Taliban commander as saying he had been to Iraq for training and wanted to make use of the expertise acquired there in Afghanistan. -- Reuters.

#### ALGERIA

Algiers, Sep 26 -- Algerian Islamic militants have killed five security force members as violence flares ahead of a national referendum this week, newspapers said today.

Algerians vote on Thursday (Sep 29) in a referendum on a partial amnesty aimed at outlawed rebels fighting for a purist Islamic state in clashes which have killed between 50,000 and 200,000 people since 1992. Two municipal guards were killed and another one was wounded in an ambush yesterday in a mountainous area near Ain Defla, some 150 km southwest of the capital Algiers, daily El Khabar said. Rebels also shot dead two military policemen and injured a civilian on Saturday in the western province of Saida, El Khabar and Le Quotidien d'Oran said. One soldier died and five others were injured in Boumerdes on Sunday, just east of Algiers, newspapers reported. The authorities say there are some 1,000 rebels in the country but only a few hundred are armed. -- Reuters.

#### BANGLADESH

See under "Labour Disputes."

#### CHAD

London, Sep 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Almost 50 people have been killed in a village in eastern Chad during an attack by an armed group from neighbouring Sudan, the Chadian government said overnight. The attack took place in the eastern Wadai region after clashes with Chadian forces, government spokesman Hurmaji Musa Dumgor said. "Armed and uniformed horsemen from Sudan infiltrated Chadian territory and took to massacring Chadian people and stole their livestock," he said.

#### COLOMBIA

London, Sep 23 -- A press report, dated Sep 22, states: Suspected rebels killed 10 police officers driving down a remote highway today, ambushing their truck with gunfire and homemade gas cylinder bombs, a government official said. The vehicle was travelling on a narrow road in the mountains outside of La Cruz, 290 miles southwest of Bogota, when it was attacked at about midday, said Fabio Trujillo, lieutenant governor of Narino state. There were no survivors, he said. Colombia's two main rebel groups, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, and the National Liberation Army, ELN, operate in this region near Ecuador, and Trujillo said one of these groups was likely to have been responsible for the attack. More than 300 members of Colombia's armed forces have been killed by rebels this year, many in ambushes similar to the attack today.

London, Sep 24 -- A press report, dated Sep 23, states: Colombia's second-largest rebel group today accepted an offer from neighbouring Venezuela to host peace talks between the guerrillas and the Colombian government. Venezuela, under President Hugo Chavez, said earlier this month it was willing to host talks between the National Liberation Army, or ELN, and Colombia's officials, provided Colombia asked for its help. "The ELN accepts and

appreciates the offer from the Venezuelan government and its people," said a statement posted on the rebel group's Web site. Colombian officials have not responded to Venezuela's offer nor were officials available to comment on the ELN's statement, but Colombia's President Alvaro Uribe has repeatedly shown interest in opening talks with the ELN. The main rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, has showed little interest in talking peace.

#### INDIA

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Indian troops killed five militants and suspected Muslim rebels killed a former insurgent and a soldier in revolt-hit Kashmir, an army statement has said. Four of the rebels were killed in Sujan in southern Pulwama district, Indian army spokesman Vijay Batra told AFP. "The four were killed during a fierce gunbattle that erupted after soldiers surrounded a hideout," he said, adding some arms and ammunition were also recovered from the site of the encounter. The fifth militant was also shot dead during a raid on a suspected rebel hideout in Fidapora Panzulla village in northern Baramulla district, Batra said. Separately, suspected rebels shot dead a former colleague who was working with counter-insurgency police. The incident occurred near the southern town of Tral, 40km, south of the main city Srinagar, police said.

Agartala, Sep 25 -- Separatist rebels killed eight Bengali-speaking settlers in India's remote and restive Tripura state today, police said. National Liberation Front of Tripura militants, who are fighting for an independent tribal homeland, fired indiscriminately with automatic weapons when they raided several in Santinagar, some 70 km east of the state capital Agartala. "Seven people including three women were killed at the scene. Three were critically wounded and a woman later succumbed in a hospital," Nepal Das, a police superintendent told Reuters. -- Reuters.

#### IRAQ

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated Sep 21, states: The bureau chief of an Iraqi daily newspaper and a woman working for Iraq's state-run television were shot and killed by assailants in separate attacks in the northern city of Mosul, authorities said today. The deaths raised the number of journalists and media workers killed in the country to at least three over the past four days. Firas al-Maadhidi, who headed the Mosul bureau of al-Safir newspaper, was gunned down by unknown assailants yesterday night while on his way home in the city, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad, said Ninevah province police Brig. Gen. Saeed Ahmed al-Jibouri. Yesterday, gunmen in Mosul shot to death Ahlam Youssef, an engineer who works for al-Iraqiya television, and her husband, said



Bassem al-Fadli, a manager at the station's headquarters in Baghdad. Their child, who was with them in their car at the time, was seriously wounded. On Sunday (Sep 18) night, an Iraqi reporter working for The New York Times was shot and killed in Basra, 340 miles south of Baghdad. Authorities said Fakher Haider, 38, was taken from his home by men dressed as policemen and found dead Monday (Sep 19) morning.

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: A bomb damaged an oil pipeline near the oil-rich city of Kirkuk, sending plumes of black smoke and fire up into the air, officials said today. The bomb, which exploded late yesterday, was placed beneath the aboveground pipeline, which connects the Bay Hassan oil fields with Kirkuk in northern Iraq, said police Brig. Sarhad Qadir. Officials in Iraq's Northern Oil Company said the heavily damaged pipeline would be repaired within five days.

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: An Iraqi police colonel and his driver have been shot dead while driving on a highway near Baquba, north of Baghdad. Police say the attack was carried out by unidentified gunmen in a car. Meanwhile, gunmen in Baghdad have opened fire on a truck carrying six security guards from the Ministry of Immigration. Four have been killed and two others wounded. An Interior Ministry official says the gunmen escaped. Overnight, the owner of a tile making factory and two of his sons were shot dead in their home in the city's east by gunmen posing as policemen. The man's wife was wounded and another son was kidnapped in the attack.

London, Sep 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: A suicide bomber blew himself up in a minibus in Tayaran Square in central Baghdad today, killing a civilian and wounding eight others, police said. "A suicide bomber, wearing an explosive-belt, blew himself up in a minibus in the busy Tayaran Square, killing a civilian and wounding eight others," Captain Ahmed Abdullah told Xinhua. The target of the attack was not clear as there was no US or Iraqi security forces at the scene, Abdullah said. "It was apparently a premature blast," he said. In another incident, one US soldier was killed and another wounded when a roadside bomb struck a US patrol west of Baghdad, the US military said in a statement today. The attack targeted a combat logistics patrol at about 0900 hrs (1700, UTC) yesterday in an area, about 70 km west of Baghdad, on the main road between restive cities of Fallujah and Ramadi, the statement said.

Baghdad, Sep 25 -- A suicide car bomber attacked an elite Iraqi police unit in Baghdad, killing 13 commandos in the worst of several outbursts of violence to hit the country today. Iraqi police said the car bomber targeted a patrol of police commandos as they travelled on a highway in the east of the capital. Ten commandos

were also wounded, police said. The bomb followed clashes overnight between U.S. troops and Shi'ite militiamen loyal to cleric Moqtada al-Sadr in the eastern Baghdad district of Sadr City. Police said eight militia fighters were killed and five wounded in the fighting. South of the capital, in Hilla, a bomber on a bicycle blew himself up in a crowded vegetable market, killing four people, including a woman and child, and wounding 48, police said. In western Baghdad, gunmen held up an armoured Finance Ministry convoy, killing two guards and wounding nine before making off with \$850,000 in cash, police said. The string of attacks comes three weeks before Iraq holds a referendum on a new draft constitution and amid a general increase in unrest both in central areas and in the southern city of Basra, where Shi'ite militia have fought British troops. The U.S. military has said it expects a surge in violence in the run-up to the referendum, set for October 15, with Iraqis strongly divided over a document that was supposed to unite them and lay the foundations for a more stable future. In Ramadi, west of Baghdad, more than 1,000 people marched to protest against the constitution, which they say will divide Iraq along sectarian lines by giving too much autonomy to Kurds in the north and pro-Iranian Shi'ites in the south. The crowd in Ramadi was largely made up of Sunni Arabs, whose leaders are strongly opposed to the constitution, but also included Shi'ite supporters of Sadr, a nationalist young cleric who heads a militia called the Mehdi Army. The march followed a rally in Basra yesterday at which several thousand Shi'ites gathered in support of the constitution, which was largely drawn up by the Shi'ite- and Kurdish-led government over Sunni Arab objections. -- Reuters.

London, Sep 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: A suicide bomber drove a car into a bus carrying employees of Iraq's oil ministry on today, killing at least six people and wounding 14. The bombing near the ministry was the bloodiest attack on Iraq's energy industry since insurgents began blowing up pipelines and killing oil officials after the fall of Saddam Hussein in April 2003. "We heard the blast. They died," a dazed survivor said, standing in a hospital as victims of the blast were wheeled in on stretchers. He said the bus was carrying workers for a state oil exploration company.

Baghdad, Sep 26 -- A suicide bomber rammed his car into a bus carrying employees of Iraq's oil ministry today, killing at least six and wounding 14, police said. A survivor told Reuters Television the bus was carrying employees of a state oil exploration company. "We hope security forces will take control of the situation," Oil Minister Ibrahim Bahr al-Uloum said. "Unfortunately these terrorist operations continue to target innocents." Yesterday a suicide bomber

in a car attacked an elite Iraqi police unit in Baghdad, killing 13 commandos in the deadliest of a series of attacks. Iraq's al Qaeda wing claimed responsibility for the attack, according to an Internet statement on a site used by militants. -- Reuters.

London, Sep 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Al-Qaeda's second in command in Iraq has been shot dead, reports say. Iraqi and US officials said Abu Azzam, described as an aide to leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, had been shot dead in a joint operation on Sunday (Sep 25) morning. A US military official said Azzam was killed at 0450 hrs, on Sunday in a high-rise block in the Iraqi capital after a tip-off from an Iraqi citizen. "During the operation, which was held with the intent of capturing him, he fired and he was killed by return fire," Maj Flora Lee said. Another spokesman said Azzam had been tracked for some time, and his death was a "significant development". Zarqawi himself, is currently thought to be hiding in the Euphrates River valley, where the US has carried out frequent operations aimed at capturing him. In a separate incident, at least 10 people died in an attack on police recruits north of Baghdad. At least 26 people were injured in the suicide blast in Baquba - the third major attack on Iraqi police in the last three days. Today's attack took place at 1000 hrs (0600, UTC) at a centre for recruiting the elite Rapid Reaction Force, in the city's al-Jadida district. A US military spokesman said the bomber approached the police station on foot, making no attempt to conceal his suicide belt. The victims are thought to include serving police, people queuing for recruitment and passers-by. Police said the death toll was expected to rise. Yesterday at least five men queuing to join the police and two serving policemen died when a suicide bomber targeted Baghdad's police academy. In other developments: Gunmen fire on a police convoy taking detainees to Abu Ghraib jail killing two people and wounding at least eight. Five civilians were injured when a car bomb explodes in central Baghdad, AFP news agency reported. The AFP also reported that an army officer was shot dead and a police officer killed in a bomb attack in Kirkuk.

London, Sep 28 -- A suicide attacker detonated explosives amid a crowd of job applicants at an army recruitment center in northern Iraq today, killing at least six people and wounding 20, police said. The attacker had the explosives hidden beneath his clothes and struck in Tal Afar, about 95 miles east of the Syrian border and 260 miles north-west of Baghdad, police Brig. Saeed Ahmed Al-Jibori said.

Najaf, Iraq, Sep 28 -- A bomb exploded outside the house of a bodyguard of Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr in the southern Iraqi city of Najaf today, killing at least six people, an aide to Sadr said. Sahib al-Amiree said the blast also wounded eight people. The holy Shi'ite city of Najaf

has been relatively calm compared to central Iraq, where a Sunni Arab insurgency is raging. Sadr, a fiery cleric who has led fighters against US troops, is a popular figure in Iraq. Najaf has been stable since his Mehdi Army militia fought US troops in the city last November. Sadr's supporters recently clashed with fighters in the Iranian-trained Badr Brigade movement, which is linked to one of the Shi'ite parties leading Iraq's US-backed government. -- Reuters.

London, Sep 29 -- A press report, dated today: A female suicide bomber disguised in traditional male robes killed seven people and wounded at least 35 when she detonated explosives outside a police recruitment center in the troubled northwestern city of Tal Afar yesterday, according to Iraqi authorities. The bomber was believed to be the first female to carry out a deadly suicide attack in Iraq since U.S.-led troops ousted Iraq President Saddam Hussein in April 2003. Iraq's most notorious insurgent group, al-Qaida in Iraq, claimed responsibility for the attack in an Internet statement, saying it was carried out by a "blessed sister." The unusual attack came amid another series of bloody episodes across Iraq. Near the city of Safwan in southern Iraq, two American convoys struck roadside bombs within the same hour yesterday, killing two soldiers and an airman. Another soldier, assigned to the 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, died Tuesday (Sep 27) after he was shot during combat in Ramadi, officials said.

## ISRAEL

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian today near the northern West Bank city of Jenin, witnesses and medics said. Alla Hantooli, 19, was shot in the chest as he was entering the Dotan military base, which the Israeli soldiers are dismantling. Israeli army said the soldiers opened fire after their warning shots went unheeded. Hantooli was declared dead in the city hospital, the medics said. Witnesses said Hantooli was to scavenge scrap metal in the base.

London, SXep 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: Israeli helicopters have fired missiles at targets in the northern Gaza Strip - the first such raid since its military withdrawal earlier this month. The pre-dawn attack came after more than 21 rockets from the Gaza Strip hit Sderot in Israel, injuring five people. Israel also sealed off both the West Bank and Gaza Strip in response to the missile attacks. Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for firing 10 home-made rockets into Israel yesterday, following the killing of three of its leaders by Israeli troops in Tulkarm. Israel said the militants were killed after opening fire on troops who were trying to arrest them. Yesterday evening an explosion at a rally held by the Palestinian militants of Hamas left 15 dead. The ruling Palestinian Fatah

faction said it held Hamas responsible for the explosion at Friday's rally, when a truck carrying gunmen and home-made weapons blew up. The Palestinian authorities said the blast, which also injured 80 people, appeared to have been caused by the mishandling of explosives. Hamas itself blamed Israel, but the Israeli army said it had had nothing to do with the explosion. The Israeli military said it had fired one missile at a Hamas weapons warehouse in the Jabaliya refugee camp, where yesterday's rally was held. Two more missiles were fired at targets in Gaza City. The missiles appear to have caused little damage but Palestinians said at least one person was injured.

Gaza, Sep 25 -- Israel launched a new strike on the Gaza Strip and arrested over 200 suspected militants in a massive sweep in the West Bank today after warning Palestinians of a crushing response to rocket attacks from Gaza. The worst surge of violence since Israel's pullout from Gaza on September 12 after 38 years of occupation put pressure on a shaky ceasefire and on Prime Minister Ariel Sharon as he tried to beat off a rightist leadership challenge over the withdrawal. A helicopter fired two missiles in northern Gaza early today. A military source said the missiles targeted buildings used by militants. There were no immediate reports of casualties a day after similar strikes killed two militants. In the West Bank, Israeli troops arrested 207 suspected Islamic militants in the toughest crackdown for months. Among those held were Hamas leaders Hassan Youssef and Mohammed Ghazal. An Israeli army general said the arrests were among measures chosen to discourage Palestinian rocket fire. Sharon's inner cabinet also agreed to resume assassinations of militant leaders, suspended since a February truce, and gave an unprecedented green light for the use of artillery to stop rocket salvos. "We have taken the liberty to use all weapons in order to remove this threat," said Major-General Israel Ziv. "This operation is not limited in time." Urging the United States to restrain Israel, top Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said the attacks and arrests "lead in one direction and that is to the collapse of the ceasefire". The violence could have an impact when Sharon battles today to hold on to the leadership of his ruling Likud party in a showdown triggered by rightist rival Benjamin Netanyahu's opposition to the Gaza pullout. Netanyahu opposed the Gaza withdrawal and said that it would bring more violence rather than meaning the "disengagement" from conflict that Sharon said he sought. The vote by Likud's more than 3,000 central committee members tomorrow could turn Israeli politics on its head, and prompt Sharon to leave the party and form a new centrist alliance. Opinion polls show the outcome is too close to call, although Netanyahu -- who quit as

Sharon's finance minister in August over Gaza -- has a slight lead among central committee members in the run-up to the vote. -- Reuters.

Gaza, Sep 26 -- Israel launched multiple missile strikes in Gaza today, hours after the main Palestinian militant group said it would stop attacking the Jewish state following Israeli air raids in response to rocket attacks. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon faced a vote in his Likud party that threatened his leadership because of a rightist challenge to his withdrawal of troops and settlers from Gaza. A stormy eve-of-vote session yesterday underlined party splits. The worst surge of violence since Israel's pullout from Gaza on September 12 after 38 years of occupation put pressure on a shaky ceasefire and on Sharon at the weekend. While Hamas -- the most powerful Palestinian militant group -- said it was halting attacks, not all militant factions have followed suit. Israeli aircraft attacked at least five targets across the Gaza Strip early today. One woman was lightly wounded by shrapnel in a strike in the north of the territory. The army said the raids targeted buildings used for making or storing weapons by Hamas, al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. It said 50 Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants were arrested in the West Bank. Hamas's most senior leader, Mahmoud al-Zahar, announced his group's decision to halt attacks shortly after Israel killed an Islamic Jihad leader in an air strike in a resumption of its policy of targeting militants for assassination. "The movement declares an end to its operations from the Gaza Strip against the Israeli occupation, which came ... in response to the assaults by the enemy," Zahar told reporters, adding Hamas would abide by a ceasefire declared in March. The decision would ensure the safety of Palestinians in Gaza, he said. A senior Israeli government official, who declined to be identified, said Hamas would prove it was serious about ending violence by dismantling itself. As long as Hamas remains an armed group and is sworn to the destruction of Israel, it will remain an enemy and will be treated as such," said the official, without elaborating on whether Israel would carry on targeting Hamas militants. Likud's central committee began meeting in Tel Aviv yesterday before today's vote on a motion by Sharon's rightist challenger, Benjamin Netanyahu, to bring the party's primary forward to November and force a leadership contest. In what could be a defining moment in Israeli politics, Sharon stormed out of the meeting after his microphone was cut off as he twice attempted to begin a speech to the rowdy forum. Aides accused his opponents of sabotaging the sound system. Militants in Gaza from the Popular Resistance Committees and al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, part of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah

group, fired several rockets into Israel hours after yesterday's Likud session and after Zahar made his comments. -- Reuters.

Beit Hanoun, Gaza Strip, Sep 27 -- Israeli military aircraft struck two Gaza Strip towns today, pressing an offensive ordered by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon following cross-border rocket salvos by Palestinian militants. No one was hurt in the predawn strikes, which came hours after Sharon beat off a leadership challenge in Israel's ruling Likud party. In Beit Hanoun, a town on the Gaza border often used for Palestinian rocket launches during five years of fighting, Israeli missiles pulverized two bridges, witnesses said. The Israeli army said the bridges had served as conduits for militants. "They (Israel) aimed to make it difficult for gunmen to transport rockets to Beit Hanoun," said townsman Ismail Ahmed. Minutes later, another air strike destroyed a money-changer's office and an academy in Khan Younis used by gunmen from the Palestinian faction Fatah. The army accused the money changer of working with Hamas militants, but locals said he was from Fatah. Sharon's main Likud rival, Benjamin Netanyahu, asked the party's Central Committee yesterday to bring forward a primary election that might have unseated 77-year-old Sharon, but the motion lost by a vote of 51.3 percent to 47.6 percent, averting the possibility of early national elections and of Sharon bolting the party he co-founded in the 1970s to create a centrist bloc capitalizing on broad support for the Gaza plan. -- Reuters.

Gaza, Sep 28 -- Israel widened an offensive against Palestinian militants today, launching several predawn air raids that knocked out electricity in Gaza City and sweeping into two West Bank cities, witnesses said. The escalating violence has battered hopes that Israel's troop pull-out from Gaza two weeks ago, billed as "disengagement" from conflict, would boost chances for peace. Israeli aircraft fired missiles at four militant targets in and around Gaza City, destroying the offices of a leading Fatah militant, and two other militant groups, an Israeli military source and Palestinian witnesses said. They said a fifth missile fired later destroyed a bridge in northern Gaza's Beit Hanoun. An Israeli military source said a leading traffic artery for militants had been wrecked. The raids plunged much of Gaza City into darkness cutting electricity to many of its 350,000 residents for two hours. Rescue workers sifted through the rubble in Gaza and El Bureij refugee camp. There were no reported casualties. Hours earlier Israeli artillery gunners had opened fire on suspected rocket launching sites in northern Gaza after darkness yesterday, shelling the area for the first time since Israel's September 12 exit from the zone its army had ruled for 38 years. The shelling came after a rocket slammed into a street in the

southern Israeli town of Sderot. Soldiers swept into the towns of Tulkarm and Qalqilya where they sealed the offices of at least two Islamic charities accused of links to Hamas militants, witnesses said. There were no reported arrests. The West Bank raids followed yesterday's release of a videotape and statement by Hamas, a group bent on Israel's destruction, claiming responsibility for slaying an Israeli man. Hamas said initially it had kidnapped Sasson Nuriel, 50, a candy merchant from Jerusalem, to use him as a bargaining chip to free prisoners from Israeli jails. Nuriel's body was found near the West Bank town of Ramallah on Monday (Sep 26). Nuriel was the first Israeli killed since the Israeli troop withdrawal from Gaza. -- Reuters.

London, Sep 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Israeli soldiers killed three militants during arrest raids in the West Bank early today, pressing on with a major offensive against Palestinian militants and casting a shadow over local elections in dozens of Palestinian villages.

#### KYRGYZSTAN

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Gunmen in Kyrgyzstan have killed an MP who was a driving force behind the protests in March which led to the overthrow of President Askar Akayev. Bayaman Erkinbayev was shot in the neck and chest as he arrived by car at his home in the capital, Bishkek. Mr Erkinbayev, 38, was a wealthy businessman in southern Kyrgyzstan, where the anti-Akayev protests began. He is the second parliamentary deputy to be killed since the popular uprising earlier this year. The country has seen continuing political instability since then. According to a local source, Mr Erkinbayev was a former wrestler who owned a number of shops and hotels around the southern town of Osh. He was widely rumoured to be associated with the criminal world. It is unclear whether the motivation for that attack was political - at the time, he had announced plans to run for president - or linked to his business interests.

#### NEPAL

London, Sep 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: Nepali anti-government guerrillas have abducted at least 36 teachers from various schools in eastern Nepal, local police office said today. The teachers were abducted from Kerabari village of Morang district, some 300 km east of Kathmandu, on yesterday, local police office said in a statement. All the teachers were forcibly taken away from the school premises, the statement noted. The whereabouts of the teachers is still unknown, the statement added. The guerrillas often force civilians, teachers and students to take part in their "ideological" programs and usually free them after a few days unharmed. The guerrillas had declared the unilateral ceasefire with immediate effect on Sep 3.

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: King Gyanendra of Nepal has made a public appearance in the streets of the capital, Kathmandu, for the first time since staging a royal coup in February. Large crowds greeted the 58-year-old monarch. Yesterday some 30,000 people attended a peace rally in Kathmandu, calling for an end to the long-running Maoist insurgency that has left about 12,000 people dead. The government has come under pressure at home and abroad to respond to a three-month ceasefire called by the Maoists this month. It refuses to reciprocate the truce, saying that the rebels cannot be trusted - a reference to two occasions in the past when the rebels broke ceasefires after unilaterally pulling out of peace talks. The rebels have been insisting on an interim government and a constituent assembly to draft a new constitution which they believe will clear way for replacing the monarchy with a republican regime.

London, Sep 26 -- Nepalese government troops killed eight Maoist rebels over the weekend, some three weeks after a ceasefire was unilaterally declared by the rebels, the military said today. It said rebels opened fire on an army patrol in Palpa district, about 300 kilometers southwest of Kathmandu, on Saturday (Sep 24) afternoon and the patrol fought back, killing six rebels and capturing five more. In a separate incident in Terathum district in the east of the country, two rebels were killed yesterday when they attacked an army patrol, the military said.

#### NIGERIA

Port Harcourt, Sep 22 -- Hundreds of troops and riot police manned checkpoints in Port Harcourt today after local militants blocked roads and threatened violence over the arrest of their leader. Oil giant Royal Dutch Shell extended restrictions on movement of its Nigerian employees to a second day, but the measures had no impact on oil supply from the world's eighth largest exporter, industry officials said. "Workers are still advised to stay at home, but there has been no impact on operations," a Shell source said, asking not to be named. Soldiers and riot police set up checkpoints across the city and armoured personnel carriers thundered through the streets. Militants of the Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force (NDPVF) threatened on Tuesday (Sep 20) to cause mayhem and close down oil facilities in the Niger Delta, which pumps all of Nigeria's 2.4 million barrels per day, after police arrested their leader, Moujahid Dokubo-Asari. Minister of State for Petroleum Edmund Daukoru said it was too early to say how seriously the threats should be taken. The NDPVF demanded Dokubo-Asari's release by 1300, UTC, yesterday, but the deadline passed without a major crisis. Hundreds of militants blocked a major road several times, but were dispersed by police officers. Police said



Dokubo-Asari would be charged today in an Abuja court. They previously accused him of "seditious and treasonable" calls for the disintegration of Nigeria. Dokubo-Asari campaigns for sovereignty of his Ijaw tribe, the largest in the delta, and argues that the colonial treaties which created the union with the rest of the country were fraudulent. The threats over his arrest come days after another delta militant, Oyeinfie Jonjon of the Ijaw Youth Council, said he could "no longer guarantee the safety" of British people and property after a delta politician was arrested in London on suspicion of money laundering. Despite its huge oil industry, most inhabitants of the delta live in poverty and feel cheated out of the wealth, which leaves the region in the form of profits for foreign oil companies or revenues for the faraway federal government. Their resentment fuels armed conflicts, sabotage of oil installations, kidnappings of oil workers and oil theft. An NDPVF commander, Dakoru Princewill, said he had about 3,000 volunteers ready for action and they would be able to procure arms when they decided they needed them. There was no independent confirmation of his comments.

London, Sep 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Nigerian militia group has seized an oil pumping station in the Niger Delta and riot police are on patrol after the arrest of a senior rebel leader. The attack follows threats by militants that they will shut down oil plants in the world's eighth-ranked exporting nation after the arrest of militant leader Mujahid Dokubo-Asari earlier this week. His group, the Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force, invaded the Chevron facility, calling for his release. The group wants more control of oil in the Delta, where most people live in poverty despite the presence of the resource. Mr Asari is to be charged with treason and his lawyer has also been arrested. Last year, the same group caused a sharp rise in oil prices when they threatened war against oil companies.

Port Harcourt, Sep 23 -- U.S. oil company Chevron shut a 20,000 barrel per day Nigerian oil production platform today as a precaution, a spokeswoman said, after armed militants stormed a nearby platform. Ethnic militants have threatened to blow up oil platforms and pipelines across the world's eighth largest exporter after a leader was arrested on Tuesday (Sep 20), and Western oil companies have withdrawn dozens of workers from vulnerable areas. The closure of Chevron's Robertkiri platform brought the total impact of the crisis to 28,400 barrels per day. "It was a precautionary measure," a spokeswoman said. The spokeswoman had no information on the status of the Idama platform, closed by more than 100 armed militants on yesterday, but said that it was not in the hands of militants. "It was never really occupied," she

said. "A group of people came demanding that we close it down, so we closed it down and everybody left." -- Reuters.

Port Harcourt, Sep 23 -- Ethnic militants cut deeper into Nigerian oil supply today with the closure of a U.S.-operated platform, but the situation was confused when militia leaders later backed away from threats of violence. U.S.-based Chevron shut a second production platform as a safety precaution today after an armed group stormed a nearby facility a day earlier. Two commanders of the Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force (NDPVF), who had threatened to blow up oil facilities after their leader was arrested on Tuesday (Sep 20), suddenly withdrew the threats amid a split in the group. Dakuro Princewill, who said he was a member of the group's Supreme Command, said a temporary ceasefire had been decided but some in the group disagreed and may not respect it. "We, the Supreme Command, have decided a ceasefire," he told Reuters. The decision was corroborated by Alali Horsfall, who said he was acting leader in the absence of detained Mujahid Dokubo-Asari. One analyst said the confusing message reflected a disintegration of the group. "It was Asari who had some form of control over this movement, in his absence the structure of the NDPVF is amorphous. Nobody can predict what they will do next," said an ethnic rights activist in Port Harcourt. A senior oil industry official said any attacks on oil platforms would only worsen Asari's fate. Chevron shut the 20,000 barrel-per-day Robertkiri platform today, bringing the total impact of the crisis to 28,400 barrels a day, or 1 percent of Nigerian output. "We shut Robertkiri based on our assessment that it was under imminent threat," a Chevron spokeswoman said. Anglo-Dutch oil giant Royal Dutch Shell withdrew about 50 workers from three oil and gas facilities yesterday, but output was maintained by a skeleton staff. Yesterday, a high court ordered Asari's detention for another two weeks pending charges of treason, which can carry the death sentence, and unlawful assembly. After three days of sporadic street protests, the situation in Port Harcourt, the delta's largest city, was calm today amid a heavy troop and police presence. -- Reuters.

London, Sep 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Chevron oil company has reopened two oil stations in Nigeria's Niger Delta region under army protection. They were closed last week after attempts by a local militia group to sabotage oil facilities. The Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force had issued the threats in protest at the detention on Tuesday (Sep 20) of their leader Mujahid Dokubo-Asari. The group seeks self-determination for the oil-producing region, which remains poor and under-developed. Yesterday, Mr Asari's lawyer, Uche Okwukwu, said the militia leader had

called for calm. "Asari gave me the instruction to tell them that nobody should harm any foreigner or do anything criminal," Mr Okwukwu told Reuters news agency. The lawyer was released on Friday (Sep 23) after being arrested when he went to defend Mr Asari. Alali Horsfall, deputy leader of the militia group, told the AP news agency that the group had "suspended action". Mr Asari was arrested on Tuesday, and on Thursday (Sep 22) was remanded in custody for two weeks by a judge in the capital, Abuja. Police are investigating charges of sedition in connection with a newspaper interview in which Mr Asari allegedly called for the break-up of Nigeria.

Warri, Sep 29 -- A British oil worker was kidnapped in Nigeria's southern delta last night, police and diplomatic sources said today. Another foreign oil worker was also abducted along with the Briton, but his nationality was not immediately clear, the sources said. -- Reuters.

#### PAKISTAN

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least six people have been killed and 16 have been injured in two bombings in Pakistan's eastern city of Lahore. Lahore police chief Tariq Saleem Dogar says the first blast occurred near the Minar-e-Pakistan monument, killing one person and injuring 13. Mr Dogar says minutes later a second device exploded in Ichhra, Lahore's busiest shopping district, killing another five and wounding three.

Karachi, Sep 26 -- Pakistan state owned gas utility company-Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) said this morning that a bomb blast blown up gas pipeline on the confluence of Sindh-Balochistan Province of Pakistan yesterday. As a result, gas supply to various areas of the two provinces partially suspended. A spokesman of company said a team of engineers has already reached the remote spot of ruptured to repair the pipeline. Earlier, police said that some unknown saboteurs planted a time-device at the 20-inch diameter gas pipeline, running from Sui to the Punjab, which exploded at the G-2 point, damaging the pipeline in Bhattai police limits of Taluka Tagewani in district Kashmore. After the incident, police reached the scene and cordoned off the area. Bomb Disposal Squad in charge inspector Malik Tahir told reporters that it was a time-device, weighing 10 pounds. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### PHILIPPINES

Manila, Sep 27 -- The leader of a band of Abu Sayyaf militants who kidnapped four Indonesian crewmen of tug SM 88 in 2002 has been captured, together with seven of his men, by Philippine Marines. Jundam Jamalul was arrested after troops from the 211th Marine Company raided his hideout in Panjogan Village, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, last Wednesday (Sep 21).

On Jun 17, 2002, Jundam Jamalul led a group of Abu Sayyaf terrorists in boarding the SM 88 near the southern Philippine island of Basilan and abducting four of its crew. The tug was towing barge Labroy 179 and was on its way to Cebu. Abu Sayyaf demanded millions of pesos for the release of the three hostages but negotiations with the vessel's owner collapsed and the crew had to endure harrowing months of ill-treatment and captivity. Three of the hostages later escaped separately, while the fourth died in captivity. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

## RUSSIA

London, Sep 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Russian republic of Dagestan reportedly has been left without gas after unknown assailants attacked a pipeline on Friday (Sep 23), according to Russian news agencies. Gas shipments to neighbouring Azerbaijan were also disrupted after the attack near the town of Pokrovskoye in the Khasavyurt region, news agencies reported. Officials with the state-run Kaspigazprom gas company, the Emergency Ministry, and the Interior Ministry are investigating the cause of the blast.

Moscow, Sep 27 -- Lawlessness and kidnapping still plague citizens of Russia's Chechnya, President Vladimir Putin said today, six years after coming to power on pledges of bringing the region's criminals to book. Rights groups say hundreds of Chechens have gone missing since Putin as prime minister sent troops back into Chechnya in 1999 -- an act which underpinned his popularity and propelled him into the Kremlin in presidential elections six months later. Activists blame pro-Moscow forces for many of the kidnappings. Often, they say, rebels' relatives are kidnapped to put pressure on the separatists to lay down their arms. Pro-Moscow forces deny the allegations, but Putin said they could well be true. "It is impossible to say who stands behind these crimes: disguised bandits or law enforcement workers abusing their power," he said. The Kremlin has refused any rebel overtures for peace talks, focusing on crushing the rebel groups while running a unilateral peace plan that includes parliamentary elections this November. "The main solution to the problem is the political regulation of Chechnya, with the inclusion of the greatest possible number of people in this regulation," Putin said. "I consider the Chechen parliamentary elections very important." Rebel news sources said Putin's pledge was meaningless, saying the policemen were themselves to blame for kidnappings and would never be able to stop the problem. -- Reuters.

## SPAIN

Madrid, Sep 24 -- A car bomb exploded at an industrial park in central Spain today but there were no casualties in the first attack in two months by the armed Basque separatist group ETA. Two Basque newspapers had received calls in the name of ETA warning a

bomb would explode at the industrial park, officials said. That gave police time to evacuate the area, a few miles from the historic walled town of Avila, west of Madrid. "The police arrived and told us we had two minutes to get out," Juan Carlos Fernandez, a worker at a printing plant, told state radio. He said the blast occurred soon afterwards. Three buildings were damaged by the bomb, which police believed was placed in a van parked nearby, officials said. -- Reuters.

## SRI LANKA

Colombo, Sep 21 -- Sri Lanka today extended a state of emergency imposed in the wake of the August assassination of its foreign minister. The state of emergency gives government and police special powers to detain suspects and deploy troops if need be. The move comes as ties between the state and the Tigers are at their lowest ebb since a 2002 ceasefire halted two decades of civil war. Slain Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar's killers are still at large. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) deny any involvement -- a denial analysts dismiss as a stock disclaimer. "The motion to extend the emergency powers was passed in parliament," speaker of the house W.J.M. Lokubandara told lawmakers. The month-long extension also comes as Sri Lanka heads into a Nov 17 presidential election, which will help set the course of the island's future security and economic policies. Left-of-centre Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse is set to face off against his right-of-centre predecessor Ranil Wickremesinghe in a vote seen too close to call. Sri Lanka's main donors stepped into the fray on Monday (Sep 19), urging the government and the Tigers to preserve the truce and halt a rash of killings that culminated in Kadirgamar's assassination amid a silent war the military and the rebels each blame on the other. -- Reuters.

## SUDAN

London, Sep 23 -- A press report, dated Sep 22, states: Sudan's first post-war national unity government has been sworn in, as part of a deal signed with former southern rebels to end 21 years of war. Nine former SPLM rebels pledged to work with 16 members of the government they had been fighting until January. The inauguration was delayed by a row over who runs the energy portfolio, with control of the vital oil industry. Many southerners are unhappy that key ministries remain in northern hands. It is a large government - a total of 74 ministers, ministers of state and presidential advisors - with a huge task, delivering peace and prosperity to a country with a long history of civil war. President Omar al-Bashir's National Congress Party retains the energy, defence, interior and finance posts in the 30-strong cabinet. Two seats have been left vacant for members of the northern opposition National Democratic Alliance, which is unhappy at the allocation of seats. "The so-called

national unity government does not deserve this name," Islamist leader Hassan al-Turabi, who was freed in June from 15 months in detention, told the Al-Sahafa newspaper. He said the SPLM had been "marginal portfolios". The new line-up was also dismissed by a separate group of rebels fighting in the western Darfur region. The number of ministers each side names was set out in January's deal - with the NPC getting 52% and the SPLM 28%. The biggest disappointment for the southern Sudanese is that they have not been given the energy and mining ministry which includes the oil sector. Under the terms of the peace agreement, oil revenue will be split 50-50 with the north but most of the proven reserves are in the south. The south is due to hold a referendum on secession in six years' time.

Geneva, Sep 28 -- Violence is rising sharply again in Sudan's Darfur and could force the United Nations to halt aid to over two million desperate people, the UN's humanitarian chief warned today. All parties to the Darfur conflict -- the Khartoum government, rebels, Arab militias -- were at fault, said UN Emergency Relief Co-ordinator Jan Egeland. "If it continues to escalate, we may not be able to sustain our operations for 2.5 million people requiring life-saving assistance," he said, adding: "In Darfur, it (aid distribution) could all end tomorrow. It is as serious as that." Little progress has been made in peace talks in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, brokered by the African Union. However, rebels and the government could sign a peace deal by the end of the year to end the crisis, top UN official in Sudan Jan Pronk said in Khartoum today. Pronk praised the parties for remaining at talks to end the conflict despite an upsurge in fighting that saw rebels seize the town of Sheiria in South Darfur state earlier this month. -- Reuters.

## THAILAND

London, Sep 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Thailand's Prime Minister has vowed to bring to justice those responsible for the murder of two servicemen who had been held hostage in a mosque in the country's far south. Prime Minister Thaksin has ordered the security forces to capture the ringleaders decisively and swiftly. The military has recovered the bodies of the murdered servicemen, who have been identified as navy personnel. Both had been bound and blindfolded, stabbed repeatedly in the stomach and beaten about the head. They had been investigating a deadly ambush in the province of Narathiwat when they were taken late last night. The pair was chasing a pick-up truck carrying suspected militants into the mosque. But the men were surrounded by 2,000 villagers who formed a human shield around the building. For the first time, Thaksin Shinawatra has exercised censorship powers contained in an emergency decree, to prevent foreign media crews from reaching the village where the hostage taking took place.



London, Sep 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Four Thai soldiers have been shot dead during an ambush in the Muslim-majority province of Yala, in the latest violence to hit the region. "The soldiers were riding motorcycles on patrol when militants ambushed them and robbed them of their machine guns," police Lieutenant Colonel Mustorpha Mani said. He says the soldiers had been patrolling a stretch of road near Chakwua village in Raman district when they were attacked.

#### TURKEY

Diyarbakir, Sep 28 -- Turkish troops killed two Kurdish rebels today after a tip-off that they were about to launch an attack in a town in the south-east, a provincial governor said in a statement. Turkey's mainly Kurdish south-east has seen an upsurge in violence in recent months despite the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) rebels extending their ceasefire till Oct 3, the date Turkey is due to start talks to enter the European Union. The statement said police in the provincial capital Diyarbakir received a tip-off late yesterday saying the PKK were planning to attack one of two townships in the region. Security forces set up roadblocks and attempted to stop a suspect car outside one of the towns. When the car did not stop, security forces blocked its path and two men inside opened fire. Three policemen were wounded, one of them seriously. The two men were shot dead. Police found two Kalashnikov assault rifles, ammunition, two hand-grenades in the car. -- Reuters.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sep 27 -- A press report, dated Sep 26, states: The Irish Republican Army has given up its entire arsenal of weapons, demonstrating that its 35-year campaign to overthrow Northern Ireland by force is really over, the Canadian general who supervised the tortuous process said today. "We are satisfied that the arms decommissioning represents the totality of the IRA's arsenal," said John de Chastelain, a retired Canadian general who since 1997 has led efforts to disarm the outlawed IRA. The material included ammunition, rifles, machine guns, mortars, missiles, handguns and explosives, and all were rendered "permanently inaccessible or permanently unusable," de Chastelain told a news conference. The IRA followed up the announcement with a brief statement of its own that concluded: "The IRA leadership can now confirm that the process of putting our arms verifiably beyond use has been completed." Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, which has resisted dealing with the IRA's political allies, was not persuaded. While he accepted that the IRA had disposed of some weapons, Paisley said the process was not transparent and gave no assurance that all the weapons were gone. The

IRA permitted two independent witnesses - a Methodist minister and a Roman Catholic priest close to Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams - to view the secret disarmament work conducted by officials from Canada, Finland and the United States. "Successive British governments have sought final and complete decommissioning by the IRA for over 10 years," British Prime Minister Tony Blair said. "Failure to deliver it had become a major impediment to moving forward the peace process. Today it is finally accomplished. And we have made an important step in the transition from conflict to peace in Northern Ireland." Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern said he accepted the word of de Chastelain and his colleagues. "These are men of integrity. Their words are clear, and they are welcome." Earlier in the day, De Chastelain gave representatives of the British and Irish governments a confidential report on his work. He said the decommissioning was completed Saturday (Sep 14) and that he had checked and counted all the weapons involved. Questioned by reporters, de Chastelain said he could not be absolutely certain that every IRA weapon had been disposed of, but he said he believed the IRA was sincere in saying it had handed over the whole arsenal. He also said the amount was consistent with police and army estimates of the IRA's arms holdings. The breakthrough should overcome the biggest stumbling block in Northern Ireland's peace process since Britain opened negotiations with Sinn Fein, the IRA-linked party, in 1994. Senior Sinn Fein official Mitchel McLaughlin said he hoped IRA disarmament would promote "confidence and generosity in response from our opponents." Most politicians and analysts agree the IRA move comes years too late to lead to a quick revival of a Roman Catholic-Protestant administration, the central goal of Northern Ireland's 1998 peace accord. That complex, landmark agreement required the IRA to disarm by May 2000. The Democratic Unionists, which represents most Protestants today, had demanded photographs, a detailed record and a Paisley-approved clergyman to serve as an independent witness. The IRA refused to permit photos and selected the two religious witnesses themselves: the Rev. Harold Good, a former president of the Methodist Church in Ireland, and the Rev. Alex Reid, a Catholic priest. "A witness who was appointed by the IRA is not going to have the same credibility," said the Democratic Unionist chairman, Nigel Dodds. The IRA said in July that it would no longer seek to abolish the predominantly Protestant territory of Northern Ireland by force, a policy that was the source of much of the deadly violence over the past 35 years. The IRA said it had commanded members to "dump arms," but it was vague about whether this meant every single one - leaving room for retention of firearms for crime, intimidation and self-protection.

## Kidnappings



#### NIGERIA

See under "Political & Civil Unrest".

## Labour Disputes



#### ARGENTINA

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fishermen who have been on strike for over two months in Mar del Plata yesterday received a pay rise offer from the government and plan to meet this morning to discuss it. Following orders from President Nestor Kirchner, Mar del Plata Mayor Daniel Katz offered them a 140% wage increase. The government also pledged to open a 180-day round of talks to agree new working conditions for the workers, who have virtually paralyzed the city's strong fishing industry.

#### BANGLADESH

London, Sep 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Police and protesters have clashed in Dhaka amid a nation-wide strike called by the main opposition Awami League party. The one-day strike was called in protest against the recent rise in fuel prices and over a nation-wide bombing campaign last month. Three people were killed and more than 100 injured when about 400 bombs went off within an hour in August. Opposition leaders said about 40 people were injured in today's clashes. Thousands of security officials were guarding streets and key government installations. Police put up barbed-wire barricades around the central office of the Awami League in efforts to prevent party activists from staging protests. The streets in Dhaka were largely empty with only a handful of buses operating on some of the heavily protected roads. School and shops were mostly closed with economic activities and normal life disrupted across the country due to the strike - the second such shutdown this week. On Sunday (Sep 18), the country's main left group - the Communist Party of Bangladesh - also called a nation-wide strike. No one has claimed responsibility for the unprecedented bomb attacks that took place on Aug 17. Leaflets found at each blast site carried a call by militant group Jama'atul Mujahideen for the introduction of Islamic rule in Bangladesh. Hundreds of members of the group have since been arrested, but police say the masterminds of the attack are still at large. The government has also been under pressure from fuel price increases.



Karachi, Sep 26 -- The dock workers of the Chittagong port adopted "go-slow" tactics since yesterday afternoon to press their demand which includes surety of service, enhancement of salaries, introduction of incentive scheme and appointment of dock workers in the container vessels etc. The Bangladesh Master Stevedore Association (BMSA) in a press release alleged that the dock workers have suspended their work since 1600, yesterday, which have created stalemate situation in the country's principal seaport. They termed it as quite illegal and called upon the dock workers to withdraw their pressure tactics. The BMSA Chairman, AHM Manzur Alam told local media that he has appealed to the Chittagong Port Authority to take necessary steps against the dock workers. Otherwise, he proposed that the stevedoring firms would continue the works appointing their own employees instead of dock workers, if the "go slow" is not withdrawn by today. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent

Dhaka, Sep 27 -- A wildcat strike by pilots of the state-run Biman Bangladesh grounded the airline's international and domestic flights on Tuesday, civil aviation officials said. They said the strike was called by the pilots' association in protest against the sacking of its president Captain Nasimul Huq on grounds of poor health. Huq was not available for comment. The strike, which threatened to disrupt Biman's eight international and ten domestic flights today, was also supported by "all categories" of Biman ground staff demanding higher wages and benefits. "We are facing a complete shutdown of flights with hundreds of passengers stranded at the airports," one Biman official said. "Biman's 150 pilots and over 5,000 ground staff have all joined the strike and supported each other to realise respective demands," said the official who asked not to be named. Leaders of the striking employees were holding a meeting with the civil aviation minister Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin and Biman authorities trying to resolve the disputes. -- Reuters.

Karachi, Sep 27 -- Understand from Bangladesh shipping and port sources, that cargo handling at Chittagong port has declined due to the "go slow" tactics of the dock workers, over the last two days. They adopted this course of action to pressurise all stakeholders for their job security and other demands. The Bangladesh Master Stevedore Association (BMSA) has pointed out that more than 75 percent of port operations have declined. The BMSA Chairman, AHM Manzur Alam, yesterday, told the local media that a total of 60 boxes of containers were unloaded from a particular ship during a 12 hour period against the normal total of 200 boxes of containers for that period of time. The BMSA threatened that the stevedoring firms would not book gangs of dock workers "if such a programme continued until today

(Tuesday)". Meanwhile, a meeting of the BMSA, CPA trade unions, and the Chairman of the CPA is going on to find out ways to overcome the crisis. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent

Karachi, Sep 28 -- Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) said this morning that the dockworkers have ended their programme of 'go-slow' tactics following a successful meeting between all stakeholders yesterday. A port official said "we have discussed all the issues and the matter has been resolved". It is hoped that operations at the port will return to normal today. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### FRANCE

London, Sep 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than 1,500 travellers were stranded overnight after two ferries were prevented from sailing by striking seamen protesting the proposed privatisation of their company, port officials said today. The management of the Corsica-Mediterranean shipping company (SNCM) said the company's president, Bruno Vergobbi, had been taken hostage, but the CGT union denied this. "He is aboard the ship, yes ... but he is not being held," said union spokesman Bernard Marty. "He himself organised the meeting on the boat, which was closed for security reasons." Officials said the passenger ro/ro Mediterranean which was due to leave for Algiers with 1,000 passengers and 750 vehicles, was prevented from leaving yesterday afternoon along with the passenger Napoleon Bonaparte that was scheduled to depart for Corsica with 550 passengers and about 100 vehicles. The strike was touched off by an announcement that two investment funds, Butler Capital Partners and Caravelle, were in line to take over the state shipping company, which has 2,400 employees and has been experiencing financial difficulties. Discontented passengers clashed with police yesterday outside the headquarters of the company according to witnesses, who said two police officers were slightly injured and three people were detained. Passengers spent the night on board the vessel or in the town.

London, Sep 22 -- Total SA said today that its 328,000-barrel-a-day Normandy refinery, France's largest, continued to produce at reduced capacity as a strike over pay extended into its third day. The slowdown at the Normandy unit, which accounts for roughly 15 percent of France's refining capacity.

London, Sep 23 -- The fleet of French Mediterranean ferry operator SNCM is to remain strikebound until Monday (Sep 26) at least following an inconclusive meeting in Marseilles between personnel representatives, company management and ministry of transport officials regarding the government's plans for assuring the company's survival. SNCM seafarers voted yesterday afternoon to continue their action after a meeting yesterday which local prefect Christian Fremont

said had been "explanatory" and "pedagogical". Participants at the meeting are due to meet again on Monday but it is not clear whether the government will have any new proposals to put to the strikers. Meanwhile, unions representing the company's shore staff have given notice that they will strike from the start of next week to protest at what they claimed was the government's "assassination" of the company. Yesterday, the last remaining passengers destined for North Africa, who had been stranded in the port of Marseilles since Tuesday evening (Sep 20), were transferred to nearby Toulon where they were due to leave for Algiers aboard a vessel belonging to SNCM's Algerian partner, ENTMV.

London, Sep 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Striking French sailors commandeered passenger ro/ro Pascal Paoli (32458 gt, built 2003) and began steering it towards the island of Corsica today, as tensions flared over the privatisation of a state-owned ferry company. The country's largest sea-port at the Mediterranean city of Marseille was at a standstill as dockers and seamen staged a 24 hour work stoppage to protest against the sale of the debt-ridden National Corsica Mediterranean Company (SNCM). The passenger port in the city of Marseille as well as the oil and container terminals at Fos and Lavera 30 kilometres to the west were all shut down, officials said. A group of some 30 masked men from the Union of Corsican Workers (STC) took over the vessel, which was in dock at Marseille, and overcame the 40-member crew. "This is a piece of equipment that belongs to Corsica and we are returning it to Corsica," said STC secretary-general Alain Mosconi. The prosecutor's office in Marseille launched a criminal investigation into "hijacking of a ship," a crime which carries a penalty of up to 20 years in prison. The 24-hour strike was sparked by yesterday's announcement that the foundering SNCM -- which serves routes to Corsica, Sardinia, Algeria and Tunisia -- was likely to be taken over by Butler Capital Partners, a French investment group. That decision was confirmed by the French government today, which said the Butler offer was "both the more acceptable financially, and the more likely to respond to the interests of the company, public service and employment." Another French group, Caravelle, had been in the running. The news sparked violence in the port of Marseille last night. Riot police intervened with tear-gas at around midnight to clear entrance gates, after groups of masked men set fire to pallets and set up barricades. Two union members were detained.

London, Sep 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: A refinery operated by French oil group Total near the port of Le Havre was at a standstill today after a week of strike action. For a week no petrol (gasoline) or diesel fuel has left the factory and management has said that the strike

is costing the business up to two million euros per day. But it has said that there is no risk of fuel shortages, saying that the market can be supplied by other refineries in Europe. The strike is led by the left-wing CGT trade union on behalf of 70 workers in the 1,600-strong workforce who control the arrival and departure of products and materials. Management, unable to ship out refined products, has had to close down all of the installations. The strikers in the so-called Tmex department are demanding that their pay be increased by 200 euros a month, that their status be revised and that security be strengthened.

London, Sep 28 -- Helicopter-borne French troops have recaptured ro/ro Pascal Paoli that had been seized by striking workers to protest the privatisation of a state-owned ferry company. Black-clad and masked commandos rappelled from five helicopters to the deck of the vessel as it tried to enter the port of Bastia on the French Mediterranean island of Corsica. The sources said the vessel was recaptured in 10 minutes, and then set sail for the mainland. About 50 members of an elite unit specialising in dealing with hijackings and kidnappings, the GIGN, took part in the operation along with navy commandos. It followed two days of violence over the sale of the debt-ridden National Corsica Mediterranean Company (SNCM) to a French investment group, with clashes earlier in the day between police and supporters of the striking ferry workers. Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy hailed the "fast and efficient" operation by the French troops.

London, Sep 28 -- The strike by port workers at Laveria and Fos Public Oil Terminals is still in force. The strike started around 2200 hrs, Sep 26. As a result, there are no vessel commercial operations or berthing/sailing and port access is restricted. There is currently no information about when the strike is expected to end.

London, Sep 29 -- Port workers are still on strike at Marseille. The strike is affecting all western and eastern harbours, except private terminals. All cargo operations are presently interrupted.

#### INDIA

London, Sep 29 -- A day-long, national strike in India has disrupted air, rail and banking services across the country. Left-wing trade unions are protesting at the government's economic reforms. It is the first national strike since the Congress party won power in 2004. Private airlines cancelled flights as airport staff walked out in protest at plans to privatise airports. Indian communist parties are a key part of the ruling coalition, but they oppose major privatisation reforms. Domestic flights have been particularly badly hit, with unions saying the strike is affecting services in most of India's 78 airports. Some government offices in Mumbai

were closed. The government has drafted in 3,000 air force personnel in an attempt to avert major disruption. "The strike is a 100% success," MK Ghosal, general secretary of the Airports Authority of India Employees Union, told Reuters news agency. Federal aviation secretary Ajay Prasad told the AFP news agency that steps had been taken to "ensure all flights operate with full safety measures". Airports are particularly affected as many employees oppose government plans to sell 74% stakes in the Delhi and Mumbai hubs. The eastern city of Calcutta, home to a 28-year-old Communist government, was worst hit by the strike. Operations at the city airport ground to a halt and buses went off the roads. Cargo handling at Calcutta's port also stalled after workers there joined the strike, reports said. The strike has also had a major impact in the southern state of Kerala, another left-wing stronghold. In the capital, Delhi, riot police were deployed at airport terminals. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) said international flights were operating normally. It is understood more than five million federal and state government employees in western Maharashtra state are participating in the strike. Public transport services in Mumbai have not been affected, but government offices and banks are running with fewer staff. Many bank workers also stayed at home to protest against foreign investments in pension funds. India's communist parties have been leading protests across the country against the government's economic policies. They oppose the government's policy of selling off some of its stake in state-owned corporations to raise funds for investment, privatisation of airports and allowing foreign investment in pension funds.

#### NEW ZEALAND

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Adding to the woes of travellers encountering on-going strike action by Mt Cook baggage handlers at Queenstown airport, ground staff servicing Emirates, Singapore, Cathay Pacific, Pacific Blue and other international airlines are on a seven day strike at Auckland International Airport. The Engineering Printing and Manufacturing Union is turning its increasingly notorious pay increase demands on air travel right now and the latest strike involves 80 Auckland workers from Menzies Aviation -- but the demands are sometimes much higher than the five percent stake the EPMU has been pushing in other sectors. On-going negotiations with Menzies have not produced an outcome the EPMU is happy with. We are talking about skilled workers many of whom currently earn less than NZ\$12 an hour, said EPMU national secretary Andrew Little. We think that someone with three years experience should, by next year, be paid more than NZ\$15 an hour. An

NZ\$3 increase to a NZ\$12 base pay would amount to a 25 per cent jump. At Mt Cook, 55 workers have been on strike since last Friday (Sep 16) in support of a five percent pay claim, EPMU said.

#### RUSSIA

London, Sep 23 -- A press report, dated Sep 22, states: St. Petersburg dockers will sign a collective agreement with the St. Petersburg sea port to end their strike, by the end of this month, Alexander Moiseyenko, head of the Dockersø Union, said yesterday, Interfax reported. Moiseyenko said the workers will resume normal shifts from October, but added that the talks for ways to co-ordinate future wage rises and bonus pay have not been agreed on. Both sides are required to agree on a final settlement by the end of the year, otherwise dockers will resume the strike, Moiseyenko said.

#### SOUTH AFRICA

London, Sep 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: A strike by about 300 staff and cabin crew at Nationwide airline was set to start at 1700, today, trade union Solidarity and the airline said. "At this stage we're assuming that it will go ahead. There shouldn't be any disruption at all. Unlike the SAA strike we're able to do things differently," said Nationwide's financial director, Peter Griffiths, adding that passengers could be accommodated on other flights. He said the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) had been approached to resolve the dispute, scheduled to end at 1700, Sunday (Sep 25). "I was told that the CCMA could only meet with us on Monday, but that just doesn't make sense, to go through the strike and then mediate." Griffiths said that of the more than 1 000 staff at the airline, around 250 were Solidarity members. It had 17 aircraft on domestic flights and one long-haul aircraft. Solidarity spokesperson Jaco Kleynhans said the strike would "definitely" go ahead and affect the "vast majority" of domestic flights as its members made up 90% of cabin crew. He put the number of union members at Nationwide at 320.

#### UNITED STATES

London, Sep 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: US aircraft giant Boeing has reached agreement with striking workers after pledging to lift pension payments and cut plans to limit healthcare cover. Almost 20,000 Boeing machinists at plants in Kansas, Oregon and Washington state downed tools at the start of this month, delaying plane deliveries. Analysts estimated that a month long strike could have cost Boeing more than \$2bn (£1.1bn). Union representatives said workers will vote on the deal on Thursday (Sep 29). The deal is reasonable and



was reached after both sides made compromises, said Boeing spokesman Charles Bickers. The three-year deal was reached after Boeing pledged not to make changes to its healthcare programme, despite rising costs, trade union official Mr Blondin told the Associated Press news agency. It also agreed to keep offering medical benefits to retired workers. Boeing had been looking to gain higher contributions from its workers. The company will pay more in pensions to union members, increasing the monthly payout to \$70 per month for every year worked, up from \$60. Boeing had previously offered \$66. Workers who sign up for the deal will receive an eight percent bonus in the first year, plus \$3,000 in each of the next two years. Boeing also agreed to offer the same terms to all workers, dropping plans to give less money to those they reckoned had a cheaper cost of living.

## Awards & Settlements



### DECEPTIVE ADVERTISING, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated Sep 21, states: Federal regulators today announced a \$4.5 million settlement involving deceptive advertising claims for the dietary supplements CortiSlim and CortiStress. The Federal Trade Commission alleged that three defendants in the case made false or unproven claims about the two products in infomercials promoting the supplements. The marketers made false claims about CortiSlims' ability to cause rapid, substantial and permanent weight loss in all users, the FTC said. It also challenged claims that CortiStress could reduce the risk of, or prevent, osteoporosis, obesity, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, cancer and cardiovascular disease. The three defendants are California-based Pinnacle Marketing Concepts, Inc. and its president, Thomas F. Cheng, and Utah-based Shawn M. Talbott, the agency said. The commission said litigation continues against four other defendants.

### FATAL EXPLOSION, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated Sep 19, states: Motiva Enterprises has agreed to pay a \$12 million civil penalty to settle a lawsuit filed by government regulators after a fatal tank collapse and explosion at a Delaware oil refinery four years ago. Motiva also has agreed to pay more than \$4 million for a series of environmental projects, and to reimburse the state and federal governments more than \$170,000 in costs associated with their investigations. As part of the

settlement, Premor, which acquired the refinery from Motiva in 2004, will install new safety controls valued at \$7.5 million. This brings the combined total of the settlement to \$23.7 million.

### INVASION OF PRIVACY, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: A federal jury awarded an Egyptian-born radiologist nearly \$2.5 million for invasion of privacy after a property manager searched his apartment and called police on Sep 11, 2001. After four days of deliberations, the jury issued the award yesterday to Basem M.F. Hussein, saying the invasion of his privacy was made with "malice of recklessness indifference" to his rights. Sherri Lynn Wilson had entered Hussein's apartment in Coraopolis the day of the attacks to replace furnace filters, according to testimony. She told the FBI she saw Arabic literature, an aircraft flight manual, a compact disc jacket that showed an exploding aircraft, and chemical residue she believed to be from bomb-making activities. What she actually saw was a popular flight simulator computer game and its CD jacket, which did not depict an exploding aircraft, Hussein's attorney said. The purported Arabic literature was an English version of the Koran; the chemical residue was household dust. Hussein was awarded \$850,000 in compensatory damages and \$1.6 million in punitive damages. An attorney for the defendants - the Meadows Apartments in Neshannock Township, Lawrence County; the companies that own and manage the complex; and Wilson - declined to comment last night. Hussein's attorney, Craig L. Fishman, called the verdict "a shining example of American justice." Hussein, 40, a permanent U.S. resident who has lived in the United States and Canada since age 6, was working in New Mexico when his apartment was searched. He was handcuffed, detained, fingerprinted, interviewed and cleared by FBI officials there. When he returned to his Meadows apartment, he found he had been evicted.

### MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 28 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: An Ada County jury has awarded a Meridian man \$5.7 million in a malpractice lawsuit against St. Luke's Regional Medical Center. Hospital officials say they won't appeal. Nathan Ogden, 30, whose lower body had been paralyzed by a 2001 skiing accident, sued the hospital after his neck was broken in a gurney accident in 2003, causing him to lose most of his upper body function. The jury found the hospital was negligent in providing medical care to Ogden. At the time of the gurney accident, Ogden was suffering from pneumonia. His wife called an ambulance after she could not wake him up, and he was taken to St. Luke's in Meridian. Once there, the

unconscious man was placed on a gurney and wheeled into an X-ray room, Ogden's lawyer Rex Blackburn said. A hospital employee sat Ogden up at an angle and didn't secure him to the gurney before lowering a side rail, Blackburn said. Ogden fell out of the gurney, breaking his neck at the fifth and sixth vertebrae. As a result, Blackburn said, Ogden not only lost upper body mobility, but also bladder, bowel and sexual function. The jury awarded the money on Saturday (Sep 24), based on Ogden's estimated loss of wages, pain and suffering and past and future medical costs as well as for his wife's loss of services and companionship.

### SEXUAL HARASSMENT, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 25 -- A press report, dated Sep 24, states: A former utility meter reader was awarded nearly \$5 million by civil jury members who found she was sexually harassed by a supervisor and that the company did little to help her. CPS Energy plans to appeal the verdict in the lawsuit by Yolanda Olivarri, who worked at the utility for 23 years. Yesterday, a jury determined CPS Energy should pay up to \$2 million to Olivarri. Her former supervisor, Alex Villafranco, was ordered to pay the remaining \$3 million for punitive damages, said plaintiff's attorney Alex Katzman. "The jury believed sexual harassment occurred and that CPS was liable and did not fix the problem," Katzman said. CPS Energy spokesman Bob McCullough said the utility was disappointed in the verdict. "CPS Energy still believes it took appropriate action when the allegations first surfaced," McCullough said. "We hope the appellate court will agree with our position." Olivarri charged that Villafranco made unwelcome sexual advances, including comments and touching. She said the harassment began in October 2000 and continued through to February 2003, when she was transferred to another department. Despite other employees corroborating her claims, the utility determined the allegations were unsubstantiated and did nothing to separate Villafranco from Olivarri, her attorneys said. The utility said management investigated Olivarri's complaints and adequately responded to them. CPS Energy, formerly known as City Public Service, said it wasn't responsible for Villafranco's alleged actions. Villafranco's attorney said his client was demoted for exceeding his management authority by cancelling a meter reading day because of bad weather and not for harassing any employee.

### SWIMMING POOL ACCIDENT, AUSTRALIA

London, Sep 23 -- A 25-year-old man has secured \$6.2 million in compensation nine years after a swimming accident left him a quadriplegic. Jason Ballerini was 16 when he suffered severe injuries after



diving off a log into a swimming hole on the Murray River near Cobram in northern Victoria on Dec 29, 1996. In September 2004, the Victorian Supreme Court found the Shire of Berrigan, as the responsible authority, should have removed the log or put up a sign after a 1996 flood. It ordered the Shire to pay Mr Ballerini \$5.6 million in compensation. Today in the Victorian Court of Appeal, an application by the Shire to stay payment of the money - which has now reached \$6.2 million with interest - was rejected. The parties agreed that the money would be held in a Commonwealth Bank trust account for Mr Ballerini pending an appeal by the Shire to the High Court.

#### **UNFAIR DISMISSAL, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated Sep 21, states: After seven years of litigation, a judge has ordered the University of California to pay more than \$3.8 million in legal fees and costs to attorneys for a fired Lawrence Livermore weapons lab whistle-blower. Combined with a jury award of more than \$2 million, Dee Kotla and her attorneys will end up with roughly \$6 million in one of the nation's longest-running whistle-blower cases. The money ultimately will be paid by the U.S. Department of Energy, which historically has reimbursed more than 96 percent of its contractors' legal billings and judgments, including those of the university. In 2002 and again this year, two juries found the Kotla was fired from her job as a lab computer technician in retaliation for volunteering as a witness in a sexual discrimination case against the lab and one of its senior scientists. According to the laboratory, Kotla was fired for performing spreadsheet work for a friend on her lab computer. She also was terminated for making \$4.60 in personal phone calls. Total cost of the case to the federal government is likely to be \$8 million to \$10 million. Livermore's Office of the Laboratory Counsel hired two of San Francisco's top labor defense firms over the course of the case. They have been paid \$1.5 million so far, and more billings for the two trials and appeals are likely to bring total defense costs to more than \$2 million. Kotla's attorneys received more, largely because Judge John Zika granted a 50 percent "enhancement" allowed under California law to encourage lawyers to take difficult cases involving significant public policy issues. Kotla's attorneys had sought a doubling of their billings, plus interest, for a total of \$5.4 million. Laboratory officials are reviewing the judge's fee determination and have not decided whether to sign or appeal the decision. "We obviously want to make sure the costs are as low as possible," said Lynda Seaver, a laboratory spokeswoman. The length and expense of the Kotla case, more than any other lawsuit nationwide, helped persuade Congress to limit legal reimbursements to Energy Department

contractors. Written by Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., the new law cuts off government payments to contractors that have lost the first administrative or judicial round of a lawsuit and reinstates those payments if the contractor prevails on appeal.

#### **UNLAWFUL SEIZURE OF POSSESSIONS DURING WORLD WAR II**

London, Sep 27 -- A press report, dated Sep 26, states: Amid objections from some Holocaust survivors, a federal judge today approved a \$25.5 million settlement between the U.S. government and Hungarian Jews who lost jewelry, artwork and other treasures when a Nazi "Gold Train" was commandeered by the U.S. Army during World War II. Despite the objections, Judge Patricia Seitz said the agreement represented a "historic" chance to right a 60-year-old wrong committed by some U.S. troops and never adequately addressed by the federal government. The settlement came in a lawsuit filed by Hungarian Holocaust survivors over the U.S. capture and pilfering in 1945 of a train loaded with gold, jewels, silver, china, 3,000 Oriental rugs and 1,200 paintings that had been stolen from Hungarian Jews by the Nazis. There are about 62,000 Hungarian Holocaust survivors worldwide. Rather than trying to directly compensate people whose items were stolen, the agreement will distribute money through Jewish social service agencies over the next five years to needy Hungarian survivors around the world. More than 40 percent of the money will go to those in Israel, 22 percent to Hungary, 21 percent to the United States and seven percent to Canada. Lesser percentages will go elsewhere. Terms of the settlement also call for the U.S. government to issue a public apology for the military's actions. "This is a huge victory for survivors everywhere," said Sam Dubbin, one of the attorneys for Hungarian families in south Florida who brought the original lawsuit in 2001. More than 350 people filed objections to the settlement after it was announced in March. Seitz, however, said she calculated that the living survivors would get only about \$300 each from the settlement if it were disbursed that way, once attorneys' fees and administrative costs were deducted. She also said that U.S. law in such cases calls for maximum damages of \$10,000 each, or an unreasonable \$620 million for all 62,000 Hungarian survivors - if they had prevailed at a trial. It was not immediately clear today if any opponents would appeal the judge's decision, which would hold up distribution of the money. The case has already lasted five years, with the number of aging Holocaust victims dwindling each year.

#### **WRONGFUL CONVICTION, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 28 -- A press report, dated Sep 27, states: The city of Phoenix, Arizona, has agreed to pay \$3

million to settle a lawsuit filed by a man who was twice wrongfully convicted of murder, officials said. It is the second settlement Ray Krone has received this year. In April, Maricopa County agreed to pay him \$1.4 million. "I'm just glad for it to be over," said Krone, who spent more than a decade behind bars, including two years on death row. The Phoenix City Council approved the settlement last week, said city spokeswoman Toni Maccarone. Neither the city nor county admitted wrongdoing by settling, according to lawyers in the case. Krone was a postal worker when he was arrested in 1991 in the killing of Kim Ancona, a bartender who worked at a Phoenix lounge where Krone played darts. He was convicted in 1992, based largely on expert testimony that supposedly matched his teeth with bite marks found on the victim. His conviction was overturned two years later on procedural grounds. A new trial was ordered, and Krone was convicted a second time, but the judge in the second trial said he wasn't sure that Krone was the killer. He spared Krone the death penalty, instead sentencing him to life in prison. In 2002, DNA testing proved Krone wasn't the killer. Instead, DNA from the crime scene was linked to a man already in prison for another crime. Krone, 48, was freed that year. He filed a wrongful conviction lawsuit, saying Phoenix police did a shoddy job of investigating the slaying and didn't look at other suspects closely enough. Besides his mental anguish, Krone said he sued Arizona agencies for physical pain and suffering. He said he was stabbed, had his arm broken and contracted hepatitis C while in Arizona prisons.

#### **Railway Accidents**



#### **BLACKWELL AREA, MISSOURI, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: An Amtrak train derailed in eastern Missouri after apparently striking boulders on the tracks from a rockslide, officials said. No major injuries were reported. It was not immediately clear how many people were on the train. Jefferson County Sheriff Glenn Boyer said it was carrying 130 passengers and crew members, but an Amtrak spokeswoman earlier said there were 90 people onboard. Boyer said 11 people suffered minor injuries but none was life-threatening. The train was moving slowly through a winding area when it apparently struck the rockslide late yesterday, Boyer said. The Texas Eagle train, which runs between Chicago and San Antonio, derailed near the town of Blackwell, located about 30 miles south of St. Louis. Amtrak spokeswoman Vernae

Graham said the engine of the six-car train was on its side and three of the cars had derailed upright.

**BUFFALO, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 23 -- A press report, dated Sep 22, states: A railcar carrying an empty container designed to transport Navy spent nuclear fuel was derailed in a CSX rail yard in Buffalo. It happened just after 0100 today. The container was in transit from the Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine. Department of Energy officials say the empty container has no visible breach and initial radiation surveys in the area have confirmed no release of radioactivity. In a press release from the DOE, the agency says "there is no hazard to the public from this empty container, and hence, no protective action by the public is necessary." Authorities from the CSX Railroad, State of New York and Federal government were notified. Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory and Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory are assisting CSX in response to the derailment.

**CEPU DISTRICT, CENTRAL JAVE, INDONESIA**

London, Sept 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: A train carrying premium gasoline and kerosene caught fire in Cepu district, Blora regency, Central Java, on Friday (Sept 23) evening after hitting an Isuzu Panther minivan at a railway crossing. There were no immediate reports of casualties or people injured. A marketer with the local unit of state oil and gas firm PT Pertamina Heppy Wulansari said two or three tanks exploded before the fire. The accident took place at around 1830 hrs at the Ronggo Lawe railway crossing, some two kilometres from the Cepu railway station. The train had nine tanks, five containing premium gasoline and four kerosene. Heppy said Cepu could suffer fuel shortages due to the accident. "All financial losses caused by the accident will be covered by PT KAI (state-owned train operator)," she added. printer friendly

**CRESTON AREA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA**

London, Sept 27 -- A press report, dated Sept 26, states: A Canadian Pacific Railway train derailed in a tight canyon, dumping potash into the Moyie River a few miles north of the Idaho Panhandle, witnesses and authorities said. A witness said two of the 14 cars that jumped the tracks yesterday landed upside down, spilling potash into the pristine river, which flows into the United States and empties into the Kootenay River east of Bonners Ferry, Idaho. Dan Flegel, a spokesman for the British Columbia Ministry of Environment, said about 100 tonnes of potash was released in the derailment, which involved a 123-car freight train. CP Rail workers established a berm around the 100-foot-wide spill and brought in heavy

machinery to retrieve the cars east of Creston and south of Yahk. It was not immediately clear whether any of the pollution extended south of the international boundary.

**JAMSHORO AREA, SINDH PROVINCE, PAKISTAN**

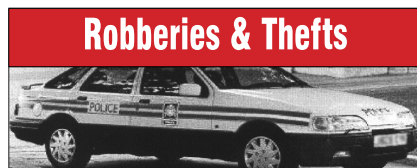
Karachi, Sep 29 -- Pakistan Railway said three bogies of the passengers train-Karakorum Express derailed at the Kotri railway station near Jamshoro in Sindh Province of Pakistan yesterday. The train was on its way to Karachi from Lahore when its three bogies derailed at the Kotri railway station at 0700 hrs. As a result traffic was suspended for quite some time. A relief train reached the accident spot and started repair work and the three bogies were righted in three hours. An inquiry committee is being set up to probe the matter. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent

**NEW SAREPTA, ALBERTA, CANADA**

London, Sep 28 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A locomotive and 10 cars from a CN freight train derailed early today near the village of New Sarepta, southeast of Edmonton. The train was headed south between Edmonton and Calgary when the derailment occurred, said CN spokesman Jim Feeny. "There are no injuries, no dangerous commodities are involved, no impact on the public," he said. Some diesel fuel was spilled on the gravel underneath the tracks, but that was contained and cleaned up, Feeny said.

**SOUTH-EASTERN VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two CSX freight trains collided head-on early today, injuring several people and leaving some of the wrecked rail cars burning, state police said. The collision occurred at about 0300 hrs along a rail line in rural south-eastern Virginia just north of the North Carolina state line, State Police Sgt D.S. Carr said. Carr could not say how seriously injured the people were or if they were rail workers or residents. The trains were believed to be carrying rocks, he said. The collision happened on a rail line that runs parallel to state Route 671 and was blocking at least two roads, said Tiffany Elliot of the Virginia Department of Transportation. The National Transportation Safety Board was being alerted.



**Robberies & Thefts**

**CASH, BANK, FORTALEZA, BRAZIL**

London, Sep 29 -- A press report, dated Sep 28, states: Brazilian police recovered about \$4.3 million of the \$70

million stolen last month in a heist from Brazil's Central Bank, making five arrests today in one of the world's biggest bank robberies. Authorities raided a middle-class home in the north-eastern city of Fortaleza, where the bank heist occurred, and found the money hidden in a hole in the floor, federal police said in a statement. Police were still counting the money, but spokeswoman Patricia Ferreira said the initial estimate was that \$4.3 million had been recovered. The thieves spent three months tunnelling under a busy city avenue in Fortaleza, about 1,500 miles north-east of Sao Paulo, to break into the Central Bank vault and steal the equivalent of \$70 million in Brazilian currency, the real. Authorities recovered more than \$2 million in cash shortly after the heist inside three pickup trucks on a vehicle transporter truck several hundred miles from Fortaleza. Five suspects were taken into custody today. Three other suspects were arrested eight days ago. The robbery took place sometime during the weekend of Aug 6-8. After completing the tunneling, the thieves crawled through a 28-inch-high tunnel that stretched more than 260 feet from a house they rented near the bank. The tunnel had wooden panels and plastic sheeting lining the walls, as well as electric lighting. The thieves left behind shovels, pickaxes, saws, drills and other tools they used to dig the tunnel and cut through the vault's 3.6-foot-thick, steel-reinforced concrete floor. Inside the vault, they broke into containers filled with used 50-real notes, which they apparently transported back through the tunnel by a pulley system attached to a large plastic barrel cut in half. Prosecutors have said the group tried to charter a small aircraft a couple of days before the robbery to use it in the escape and to transport the money out of the country. Some of the stolen cash was taken from Fortaleza to Sao Paulo hidden inside grain sacks in a commercial flight, they said.



**RAIL SERVICES, SCOTLAND, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Sep 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Rail services into and out of Edinburgh have been slowly resuming following an early morning computer glitch which hit rush hour trains. Services were halted when a computer system indicated a signal failure in the Haymarket area. Maintenance firm Network Rail checked out the warning but discovered that there was no problem with the signals. Train operator First Scotrail said it would be some time before services returned to normal. An estimated 15,000 travellers were affected by the disruption and First Scotrail apologised for the



inconvenience. The first Glasgow to Edinburgh service arrived at Waverley station in the capital after 0900, BST. All previous services had terminated at Linlithgow, 15 miles west of the city centre. Services from West Lothian, Fife and Dunblane continued to suffer disruption. A bus shuttle was running from Inverkeithing in Fife into Edinburgh. Steve Montgomery, operations director of First Scotrail, said his company were informed of the fault at 0500, BST. He said: "We could not get our trains out of our depots and they couldn't depart or get into Edinburgh. Obviously this had a major affect on all our customers coming in from Fife and from the Glasgow and Dunblane area." He responded to criticism that services from Glasgow were terminating at Linlithgow. Mr Montgomery said: "Because of the signalling failure we could only get so far in towards Edinburgh and then you have to be able to find a location where you can turn the trains and send them back again. Linlithgow is the only point where we can do that at the present time."

## Miscellaneous



### IRAQ-KUWAIT

Rijeka, Sep 29 -- Ro/ro Star (ex Boka Star) is still laid up at Rijeka and there is no prospect of it sailing. According to Port Authority Rijeka, which is the vessel's largest creditor, it is expected that the vessel should be announced for sale by Court Auction in October. -- Lloyd's Agents.

### OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, Sep 22 -- Bird flu virus has been officially confirmed in 49 Russian settlements, and bird flu is suspected in another 81 settlements, sources from the Russian Federal Service for Veterinary and Phitosanitary Inspection said Monday (Sep 19). Quarantine measures have been lifted in 24 Russian settlements, the sources said.

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in Australia has issued a new warning about the risk of bird flu in 16 Asian countries including Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, China and Japan. In the latest bird flu alert, Indonesian officials have said four people have died after testing positive to the virus, while ten others have been quarantined. The advisory tells Australian travellers to avoid contact with birds in these high risk countries and to ensure all poultry or eggs they eat are well cooked. The Department also recommends that travellers discuss bird flu with their doctor before leaving Australia.

London, Sep 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than 560 birds have died from bird flu in

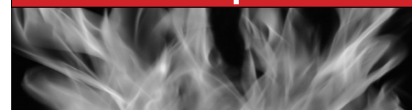
Mongolia since late July, prompting teams of emergency workers to be sent to the worst-hit areas, authorities said yesterday. The first birds that died at a lake in Hovsgol province near the Russian border in late July were later identified as having the H5N1 strain of the virus, which experts fear could mutate into a form easily passed from person to person. Test results of the most recent deaths have yet to be completed. Ch Ganzorig, from the Hovsgol General Emergency Office, said that so far 563 birds, mostly migratory, had been found dead in 16 provinces nationwide, including 250 at Erkhel Lake in Hovsgol, popular with tourists.

London, Sep 26 -- Indonesian health officials have confirmed two more deaths from bird flu, bringing the total number of fatalities in the country from the H5N1 virus to six. From correspondents in Jakarta I Nyoman Kandun, the health ministry's director-general of infectious diseases, said a test confirmed that a five-year-old girl named Riska had become the latest victim of the virus. "Her blood test was positive," he said. Although a saliva sample tested negative, the ministry has classified her case as a bird flu death based on the blood analysis, he said. Samples have been sent to Hong Kong for further analysis. A 27-year-old woman, who was one of five patients who had tested positive for bird flu at the Sulianto Saroso hospital for infectious diseases, also died on Monday, the hospital said.

Jakarta, Sep 29 -- Indonesia faces more than 50 suspected cases of deadly bird flu, Indonesian health ministry officials said today, while lowering their figure on deaths from the disease to five from an earlier estimate of six. "Until now, we reported 63 suspected (cases) of bird flu," I Nyoman Kandun, who heads disease control at Indonesia's health ministry, told Reuters today. But while 10 of those suspected have died, five of the casualties proved to be from other causes, he said. Riadi, a ministry public relations staffer handling flu issues, said suspected cases have come from nine provinces across Indonesia's sprawling archipelago. Asked about suspected cases today, World Health Organization (WHO) spokeswoman Sari Setiyogi said: "We refuse to use the term 'suspect' because suspect is too broad. It can mean anything." According to the international agency's standards, she said: "We have four positive bird flu cases (in Indonesia). Three died, one is still alive. Probable cases are (an additional) nine." Indonesia has formed a special team to prepare for any bird flu pandemic and coordinate foreign assistance and funding. The formation of the team under the ministry's National Pandemic Aid Plan was announced yesterday. "Other countries have committed to help in terms of providing equipment, expert paramedics, that sort of stuff. We are concentrating on paramedic training

and preparing hospitals," health minister Siti Fadillah Supari said. -- Reuters.

## Fires & Explosions



### CASINO BARGE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 24 -- A press report, dated Sep 22, states: The Hard Rock Casino barge, destroyed by the winds and tidal surge from hurricane "Katrina" on Aug 29, caught fire yesterday. The fire began about 1700 hrs when construction crews were cutting a section off the barge's roof, Biloxi Fire Chief David Roberts said. The foam under the roof and other flammable parts of the collapsed casino caught fire. Biloxi and Atlanta fire departments responded with about 20 firefighters and five trucks. Flames and smoke were visible from the front of the building through parts of the casino, but Hard Rock security prevented onlookers from getting too close. The fire was under control, but difficult to fight, Roberts said. "We don't have access to the roof, really," Roberts said, adding all the debris and the construction equipment was hindering their progress.

### CONDOMINIUM TOWERS, EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA

London, Sep 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: The dollar cost of two condominium towers, under construction at 50 Avenue and 104A Street going up in flames on Aug 19, after a propane tank caught fire, has been assessed at Can\$5 million.

### FACTORY, SOUTHERLAND RIDGE, PRETORIA AREA, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Sep 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Robbers using a blow torch appear to have started a fire in a huge warehouse in Southerland Ridge, south-west of Pretoria, this morning, emergency services said. "It looks like the robbers used a blow torch to try break in, but they accidentally set fire to some clothes," spokesperson Johan Pieterse said. "The whole building went up in flames." Firefighters battled throughout the night to put out the blaze, which started just after midnight. "We have struggled since 0030 to put the fire out," Pieterse said. "Things are under control now. There is still a lot of smoke in the air. We will be here for the next four or five hours." By 0800 hrs most of the roof had collapsed and the walls caved in. Some 30 firemen, two aerial platforms and four fire engines were at the scene. "Most of the building has been gutted. We did manage to save some of the stock," Pieterse said. The warehouse, which is about 2,000



square metres big, belongs to a company who distributes among others, food and cosmetics.

#### **FOREST, AMAZON, BRAZIL**

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: A state of emergency has been declared in Brazil's western state of Acre as fires continue to rage across the country's vast Amazon region. Thousands of hectares of the world's largest rainforest have already been destroyed by the blazes. Acre's Governor Jorge Viana urged the federal government in Brasilia to act swiftly, expressing particular concerns about pollution caused by the smoke. Hundreds of soldiers, rescuers and also local residents are battling the fires. Correspondents say it is not known what caused the blazes, some of which broke out nearly two weeks ago. Some 500 people have been evacuated from the area, officials said earlier this week.

#### **FOREST, GRANADA PROVINCE, SPAIN**

London, Sep 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: A British man and a French woman were arrested in southern Spain after they lit a fire as a beacon to rescuers when they became lost and started a massive forest fire. A Foreign Office spokesman said it was understood the man, who has been named in some reports as Michael Hanks, 59, from Colchester, Essex, and his companion, a 50-year-old French woman, had been released after briefly appearing in court. The pair were arrested by the Spanish Civil Guard on suspicion of starting the blaze in the Granada province of the southern Andalusia region, the spokesman said. It is understood the pair were hiking through national park land near Granada when they became lost just before nightfall on Thursday (Sep 22). They raised the alarm with a mobile telephone and then decided to light a small fire as a beacon to alert Civil Guard mountain rescue patrols searching for them. The beacon worked and they were soon rescued. But the fire raged out of control and spread through the tinder-dry forest at the height of a severe drought. By yesterday more than 150 firemen with 25 appliances, backed up by seven helicopters and five fire-fighting aircraft, were tackling the blaze. Reinforcements, including five more aircraft and two helicopters, were also called to fight the flames. The spokesman said it was understood that no specific charges had been levelled against the pair, as the judge is waiting for further investigations to be carried out before any decision is made.

#### **FOREST, SIBERIA, RUSSIA**

London, Sep 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: The area of forest fires in the north of Russia's Irkutsk region, Siberia, has doubled in the past 24 hours, the territorial department of the aviation base of forest protection said today. There

were no fires for almost two weeks in the area thanks to a sharp cold spell. At the end of last week an unextinguished bonfire in the territory of the Ilim forestry enterprise 25 kilometres from the Keul settlement set the taiga on fire. The forest fire initially spread in the area of 4.5 hectares and then engulfed a territory of 10 hectares. A forest protection brigade with three units of land machinery is engaged in the extinguishing effort.

#### **GAS PIPELINE TERMINAL, MONROE, OHIO, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fire officials say electrical sparks and leaking propane combined to trigger an explosion that killed one person at a pipeline terminal facility in Monroe. The woman killed in the Sep 18 blast was an employee at the Texas Eastern Products Pipeline Company's transmission plant. The body of 52-year-old Kollette Meyer, of Waynesville, was found in the main pump house area where the explosion occurred. The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Texas Eastern are still conducting investigations. Monetary damages have not been determined. At least two other people were working at the plant when the fire broke out. They were not injured.

#### **MARINA, GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Gig Harbor's fire marshal says authorities might never know what ignited the Aug 31 raging marina fire that turned a picturesque downtown waterfront upside down. All that's left of the 26-foot-long vessel where authorities believe the fire started is a hull buried under a layer of wet, blackened ash, said Fire Marshal Dick Bower. "There was no clear indication of what started it," he said. "You have the bottom of the boat covered in about a foot or a foot and a half of charred debris." Authorities also have finished interviewing the owners of the boat in question, but a clear cause hasn't emerged. The fire, which started aboard the boat in slip No. 15, ravaged the Harborview Marina and left about 50 boats at the bottom of Gig Harbor Bay. No one was hurt, but investigators believe the fire cost boat owners millions of dollars. Insurance companies haven't fully estimated the damage. A private fire investigator hired by the insurance companies was examining the suspect vessel, Bower said. A crane finished lifting the boats out of the water this month. There's still an oil boom around the marina site to catch any remaining particles and liquids. But most of the cleanup trucks have left. The giant crane positioned near the shoreline is gone.

#### **MARKET, KARACHI, PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Sep 25 -- Understand from central fire brigade sources that a huge fire broke out in Khalid Cloth

Market adjacent to Liaqatabad Super Market at Liaqatabad in Karachi, Sindh Province, this morning. The fire started around 1140 hrs and spread to whole market. Initial reports say about 15 to 20 shops containing huge quantity of imported and local manufactured cloth were burnt to ashes. Eighteen fire vehicles from different fire stations took part in fire fighting operation, which lasted for three hours. Sindh Government has announced compensation to shop owners and ordered an inquiry into the blaze. However, reason for the fire is not known nor the total loss but it would be in million of rupees, a fire brigade official said. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **PETROCHEMICAL PLANT, TEXAS CITY, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 23 -- BP has agreed to pay the US federal safety authorities a fine of \$US21.3 million for an explosion that killed 15 people at one of its refineries in Texas earlier this year. However BP said the fine - to be paid to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) - did not amount to an admission of responsibility for the blast, which devastated the facility at Texas City, near Houston, on Mar 23. "Under the agreement, BP does not admit the alleged violations or agree with the way OSHA has characterised them," a BP statement said, referring to the US agency's contention that the company had violated about 300 safety regulations at the plant. "The agreement resolves more than 300 separate alleged violations of OSHA safety regulations in the areas of process safety management, maintenance, training, procedures and facility siting put forward by the agency after its investigation of a March 23 explosion that claimed the lives of 15 Texas City workers," the statement said. The company said that under the terms of the agreement with OSHA, it was to bring in safety measures, including appointing a safety officer for the refinery.

#### **PREMISES, EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA**

London, Sep 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: An early-morning arson destroyed a south-side business (in Edmonton) yesterday, causing Can\$2-million damage. "Fire crews pulled up within five minutes of the fire call and it was rockin' already," said Lt. Lloyd Belair, a fire investigator. Within minutes the roof on Liquidation World, 8170 50 St., had collapsed. The 0430 hrs, blaze was fuelled by paints and electronics inside the big building. "We have reason to believe through surveillance tapes and other things that this is an arson fire," Belair said later in the day. He added that a flammable liquid had been used to begin the blaze, which was difficult to tame. Firefighters put up a "water curtain," which combined with the firewall, helped bring the blaze under control, he said. but adjoining buildings

sustained fire damage. Shelley Tooke, owner of Shelley's Dance Company, which adjoins Liquidation World, said she was called by her alarm company at 0455 hrs. She raced to the scene to find flames shooting from the building. Her business sustained smoke and water damage. Liquidation World CEO Jonathan Hill said the company plans to rebuild its first Edmonton store, which has been in the city for at least 15 years. In the meantime, it will try to find work around town for its 15 employees left jobless by the far. No one was injured in the blaze.

**REFINERY, TEXAS CITY, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 23 -- A press report, dated Sep 22, states: The Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced a \$21 million fine against BP over a deadly explosion and fire in March at the company's Texas City refinery. OSHA says the fine, which is the largest in the agency's history, is part of a settlement with BP Products North America. Fifteen workers were killed and 170 others were injured in the March 23 explosion at the Texas City plant. Regional OSHA administrator John Miles Junior says the health and safety culture of the plant was lax, which contributed to the blast. He also says OSHA is considering whether to refer some violations to the Justice Department for possible criminal prosecution. British Petroleum said the fine did not amount to an admission of responsibility for the blast. 'Under the agreement, BP does not admit the alleged violations or agree with the way OSHA has characterized them,' a BP statement said, referring to the US agency's contention that the company had violated some 300 safety regulations at the plant. 'The agreement resolves more than 300 separate alleged violations of OSHA safety regulations in the areas of process safety management, maintenance, training, procedures and facility siting put forward by the agency after its investigation of a March 23 explosion that claimed the lives of 15 Texas City workers,' the statement said. The company added that under the terms of the agreement with OSHA, it was to bring in safety measures, including appointing a safety officer for the refinery.

**WILDFIRE, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 29 -- A press report, dated Sep 28, states: Wind-driven brush fires scorched nearly 2,500 acres north of Los Angeles today, killing thousands of chickens at a farm while destroying at least one home and threatening others. A mandatory evacuation was ordered in Box Canyon and a freeway was closed as the blaze hopped the roadway and burned at the west end of the San Fernando Valley. Los Angeles County Fire Department spokesman Ron Haralson said more than 700 firefighters were on the scene. The fire had burned over 1,200 acres and was five percent

contained by evening, Haralson said. A blaze in Riverside County spread over 1,300 acres between the cities of Redlands and Moreno Valley, about 70 miles east of Los Angeles. That fire destroyed three chicken coops at a ranch believed to have housed 70,000 to 90,000 chickens, said Riverside County Fire Department spokeswoman Cheri Patterson. Thousands of chickens died. Nearly 400 firefighters battled the blaze, which was 10 percent contained, officials said. The National Weather Service issued a high-wind warning for parts of southwest California.

**WILDFIRES, RUSSIA**

London, Sep 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: Freezing rain has helped put out the remaining woodland fires in the northern part of Russia's Siberian Irkutsk region, sources from the regional forest protection service said today. Two fires emerged a week ago near two settlements of the Ust-Ilim district, blazing up from small unextinguished bonfires. As it was warm, the fires spread out to a territory of about 20 hectares. It took specialists several days to stop the advance of the fires.

London, Sep 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Forest fires flare up in Chita region again. Fifteen fires are raging in the trans-Baikal taiga as of now on an area of more than 800 hectares, an official at the press centre of the Russian Ministry for Emergencies department for Chita Region said. Six new forest fires broke out in the region over the past 24 hours on an area of 160 hectares.

**WILDFIRES, SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Sep 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: The estimated cost of the wildfires over the weekend in four provinces is mounting. More than 20 000 hectares of grassland in the Potchefstroom area of the North West alone was destroyed. At R5 000 per hectare, this amounts to over R100 million. Fifteen houses belonging to farm workers were destroyed and at least 23 herds of cattle had to be put down. In the province's Pilanesberg National Park, a major tourist attraction, about 20 elephants were burned and one had to be put down. In the eastern Free State, Malcolm Procter, a control forester with the water affairs and forestry department, says damage to grazing land has been extensive. The fire, which burnt approximately 14 000 hectares in the Rosendal and Paul Roux areas now appears to be contained and is burning in isolated places and presents no further danger, says Procter. In total, the fire has caused damage of about R6.6 million. Fortunately only one house burnt. Battling to put out fires in KwaZulu-Natal, firefighters and conservation teams are battling to put out fires in the Curlfargie Nature Reserve, on the southern parts of the Drakensberg in the midlands. This morning two crews were sent to Mbazwane in northern KwaZulu-Natal, where a large fire continues to

burn out of control. An estimated 3 000 hectares of plantation has been damaged by the blaze.

London, Sep 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters continued to battle blazes across South Africa today with costs mounting and farmers asking to have their farms declared emergency areas. Working on Fire (WOF) spokeswoman Val Charlton said, "We have no resources left. We are stretched to the full." WOF had 29 teams of 22 people each in the field across the country and many were working with hand tools to make sure there were no live embers. Charlton said a small fire was burning in Hebron in Mpumalanga province but it was expected that the fire would burn itself out. A fire at Mac in the province was contained as was a fire at Duga Duga. Firefighters were on full alert in Mpumalanga as the province was expecting strong winds and hot weather today. Free State province Agriculture have requested that farmlands ravaged by fires in areas including Senekal be declared an emergency area. General manager Pieter Moller said he had requested the government to conduct a survey to assess the damage, which had affected the availability of fodder. The fire, which started outside the park last Tuesday, took twodays to bring under control, he said. It destroyed about 5,000 hectares to 6,000 hectares of forest.



**ACCIDENT, MCCARRAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, LAS VEGAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: A cargo aircraft remains disabled on a runway at McCarran International Airport, after blowing two tyres on takeoff. A spokeswoman at the Las Vegas airport says the Airborne Express MD 80 never got off the ground. It safely taxied to a stop in the 0400 hrs mishap. The pilot and co-pilot were the only people aboard. Neither was hurt. The spokeswoman says other runways remain in use, and passenger flight operations at the nation's sixth-busiest airport are not being affected.

**AIRCRAFT MISSING, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA**

London, Sep 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: A light aircraft with a couple on board has been reported missing in northern New South Wales, Australian Search and Rescue (ASR) says. A man piloting the aircraft and his female passenger were reported missing this afternoon by a relative after they failed to return to the Coonabarabran area from Murwillumbah on Saturday (Sep 24). An ASR spokeswoman said its was not yet known why there had been a delay



in reporting the aircraft overdue. No official flight plan was lodged with authorities, she said. It was possible the aircraft was to land on a private airstrip at a rural property. There have been no mayday calls nor emergency beacons activated in the area since Saturday. Two helicopters began searching for the low wing Beech 36 about 1630, today. Other aircraft are being sought to join the search tonight along a direct flight path between Murwillumbah on the NSW far north coast and Coonabarabran, about 600km to its south-west.

#### **CRASH INTO SEA OFF AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND**

See ZK-MBQ.

#### **CRASH, ATASCOSA COUNTY, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: One person died and another was severely burned following an aircraft crash yesterday in Atascosa County. Authorities said a flight instructor and a student, both from San Antonio, were on board the 2004 Diamond aircraft. Investigators are not sure what caused the crash, but the aircraft was upside down and charred when authorities arrived at the scene off FM 476 between Potett and Lytle. The aircraft had taken off Stinson Field, authorities said.

#### **CRASH, CHIRK, WALES, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Sep 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: An inquiry will be launched today into how a light aircraft crash-landed at a North Wales airfield. Two people had a lucky escape after the emergency landing. The Piper light aircraft, on its way from an airfield in Kent, crash-landed at Chirk airfield at around 1900, Friday (Sep 23) night. Two people, the pilot and a female passenger, were not injured and managed to walk away from the accident. The plane's fuel tank was ruptured in the accident and there was damage to the craft's wings and propeller. Three fire engines, one from Chirk and two others from Oswestry, were called to the aircraft, which is registered to a group in Stapleford, Nottinghamshire. The Air Accident Investigation Branch was notified of the accident and an investigation was expected to be opened today.

#### **CRASH, HOPE AREA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA**

London, Sep 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: A helicopter has crashed in a rural area north of the Coquihalla Highway near Hope, killing two people. RCMP say the chopper came down close to a residence on Othello Road last night but no one on the ground was injured. Police say identification of the deceased occupants of the aircraft is not possible at this time because of the severity of the crash. The type of helicopter and its markings also can't be identified at this time. Transport

Canada has been contacted to launch an investigation into the accident.

#### **CRASH, MEXIA AREA, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: A small plane crashed just south of Mexia last night near Highway 14 in Limestone County, while taking off from the Mexia airport. The small plane had five people on board. According to a spokesman for the Texas Department of Public Safety, the plane "tried to take off and didn't make fair speed" before crashing into a neighbouring field shortly after 2000 hrs. The spokesman said the plane was destroyed. One passenger was airlifted to Hillcrest Hospital in Waco. The other four were taken to Parkview Hospital in Mexia. Limestone County officials say the plane crashed near the Limestone Airport. Federal officials are being summoned to investigate the crash.

#### **CRASH, MEXICO CITY AREA, MEXICO**

London, Sep 22 -- A cabinet minister who led Mexico's fight against the drug cartels, his deputy and seven others died in a helicopter crash in the mountains west of Mexico City. While one official aboard the craft had received death threats from a drug trafficker, authorities said the crash appeared to be an accident caused by poor visibility due to dense cloud cover. The helicopter, carrying Public Safety Secretary Ramon Martin Huerta, Federal Preventive Police Chief Tomas Valencia, five other passengers and a crew of two, had taken off from a military parade ground in Mexico City. The Bell 412 helicopter was heading to an event at the maximum-security La Palma prison, 35 miles west of Mexico City, when it was lost in dense fog and clouds.

#### **CRASH, PEND OREILLE RIVER, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: A four passenger aircraft crashed into the Pend Oreille river yesterday evening near Ione. The Pend Oreille County Sheriff's Office says the only person on board, a 57-year-old man, has died.

#### **CRASH, PLEASANTON AREA, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated Sep 21, states: A flying instructor from Stinson Field was killed and his student was seriously injured when their small plane crashed in Atascosa County near Pleasanton about 1130 hrs, today. Neither was identified. David Soward, the Atascosa County Sheriff's Department chief deputy, said a passer-by pulled the female student from the wreckage just before it was engulfed in flames. She suffered burns and was flown by helicopter to Brooke Army Medical Centre. It wasn't clear if the instructor, who was pronounced

dead at the scene, died in the crash the ensuing fire, Soward said. No one on the ground was known to have witnessed the crash, but Soward said it appeared the single-engine plane clipped a power line and plummeted to earth about a half mile northwest of Pleasanton. The incident temporarily knocked out electricity to homes in the area.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING AT RANCHI, INDIA**

London, Sep 29 -- A press report, dated Sep 28, states: A Mumbai-bound Air Sahara plane made an emergency landing at the Birsa Munda Airport in Ranchi, last evening, within a few minutes after take-off, after its wings had been hit by a falcon. Airport official sources today said that the Air Sahara flight (number S-2-6235) was later cancelled following the emergency landing, right after take-off at 1630 hrs. All the 44 persons on board, including the crew, however, were safe. Air Sahara Airport Manager Mr Rupam said, the plane, which was on its way to Mumbai from Patnam, was likely to be leave for its destination today. The pilot did not take any chances and immediately contacted the air traffic control and asked for an emergency landing after the plane was hit, Mr Rupam said. It landed safely within 16 minutes of take-off and the flight was cancelled as a thorough check-up was necessary, he added.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, HANEDA AIRPORT, TOKYO, JAPAN**

London, Sep 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: An All Nippon Airways (ANA) jet made an emergency landing at Tokyo's Haneda Airport this morning after an alarm system indicated that the lubricant level in one of its two engines dropped to zero, airline officials said. At around 1030 hrs, the pilots of ANA Flight 243 bound for Fukuoka from Haneda noticed a warning system was showing that the lubricant level in its left engine had dropped to zero. The pilots shut down the left engine, and returned to Haneda Airport about 30 minutes later, with only its right engine running. None of the 369 people on board the aircraft were injured. Mechanics who examined the aircraft, a Boeing 777-300, found that lubricant had leaked from its left engine. ANA is investigating the cause of the trouble.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, JOHANNESBURG AIRPORT, SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Sep 26 -- A press report, dated Sep 24, states: A South African Airways (SAA) flight reported technical problems and returned to the airport. The Boeing 737, bound for Mauritius, has had to return to Johannesburg International airport after developing technical problems. More than 300 passengers were on board. Passengers are spending the



night in a Kempton Park hotel and hope to resume their journey tomorrow.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, LARNACA, CYPRUS**

London, Sep 26 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A Gulf Air aircraft flying from Abu Dhabi to Paris with 198 people on board made an emergency landing in Cyprus yesterday after the pilot reported a problem with one of its engines, officials said. "The Airbus A330 was in Cyprus air space when it alerted Larnaca control tower and issued an emergency call saying one of its two engines had failed," the official said on condition of anonymity. "The airport was put on full alert and all rescue crews were mobilised and the local hospital informed, fortunately the plane made a safe landing at 0600 hrs," he added. Bahrain-based Gulf Air's Flight GS-019 had 184 passengers and 14 crew on board.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, LEHIGH VALLEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: A two-engine corporate aircraft made a safe emergency landing at Lehigh Valley International Airport yesterday morning after its two-member crew reported losing power in one engine. The problem was reported shortly after the Learjet 35 took off from the Hanover Township, Lehigh County airport at 1050 hrs bound for Hyannis, Mass. "They shut the left engine down, returned and landed safely at 1103 hrs," said Holly Baker of the Federal Aviation Administration, which will investigate the incident. "It was more of a computer glitch than anything else," said airport spokeswoman Susan Kittle. "The engine did not completely shut down. At no time was the crew really in danger." "That's part of what we will be investigating," Baker said. The airport's emergency equipment was dispatched as a precaution before the aircraft returned to LVIA. The 29-year-old aircraft is owned by CJPJ Associates of Little Falls, N.J.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

See N536JB.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, WINNIPEG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CANADA**

London, Sep 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: There were some anxious moments when a small jet experiencing landing gear problems touched down safely at Winnipeg International Airport. Emergency vehicles were on the scene yesterday as a Lear Jet 48 with six people aboard made a near-perfect landing despite reports of a problem with its nose landing gear. The pilot circled the

airport burning fuel before landing the jet at about 1820 hrs. The flight had originated in Winnipeg, but the pilot turned the aircraft back to the airport after an indication of a problem. There were no injuries reported.

#### **INCIDENT AT BEN-GURION INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ISRAEL**

London, Sep 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: El Al aircraft swerved off the runway at Ben Gurion Airport before dawn today when the tow truck pulling it malfunctioned. The aircraft's fuel tanks were full in preparation for the flight to New York, and all 400 passengers on board were evacuated. El Al responded that the malfunctioning tow truck was "a rare incident" and that the passengers were put up in hotels. Company spokesmen expressed hope that the flight would be able to take off sometime this afternoon, after the aircraft's fuel tanks were emptied and the aircraft was moved from the runway's shoulder. "We are distressed by this incident, but there were no malfunctions in the plane itself," the company reported.

#### **INCIDENT AT MIDWAY AIRPORT, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 29 -- A press report, dated today: The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating an incident at Midway Airport this morning. A Chicago Aviation Department spokeswoman says a Denver-bound A-T-A flight bumped another plane while backing out of a gate at Midway this morning. The flight's left wing hit the tail of another A-T-A plane that was undergoing maintenance at the airport. No one was hurt in the incident. Aviation Department spokeswoman Wendy Abrams says 60 passengers and six crew-members were on the flight to Denver, and the passengers had to be switched to another flight.

#### **MOUNT CASTELLINO, ITALY**

London, Sep 25 -- A press report, dated Sep 25, states: A British pilot died when his plane crashed into the side of an Italian mountain, police confirmed today. The man, who is believed to be from Manchester, was killed when the Cessna 150 crashed into the slopes of Mount Castellino during a heavy thunderstorm. The plane went missing as it was flying over the Tuscan Appenines from Ravenna to Savona on its way to Manchester. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office said it could not confirm the pilot's identity until his family were told. Air traffic control lost contact with the plane which was last spotted flying over land between Mount Cusna and Mount Castellino.

#### **N355NT**

London, Sep 25 -- A press report, dated Sep 24, states: The Coast Guard, the Navy, Kauai Fire Department, and other local agencies

co-ordinated their efforts to find and rescue a crashed tour helicopter at Haena Point, Kauai, yesterday. Navy helicopters were on scene first and rescued two people, who were transported to Kauai Veterans Memorial Hospital. Three of the passengers swam to shore and a one was missing when the Kauai Fire Department arrived on scene. The Kauai Fire Department located the sixth person in the water. Officials said yesterday that three of the people aboard the helicopter were able to swim to a reef and left the scene near the remote Na Pali Coast on their own. The Coast Guard said three men and three women were on board the helicopter owned by Heli USA Airways. The National Transportation Safety Board will investigate the cause of the accident. Poor weather is believed to be a factor.

Honolulu, Sep 24 -- A Heli USA tour helicopter crashed into the ocean off Haena, Kauai, Hawaii, yesterday afternoon. There were six people onboard, three were killed. The pilot and two passengers swam approximately 200 yards to the reef. Two other passengers were pulled from the sea by a Navy SH-60 Seahawk helicopter. The remaining passenger was pulled from the sunken wreckage by an off-duty Kauai firefighter and a county water-safety officer. It was reported the helicopter, an Aerospatiale AS330 based at Princeville Airport, sank and an oil slick was present, along with debris. The rescue Navy helicopter was in the vicinity conducting training maneuvers. It was reported a heavy rainstorm swept through the area at the time of the crash. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 29 -- Eurocopter AS 350 (Ecureuil) N355NT crashed into the ocean off Kee Beach, Lihue, Hawaii, at 0035, Sep 24, while on a local flight from Lihue. The aircraft was destroyed. Three of the six persons on board were killed.

#### **N435RW**

London, Sep 23 -- A press report, Sep 22, states: A plane made a crash landing in Lake Guntersville this afternoon, but the pilot, 71-year-old Kenny Cobb of Boaz, only suffered minor injuries. Around noon the sea plane crashed while trying to land on Lake Guntersville and the plane ended upside down, in about four feet of water. The wheels were down on the plane when it hit the water and marine police say that may have been the problem. "He apparently was too close to the water and his wheels were down and that may have caused him to flip the plane into the water," said Lt. Rick Wadkins. The FAA and the NTSB are investigating the cause of the accident.

London, Sep 22 -- Wheaton Robin Searey N435RW flipped over and sank on Lake Guntersville, Alabama, at 1645, Sep 22, following take-off from Guntersville. The one person on board suffered minor injuries.

**N536JB**

London, Sep 22 -- The registration marks of the JetBlue Airbus A320-232 that made an emergency landing at Los Angeles International Airport, yesterday are N536JB.

**N9158U**

London, Sep 25 -- A press report, dated Sep 24, states: A helicopter giving rides at a festival hit a power line and crashed into a northern Wisconsin lake today, killing the pilot, a woman and her teenage son, authorities said. The helicopter took off from FallFest in Cable, about 12 miles south of the crash site, Bayfield County Sheriff Robert Follis said.

London, Sep 29 -- Robinson R44 astro N9158U crashed into a lake near Drummond, Wisconsin, at 1105, Sep 24. The three persons on board were killed.

**YV412C**

London, Sept 27 -- Cessna 207 YV412C, operated by Cooperative Association Lines Air Taxi Wayumi C.A., crashed in the sector of La Esmeralda, Amazonas, Venezuela, at approximately 0900, AST, Sept 16. The pilot and three passengers received fatal injuries, and the aircraft was destroyed.

**ZK-MBQ**

London, Sep 22 -- Piper PA-28-161 (Warrior) ZK-MBQ, operated by Massey University School of Aviation, was stolen from Ardmore Airport Sep 17 and subsequently crashed into the sea near Auckland. The one person on board suffered minor injuries.



## Product Recalls

**FREEZERS AND REFRIGERATORS, CANADA**

London, Sep 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: The risk of faulty defrosting elements has prompted a voluntary recall and retrofit for about 24,811 automatic defrost upright freezers and refrigerators. CSA International, the safety standards agency, and W.C. Wood Co. of Guelph, Ont., announced the problem today in a release. The products were made between September 2002 and February 2004 under the Amana, Crosley, Whirlpool and Wood's brands. The defrost heater in some units can fail and cause the heater element to become exposed, resulting in a potential shock hazard. A failure can also result in deformation, melting, or burning of the interior food liner. The CSA and Wood said there have been no reports of injury involving the units and the free in-home retrofit is being conducted to prevent the possibility of injury.

**FREEZERS AND REFRIGERATORS, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 28 -- A press report, dated Sep 27, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission in voluntary co-operation with W.C. Wood Company Inc., of Ottawa, Ohio, has announced a recall of approximately 112,000 Automatic Defrost Upright Freezers and All-Refrigerators. The defrost heater coil can become exposed inside the units, which poses a potential shock hazard to consumers. In some cases the exposed heater wire can also melt, or burn the unit's interior plastic food liner. W.C. Woods has received 45 reports of incidents of the defrost heater coil becoming exposed. Nine of those incidents resulted in an electrical short. The others melted and burned the unit's interior plastic liner. No injuries have been reported. The recalled single door freezers and refrigerators are 15, 17 and 20-cubic foot Automatic Defrost Upright Freezers and 17-cubic foot Automatic Defrost All-Refrigerators that can be converted into freezers. They were sold under the brand names Amana, Crosley, Danby, Maytag, Whirlpool and Wood's, which is written on the front of the unit. They were sold at Home improvement and appliance stores from September 2002 through to February 2005 for between \$400 and \$1,000.

**GAS CONTROL VALVES, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 21 -- A press report, dated Sep 19, states: Robertshaw Controls Co. is recalling about 178,000 gas control valves used on water heaters. The California company says the screws on the valves can break. If that happens, gas could leak from the valve, which could pose a risk of gas explosion and fire. No incidents or injuries have been reported. The R110 Gas Control Valves being recalled are installed on natural and liquid propane gas water heaters. The recalled valves were manufactured between Jul 25 and Aug 14. The valves were installed on the following water heater brands: American Proline, Bradford White, GE, GSW, Hotpoint, Jetglas, John Wood, Lochinvar, Premier Plus, Powerflex, Rheem, Richmond, Ruud, Vanguard, Whirlpool, and U.S. Craftmaster. The valves were installed on water heaters by gas appliance distributors and retailers, including The Home Depot and Lowe's, as well as plumbers and plumbing/heating equipment suppliers. The gas valves also were sold separately through gas appliance service providers. Water heaters sold or serviced prior to Jul 25 are not affected by the recall.

**SAAB MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE**

London, Sep 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Saab plans to recall 287,987 cars worldwide because of a problem with the ignition system,

a spokesman said today. The recall will affect gas-engine 9-3 and 9-5 models made in 2000, 2001, and 2002, said Orjan Aslund, a Swedish spokesman for Saab owner General Motors Corp. He said the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has found problems in the ignition system that can lead to overheating. He refused to comment on how much it would cost to replace the ignition boxes, but Swedish news reports said it could cost more than \$77 million.

**STANLEY VACUUM BOTTLES, UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Sep 21 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of about 45,000 Stanley thermos bottles in voluntary co-operation with PMI, of Seattle, Wash. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The handle on the thermos bottles can break, causing the vacuum seal to fail and release organic, non-toxic charcoal powder insulation into the air. This can cause consumers to suffer short-term vision problems and temporary breathing problems when they inhale the powder. PMI has received 654 reports of handles breaking and non-toxic charcoal powder insulation releasing into the air. The firm has received 23 reports of consumers who had difficulty breathing or seeing, and in some cases, began vomiting and coughing. More than 60 of the incidents occurred in trucks or cars creating the potential for impaired vision. There have been 446 reports of property damage. The recall involves the brushed stainless steel and the green 1-liter and 2-quart bottles, and the 24-oz. wide mouth food jar. The recalled thermos bottles have only two spot welds per handle bracket and contain any of the following date code numbers: C 02, D 02, or A 03. The date code is located on the bottom of the bottles just above the "S" and "Y" on the word "STANLEY." Sold at Wal-Mart, Kmart, Target and other discount department stores nation-wide from October 2002 through February 2003 for about \$25. Manufactured in Korea and China. Consumers should immediately stop using the product and contact PMI for a free replacement thermos bottle. PMI will provide all shipping charges for returned bottles.

**UTILITY VEHICLES, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 23 -- A press report, dated Sep 22, states: A safety recall was conducted voluntarily by Arctic Cat Inc., of Thief River Falls, Minn. in co-operation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) of approximately 700 Arctic Cat Prowler XT Off-Highway Utility Vehicles. The brakes on these vehicles can fail. Arctic Cat has received notice of one incident of a brake pad dislodging from the rear

caliper, and one incident of foot brake lever flexing. No injuries have been reported. The recalled units fall within the vehicle identification range (VIN) of 4UF06MPV06T300001 through to 4UF06MPV86T300781. These vehicles were sold worldwide through Arctic Cat dealerships from July 2005 through to September 2005 for between \$9,000 and \$9,500.

#### **WASHING MACHINES, UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Sep 27 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd., of South Korea, today announced a voluntary recall of about 5,000 Maytag Front-Loading Washing Machines. Consumers should contact the manufacturer or retailer for

further instruction. Distributor Maytag Corp., of Newton, Iowa. If the front-load washer is operated at maximum load capacity, the spinner could malfunction and break apart, posing a safety risk to consumers. No incidents/injuries. The recall involves white Maytag front-load washers with model number MAH9700 and a serial number from 10188468GA through 11683946GJ. The model and serial numbers are located inside the door opening and below the rubber boot. Sold at major department and appliance stores nation-wide from April 2005 through May 2005 for about \$1,300. Manufactured in South Korea. Consumers should use care not to exceed the listed capacity of their machines, and should contact Maytag for a free in-home service call to replace the washer's control board. -- Consumer Product Safety Commission.

## Port Conditions



### **ITALY**

Genoa, Sep 19 -- Port situation as of Sep 19: Genoa: No vessels waiting for berth. La Spezia: No vessels waiting for berth. Savona: No vessels waiting for normal berth. One vessel waiting for special berth. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Genoa, Sep 27 -- Port situation as of Sep 27: Genoa: One bulk carrier and two tankers waiting for berth. Average number of days delay in berthing: 12 hrs - 24 hrs. La Spezia: No vessels waiting for berth. Savona: No vessels waiting for normal berth. No vessels waiting for special berth. -- 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
<b>Australia</b>		
Abbot Point	26-Sep-2005	Coal: 1 vessel berthed; 9 vessels due by 11/10; no delays expected.
Brisbane	26-Sep-2005	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 7 vessels due by 23/10; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Dalrymple Bay	26-Sep-2005	Coal: 3 vessels berthed and loading; 29 vessels due by 5/10; vessels usually berthing in order of arrival and cargo availability; average berthing delay 5-10 days, but some cargoes are in short supply and delays of up to 45 days can be expected.
Dampier	26-Sep-2005	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 13 vessels due by 10/10; up to 4 days berthing delay expected; shippers cannot guarantee that vessel will be able to load up to max. sailing draft available; Parker Point 2: 2 vessels due by 4/10; shippers cannot guarantee that vessel will be able to load up to max. sailing draft available; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 19 vessels due by 16/10; up to 1 day's berthing delay expected; a shift to a lay-by berth for loaded vessels is always a possibility; shippers cannot guarantee that vessel will be able to load up to max. sailing draft available.
Gladstone	26-Sep-2005	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 37 vessels due by 22/11; up to 1 day's berthing delay expected subject to port congestion and cargo availability; Barney Point: 8 vessels due by 25/10; up to 1 day's delay expected due to port congestion and cargo availability.
Hay Point	23-Sep-2005	Coal: 2 vessels berthed and loading; 13 vessels due by 6/10; up to 12 days berthing delay expected; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability; berth No. 1 closed for maintenance from 19.00 hrs. 27/9 to 19.30 hrs. 28/9.
Newcastle	26-Sep-2005	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessel berthed and loading; 46 vessels due by 15/10; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels loading; 18 vessels due by 11/10; no unallocated vessels; 23 vessels waiting off port; 5-9 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal, coal product problems with some shippers berthed congestion and cargo receipt.
Port Hedland	26-Sep-2005	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 2 vessels anchored; 1 vessels due 2/10; up to 5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 5 vessels due by 30/9; up to 7 days delay expected; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 1 vessel anchored; 1 vessel due 30/9; up to 1 day's delay expected; "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 6 vessels due by 5/10; up to 1 day's delay expected.
Port Kembla	26-Sep-2005	Coal: 1 vessel berthed; 12 vessels due by 26/10; up to 1 day's berthing delay expected due to port congestion.
Port Walcott	26-Sep-2005	Iron ore: 4 vessels waiting; 18 vessels due by 14/10; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion; Line-up expected to change at short notice. Cargo grade shortages and stockpile problems may result in vessels berthing out of turn.
<b>Azerbaijan</b>		
Baku	23-Sep-2005	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; Azerneftiyag terminal: no vessels; Azer Trans terminal - Nobel avenue: 2 vessels due by 24/9, both to discharge crude oil; Sangachal district: no vessels; Transserve terminal: closed.
<b>Brazil</b>		
Santos	27-Sep-2005	Eighteen vessels berthed of which 6 sugar loaders, 1 bulk soya loader, 1 fertiliser discharger, 5 chemical products dischargers, 1 wheat discharger, 2 pellets loaders, 1 other loader/discharger, 1 full container loader/discharger; 30 vessels waiting in roads; 40 vessels due over the next 7 days; Private terminals: Terminal 37: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Tecondi: no vessels; Termarens: no vessels; Rodrimar: no vessels; Cosipa: 1 fertiliser loader, 2 steel products loaders; Ultrafertil: no vessels; Cargill: 1 pellets loader; Santos Brasil: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Cutrale: 1 bulk juice loader; Dow: 1 chemical products discharger.
Paranagua	27-Sep-2005	Sixteen vessels berthed of which 2 reefer loaders, 4 pellets loaders, 3 fertiliser dischargers, 1 sugar loader, 6 other loaders/dischargers; 27 vessels waiting in roads, of which 14 to load (2 reefers, 4 pellets, 1 soya, 5 sugar, 2 others), 13 to discharge (12 fertiliser, 1 other); 34 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio Grande	27-Sep-2005	Two vessels berthed of which 1 sulphuric acid discharger, 1 fertiliser discharger; 6 vessels waiting in roads; 12 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Sao Sebastiao	27-Sep-2005	Three vessels berthed, 3 waiting in roads; 9 vessels due over the next 10 days.

## Port Conditions

### Bulgaria

Bourgas	26-Sep-2005	Six vessels in port operating, of which 2 loading (1 coils, 1 sunflower seeds), 4 discharging (1 billets, 1 coal, 1 zinc concentrate, 1 iron ore); 2 vessels in roads, both to load, of which 1 coils, 1 empty vessel; 5 vessels due, of which 1 to load profiles, 3 to discharge (1 metals, 1 reinforced concrete, 1 lead/zinc concentrate), 1 passenger vessel.
Varna	26-Sep-2005	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 19-25 September: Thirty-four vessels in port operating of which 22 loading (7 bulk soda, 1 wheat, 1 cement, 1 barley, 3 clinker, 4 sunflowers, 1 scrap, 1 silica sand, 1 clinker, 1 wheat, 1 sunflower seeds), 8 discharging (6 coal, 1 bulk copper concentrate, 1 urea), 4 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in roads.

### Chile

Antofagasta	26-Sep-2005	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 12 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers and general cargo.
Arica	26-Sep-2005	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 16 vessels due this week.
Iquique	26-Sep-2005	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 14 vessels due this week.
Valparaiso	26-Sep-2005	Two vessels berthed, 6 berths vacant; 3 vessels anchored; 13 vessels due this week.

### Egypt

Adabiya	26-Sep-2005	Twelve vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 5 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 livestock, 1 tanker, 2 containers.
Alexandria	26-Sep-2005	Twenty-six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 13 general cargo, 7 bulk carriers, 3 tankers, 1 container vessel, 2 military vessels; 20 vessels dry-docked; 5 vessels at inner anchorage, 5 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	26-Sep-2005	Nineteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 14 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 1 Ro/Ro, 2 containers; 4 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.
Dekheila	26-Sep-2005	Thirteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 1 general cargo, 7 bulk carriers, 3 container vessels, 2 military vessels; 1 vessel at outer anchorage.
Port Said	26-Sep-2005	Four vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 1 bulk carrier, 3 containers.
Suez	26-Sep-2005	Nine vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 1 tanker, 3 reefers, 3 passenger vessels; 2 tugs, 1 vessel dry-docked
Suez Canal	26-Sep-2005	Twenty-two vessels transiting Northbound, 25 Southbound.

### Estonia

Tallinn	26-Sep-2005	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 2 vessels loading at berth (1 fertiliser, 1 coal), 1 ferro manganese vessel discharging at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 3 vessels due, with 5 days berthing delay expected.
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### India

Kolkata	26-Sep-2005	6 vessels operating at berth of which 4 discharging (Containers-2, Timber Logs, Edible Oil), 1 vessel loading and discharging General Cargo, 1 vessel waiting to load General Cargo; 3 vessels working at midstream to discharge (Pulses-2, Steel); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 4 vessels under repair; 1 vessel under dry docked.
Haldia	26-Sep-2005	19 vessels operating at berth of which 7 loading (Iron ore-6, Steel), 9 vessels discharging (Crude, Met Coke, Sulphur, Coking Coal-2, Soya Oil, Phosphoric Acid, Containers-2), 3 vessels loading and discharging (Containers, POL, Steel); 16 vessels awaiting berth (3 to discharge, 12 to load, 1 to load and discharge); 1 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 6 vessels due (Crude-2, Iron ore-2, Lime Stone, Coal)
Paradip	26-Sep-2005	11 vessels operating at berth of which 5 loading (Iron ore-3, Crome Concentrate-2), 6 vessels discharging (Coking Coal, Pet Coke, N.C.Coal, S.Coal, Rock Phosphate-2); 14 vessels awaiting berth (3 to discharge, 11 to load); 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge.
Visakhapatnam	26-Sep-2005	14 vessels operating at berth of which 6 loading (Iron ore, S.M.Ore, Thermal Coal-2, Iron ore, Alumina), 8 vessels discharging (MOP-2, Project Cargo, Rock Phosphate, S.Scrap, C.P.Coke, Alumina, Coking Coal); 5 vessels awaiting berth (4 to discharge, 1 to load); 9 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (7 to discharge, 2 to load); 1 vessel under repair (MV Chin Shwe Haw at HSY Jetty which was collided with MV Uttar Kasi); 33 vessels due (Iron Ore-7, Steel-3, Food Grains-2, Granite Blocks, POL-3, Crude-3, MOP, Urea, Ammonia, Acetone, Styrene Monomer, Containers-4, Methanol, Raw Sugar, Crude Oil-2, POL).
Chennai	26-Sep-2005	7 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading (Furnace Oil, Iron ore), 4 vessels discharging (Raw Sugar, MOP, S.Coal, Crude Oil), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load; 5 vessels due (S.Scrap/HM Scrap, LSHS/Furnace Oil, S.Coal, Containers, S.Coil/Granite Block).
Tuticorin	26-Sep-2005	9 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (General Cargo-3, Cement), 5 vessels discharging (Thermal Coal, Timber Logs, Rock Phosphate, VCM, MOP); 1 vessel awaiting berth to discharge; 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to load, 1 to discharge).

## Port Conditions

Cochin	26-Sep-2005	6 vessels operating at berth of which 4 discharging (Rock Phosphate, Crude, Palm Oil, Ammunition), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels awaiting berth to discharge.
New Mangalore	26-Sep-2005	7 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading POL Product; 4 vessels discharging (Timber-2, LPG, Coal); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 19 vessels due (POL crude-3, POL Product-6, Benzene, Container, Iron Ore Fines-3, Iron ore (P), Fertiliser-2, Timber, Granite Stone).
Mormugao	26-Sep-2005	3 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading (Iron ore, Alumna), 1 vessel discharging Coal; 2 vessels working at midstream and loading Iron ore; 5 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 5 vessels under repair/dry docked; 5 vessels due (Coking Coal, Iron Ore-4).
Mumbai	26-Sep-2005	17 vessels operating at berth of which 1 loading Bagged SBM, 15 vessels discharging (Peas in bulk-3, General/Project Cargo, Sillica Bricks/Steel/General Cargo, HR coils, Project Cargo, Bulk Salt, Bulk MOP, Rock Phosphate, POL-5), 1 vessel loading and discharging B/Bulk/Containers; 1 vessel working at midstream and loading Steel Cargo/Clay in bulk; 2 vessels awaiting order to discharge; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load; 17 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 5 vessels under arrest; 21 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 27 vessels due (Container-7, Oil, Fertiliser (RM)-2, General Cargo-17).
J.N.P.T.	26-Sep-2005	7 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels discharging (Edible Oil, SKO/HSD/MS), 5 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 5 vessels awaiting berth to load and discharge; 5 Containers vessels due.
Kandla	26-Sep-2005	14 vessels operating at berth of which 9 discharging (CPO, Phosphoric Acid, Chemical, Timber Logs, Fertiliser, H.R.Coils, Grantik Clay, St. Pipes, Sulphur), 4 vessels loading (Rice, Zinc Concentrate, Bentonite, SBM); 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels (*) awaiting berth to discharge; 7 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 5 to load).
Ennore	26-Sep-2005	3 Thermal Coal vessel due (MV APJ Sri Devi, MV Rani Padmini, MV Gem of Ennore).
<b>Israel</b>		
Ashdod	27-Sep-2005	Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 7 general cargo vessels discharging at berth, 3 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 17 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	27-Sep-2005	One general cargo vessel discharging at berth, 8 vessels loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 2 car carriers, 2 tankers); 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge, 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (2 containers, 1 tanker); 2 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 16 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
<b>Kazakhstan</b>		
Aktau	23-Sep-2005	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, 1 completed loading crude oil, 1 loading crude oil; 2 vessels in roads, both to load unknown cargoes; 3 vessels due by 24/9, all to load unknown cargoes.
<b>Pakistan</b>		
Karachi	27-Sep-2005	One cement vessel loading at berth, 13 vessels discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 1 chemicals, 1 coal, 4 general cargo, 2 DAP, 3 sugar, 1 urea), 2 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 5 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (2 cement, 1 rice, 1 containers, 1 MOL), 8 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 sugar, 2 fertiliser, 1 containers, 1 coal, 2 general cargo); no vessels bunkering, 1 under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 3 vessels due (2 containers, 1 coal), with 3-4 days berthing delay expected.
Port Qasim	27-Sep-2005	Four vessels discharging at berth (1 fuel oil, 1 palm oil, 1 sugar, 1 rape seed); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 palm oil, 1 coal).
<b>Russia</b>		
Novorossiysk	26-Sep-2005	Thirteen vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 2 scrap, 1 bulk cement, 1 bulk NPK, 1 DRI, 1 pig-iron, 1 slabs/steel billets, 1 steel billets/other, 1 steel sheets/steel billets, 1 steel billets/coils/steel sheets, 1 steel billets/coils, 1 aluminium, 1 diesel oil; 8 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 2 steel billets, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 pig-iron, 3 wheat, 1 bulk cement; 55 vessels due, of which 51 to load (2 equipment, 4 DRI, 2 bulk ammonium nitrate, 4 aluminium, 7 steel billets, 2 bulk NPK, 2 slabs, 1 barley, 1 WRIC/steel sheets, 1 steel billets/scrap, 5 copper, 1 bulk urea, 3 scrap, 4 coils, 2 wheat, 2 steel billets, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate/bulk urea, 1 WRIC, 1 equipment/cars, 1 pig-iron, 1 tin plates, 1 UAN solution, 1 cellulose, 1 bulk cement), 2 to discharge (1 construction material, 1 zinc ore), 2 to discharge/load containers; Oil terminal: 3 tankers berthed, all loading crude oil; 1 tanker in roads to load crude oil; 7 tankers due, all to load, of which 3 crude oil, 1 diesel oil, 1 fuel oil.
<b>Slovenia</b>		
Koper	26-Sep-2005	Nine vessels berthed of which 3 vessels loading sawn timber, 2 vessels discharging/loading containers, 2 bulk carriers loading general cargo, 2 bulk carriers discharging coal/general cargo; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge aluminium products; 20 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 4 vessels load/discharge containers, 3 to load sawn timber/steel products, 1 reefer to discharger refrigerated goods, 4 bulk carriers to discharge general cargo/cement/coal/ore, 5 bulk carriers to load coal/general cargo, 3 car carriers to <b>discharge/load vehicles</b> .



## Port Conditions

### Spain

Bilbao 26-Sep-2005 Thirty-five vessels operating (5 tankers, 30 other vessels), of which 6 loading, 22 discharging, 7 loading/discharging.

### Sri Lanka

Colombo 26-Sep-2005 Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Four container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 16 vessels discharging at berth (10 containers/feeders, 1 bagged cement, 1 bulk cement, 2 bagged fertiliser, 1 bulk fertiliser, 1 bulk palm oil); 1 container/feeder vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 5 vessels dry-docked, 1 at new tanker berth; 9 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays expected.

### Turkmenistan

Turkmenbashi 23-Sep-2005 Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, of which 1 loading gasoil, 1 to load heating oil; 2 vessels in roads, 1 to load gasoline, 1 to discharge crude oil; 1 vessel due by 23/9, to load fuel oil.

### Ukraine

Ilichevsk 26-Sep-2005 Nine vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading (3 steel products, 2 grain, 1 ore), 3 discharging/loading containers; 4 vessels in roads, of which 3 to load (1 grain, 2 steel products), 1 to discharge/load containers; 23 vessels due, of which 7 to load (5 steel products, 1 grain, 1 equipment), 8 to discharge (6 steel products, 2 ore), 8 to discharge/load containers.

Mariupol 26-Sep-2005 Twelve vessels in port operating, all to load, of which 5 steel, 2 wheat, 1 fire-clay, 3 coal, 1 carbamide; 5 vessels in roads, of which 3 to load steel, 2 to discharge equipment; 40 vessels due, of which 39 to load (21 steel, 8 coal, 6 fire-clay, 1 steel/fire-clay, 1 pitch, 1 equipment, 1 sunflower seeds), 1 to discharge/load containers.

Odessa 26-Sep-2005 Fourteen vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading (3 metal, 2 pig-iron, 2 wheat, 1 wood, 1 barley), 3 discharging (1 luggage, 2 bananas), 2 loading/discharging containers; 12 vessels in roads, of which 6 to load (3 metal, 1 corn, 1 barley, 1 wheat), 3 to discharge (1 sugar, 1 general cargo, 1 oil), 3 to discharge/load containers; 53 vessels due, of which 29 to load (20 metal, 1 scrap, 2 ore, 1 barley, 1 corn, 1 ferro alloy, 2 wood, 1 paper), 5 to discharge (2 wheat, 2 citrus, 1 fat), 19 to discharge/load containers.

### United States

Beaumont 21-Sep-2005 Louis Dreyfus terminal: 2 days delay.

Houston 21-Sep-2005 Pilots report normal 43 ft. 0 ins. max. draft up to Shell terminal, 40 ft. 0 ins. max. draft after Shell terminal in Houston ship channel; Cargill terminal: 2 days delay; LDC Dreyfus terminal: 1-2 days delay. Kalama export terminal: 4 days delay; United Harvest terminal: no delays.

Kalama, WA 21-Sep-2005 Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: no information available; Cargill-Westwego: no information available; ADM/Ama: 5-7 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 3 days delay expected; ADM/Destrehan: 5-7 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 5-7 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 1-2 days delay expected; ADM/Paulina: closed; planned re-opening in October; Zen-Noh/Convent: 2-3 days delay expected; Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays; maintenance being carried out; 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 information available; Mile 158.0 Cargill (K2) - Convent: 3-4 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 5 days delay expected. Mississippi River recommended draft restrictions: SW Pass to Pilottown - 47 ft. for all vessels (daylight only); Pilottown to Nola - 47 ft. for all vessels; New Orleans (Mile 090) to Baton Rouge (Mile 233.5) - 45 ft. for all vessels; vessels with drafts up to 47 ft. have been handled up to Mile 180 in the past, but are approved by pilots on a case by case basis, based on current river conditions; Mississippi River Gulf outlet: 25 ft.

Seattle 21-Sep-2005 Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 2 days delay.

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