

September 23 2005

Brussels admits single-hull phase out will damage environment

Health problems for scrap workers feared, writes Justin Stares — Friday September 23 2005

SHIPS scrapped as the result of the European Union's single-hull phasing out programme will cause environmental damage and health problems for workers in the third world, the European Commission has admitted.

While the negative impact of the policy decided in Brussels was inevitable, the commission was powerless to do anything about it, said environment commissioner Stavros Dimas.

Huge quantities

There was insufficient capacity in so-called "green" scrapping yards, both in the EU and non-Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries, to break the huge quantities of toxic steel created by the single-hull ban, Mr Dimas told Green Euro MP Margrete Auken in reply to a written question.

There was also no way of checking the fate of the EU's ageing oil tanker fleet as ships were often sent to breakers' yards after they left EU waters, beyond the commission's jurisdiction.

"The commission can confirm a prognosis that the accelerated phasing out of single hull oil tankers will lead to a significant increase in the number of vessels for scrapping," Mr Dimas wrote.

"The commission can [also] confirm that there is an insufficient number of facilities which meet the standards of environmentally sound management and occupational safety and health."

Mr Dimas said it was "currently unclear" if the single hull ban would lead to exports of ships for scrap from the EU to non-OECD countries — a practice banned under the Basel Convention — because the ships might have already left EU waters.

Illegal exports

Mrs Auken was less unclear in her question. "This situation will lead to a continuation of and increase in illegal exports of toxic waste through ships for scrap," she wrote.

The "already unacceptable" conditions at breakers' yards in non-OECD countries would become worse, she claimed, adding that more than 20m tonnes of steel would be scrapped as the result of the phasing out.

Mr Dimas admitted: "In so far as these scrap vessels reach the developing countries in increasing numbers, adverse impacts on workers' health and the environment are indeed to be feared."

The commission said it was working in international forums to "establish a system

of binding rules for ship recycling." The commission has also threatened court action against nations which allow the Basel Convention and parallel EU waste legislation to be flouted.

However, Brussels knows ships rarely become scrap in EU waters, which means laws are by-passed. "The EU waste shipment regulation can only be enforced where a ship becomes waste in European waters," Mr Dimas told parliament last month.

According to a study commissioned by Brussels the scrapping volume of oil tankers will range between 800,000 and 7.7m tons a year in the period 2004-15.

Estimated

The materials "of potential environmental concern" arising out of the scrapping, such as oil sludge, asbestos and heavy metals are estimated at between 480,000 and 1.5m tons a year over the period.

Around 30% of the oil tankers scrapped in 2001-2003 flew the flag of an EU member state, according to the same study.

Ships headed for scrapyards in developing countries made up a "considerable share" of all hazardous waste reaching non-OECD countries.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
COMAR PRIMO	floating crane	ITA	RI	561	403	1975	Sank at Ortona Aug 31. Salvage to be attempted Sep 14.
CORA	product	DEU	—	169	289	1969	Had machine failure and ran aground near Brake, River Weser, Sep 11. Towed off and taken to Bremerhaven for inspection.
GRETE THERESA	chem/oil carrier	SGP	LR	821	1,020	1996	Engine-room flooding in lat 23 21.6S, long 166 30.1E, Sep 13. Awaiting pumps. Being towed to Noumea.
KOZNITSA	bulker	BGR	BK	15,502	24,100	1984	Arrived Malaga Sep 7 in tow of bulk <i>Kapitan Georgi</i> due to severe main engine damage.
LIPARIT	bulker	TUR	TU	12,668	19,190	1976	Struck shore cranes after towing lines failed at Eredemir Iron & Steel Factory, Ereğli Sep 2. Crane operator killed and shore cranes damages.
MAKOURIA	general	GUY	—	560	383	1959	Broke down Sep 9 while operating the Berbice River, Rosignol-New Amsterdam crossing and grounded. Towed to New Amsterdam
MANIRUL ISLAM	general	BGD	—	—	—	—	Sank Sep 13 while on way to Narayanganj from Chittagong
MILKY WAY	fishing	USA	—	113	—	1978	Sank in lat 47 51.9N, long 124 45.9W, Sep 15. Crew rescued.
MINH LINH 27	general	VNM	—	—	—	—	Grounded in bad weather about 1 mile from Thuan An, Thua Thien Hue, Vietnam, Sep 13. Crew taken off.
NOVA	general	COM	—	5,886	5,039	1961	Fire broke out in holds Sep 11 while loading cargo of machines at Poliport Diliskelesi. Fire extinguished. Listing 15-20 deg to port in lat 40 46 66N, long 29 29 87E.
PEI SHENG	fishing	—	—	520	—	—	Reported unmanned and drifting in the vicinity of lat 43 10N, long 148 49E, Sep 11.
PUERTO DE ALTAMIRA	dredger	PAN	BV	3,460	3,790	1982	Collided with berth in fresh wind while shifting berths at Veracruz Sep 8. Damage resulted in leakage to engine-room, causing vessel to sink. Aft is on the seabed and bow is afloat.
SWIFTSURE PRINCE	barge	CAN	—	4,411	—	1970	Reported Sep 9 seperated from tug and adrift off Cape Flattery (U.S.A.) in danger off grounding. Line reconnected later. Arrived Westminster BC Sep 11.
TAKASAGO MARU	general	JPN	—	199	—	1993	Sank in 65 metres in lat 33 01N, long 132 22.7E, Sep 11.
ZHEN HUA 11	semi-sub HI vessel	VCT	BV	48,145	85,925	1981	Had fire on board at Jiangyin Sep 11. Seven crew dead and four injured.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AEGITNA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)
 Vigo, Sep 15 -- General cargo Aegitna is still at Vigo, under repair. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Aegitna was contacted by general cargo Eiffel Moon at Vigo, on Nov 8, 2001.)

ANGLIAN SOVEREIGN (U.K.)
 London, Sept 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Anchor handling tug/supply Anglian Sovereign is to be towed to Rotterdam over the weekend to repair its badly damaged hull. At around 2145, Sep 3 Shetland Coastguard received a may day call reporting that the vessel had run aground at Oxná while on its way into Scalloway. Thirteen non-essential crew were picked up in south-south-westerly force 6-7 winds and airlifted to Tingwall Airport at around 2050 hrs by Coastguard helicopter while the master stayed on board. It was refloated but then struck rocks at the Cheynies before sailing, under its own steam, in to Scalloway escorted by oil support vessel Triton. The hull of the vessel was extensively damaged and its fuel tanks ruptured, leaking an estimated 180 tonnes of diesel oil between Oxná and Scalloway. The ship limped into port at around 0015 hrs. Key members of the council's ports and harbours operations were scrambled at around 0030 Sunday morning assisted by specialists from Sullom Voe. The team worked through the night trying to contain the fuel that had haemorrhaged from tug which was there to protect Shetland from pollution hazards. Divers were sent down to assess the damage to the ship's hull, which was later described as extensive. Containment booms were in place to stop the fuel from spreading from the harbour while pollution experts battled to control the incident. Diggers were brought in to scoop built up litter from the harbour which was impeding the clean-up operation. On Monday the Maritime and Coastguard Agency issued a warning to shellfish and fish farmers and inshore shellfish fishermen not feed or harvest in areas of obvious pollution. Following an aerial survey on Sunday a statement issued by the service said: "Environmental health officers confirm that the clearance carried out in the harbour on Sunday had been effective. However, there are sheens which extend beyond the harbour boundaries. The location, extent and impact of these will be determined. "Fish farmers in the vicinity are monitoring the situation on the ground. They report no signs of any pollution affecting these sites and are taking any necessary precautions. Shellfish farmers are also monitoring the situation." But yesterday general

manager of Shetland Aquaculture David Sandison said fish and mussel farmers had not been affected by the pollution. " All of the pollution has not affected any fish farms as most of the pollution is in Scalloway Harbour. General manager of ports and harbours Jim Dickson paid tribute to everyone involved in the clean-up operation. "Everything came together very quickly ≠ the Scalloway Harbour staff, DLO guys, SBS and Total Waste Management Services. "We had an aerial survey done today (Wednesday) and it is a much improved situation. There is just a bit of a sheen that has hung around from the fisheries college to the Trondra Bridge. There are bits being sucked up but it's getting hard to find any now. It is extremely small now. There will still be guys working until the end of the week. The Anglian Sovereign is owned and operated by Lowestoft firm Klyne Tugs. Director Simon Field said he was unable to comment until the inquiry was completed. "We have our own people carrying out our own investigation. I do not wish to make a statement at the moment. We are also waiting for the result of the police inquiry." Mark Clarke of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency confirmed that Klyne Tugs have a "dry" ship policy which results in dismissal if breached. He said: "Our own inspection people are working with the police. There may be charges that come under the Merchant Shipping Act. "An aerial survey has been carried out and there was a sheen around Scalloway but this has been considerable reduced, a lot of it has cleared. "Our investigation branch is up and have been talking to the police then interviewing the crew. "Of the 180 tonnes of diesel that was released 96 tonnes have been recovered to the shore side tanks and much of the 84 tonnes will be displaced or evaporate. this is a considerable lesser amount. "The vessel cannot be moved at the moment. When it is moved it will have to be towed. There is a marine surveyor coming up with a replacement tug on Friday. There will also be a skipper from the Klyne fleet." Sister vessel Anglian Earl is expected to arrive today to take up the duties of the ill-fated tug. Anglian Sovereign is expected to be towed to Rotterdam within the next two days for repairs to the extensive damage to the starboard side of the hull. Repairs are expected to take around three months. The ship's master was breathalysed by police after the vessel limped in to Scalloway on Sunday morning. He is due to appear at Lerwick Sheriff Court on Tuesday.

London, Sep 13 -- Anchor handling tug/supply Anglian Sovereign left Scalloway 1035, Sep 11 in tow of tug RT Magic for Rotterdam.

London, Sep 14 -- Anchor handling tug/supply Anglian Sovereign, in tow of tug RT Magic arrived Rotterdam 0450 today.

London, Sep 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: The master of

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

anchor handling tug/supply Anglian Sovereign has been charged with being more than three times over the legal limit of alcohol. Peter Leask, who lives in Shetland, appeared in private at Lerwick Sheriff Court today. He is facing five charges under Maritime and environmental legislation. Mr Leask made no plea or declaration and the case was continued. Three investigations into the accident are under way. The tug has gone to Rotterdam for repairs.

APACHE (U.S.A.)

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated Sep 9, states: Tank barge Apache has been refloated from a shallow area where it grounded off Plantation Key, where it had been grounded since Aug 31, and carefully manoeuvred by tugs out to open water. "Tides that were a little higher than usual because of tropical storm Ophelia," said Stephen Beckwith, Upper Keys manager for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Resolve Marine Salvage was contracted to move the barge without causing additional damage to the ocean bottom. The original plan reportedly had the barge remaining in place for several weeks, until additional equipment arrived and the Sep 17 full moon generated maximum high tides. But the Resolve crew noticed lines to anchors that secured the barge in place showed it was moving with the tides, Beckwith said. An attempt to move the barge was launched at 1115 Wednesday (Sep 7) to catch the high tide at 1230 hrs. Local tugs and masters working with Resolve took part in the successful operation, Beckwith said. "There was hardly any resource damage on the way out." The Crosby Tug company's specifications indicated Apache draws 7 feet of water, Beckwith said, "but it actually might have been closer to 6 or 6.5 feet. That helped." An environmental assessment will be made of the grounding area to determine if civil action should be taken against the barge owners for damaging protected sanctuary resources. No major coral areas appear to have been damaged, Beckwith said.

AZUR (Antigua & Barbuda)

Szczecin, Sep 12 -- General cargo Azur (1829 gt, built 1981) is currently undergoing engine repairs in Gryfia Repair Yard, Szczecin, where arrived Sep 9. -- Correspondent. (Note -- Azur sailed Gdansk Sep 7 for Tees.)

BALTIC CAPTAIN I (Cyprus)

London, Sep 13 -- Chemical/oil carrier Baltic Captain I arrived Texas City 08 Sep.

BALUEIRO TERCERO (Spain)

Suva, Sep 8 -- Fishing Balueiro Tercero remains grounded and it appears the wreck will not be removed. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BELO HORIZONTE (Hong Kong)

London, Sep 15 -- Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed

2310, UTC, Sep 14: Clyde MRCC were advised by another authority, at 2039, UTC, of a fire on board bulk Belo Horizonte (40300 gt, built 2004) at Hunterston Quay, in lat 55 45N, long 04 53W. Fire service in attendance from 1535 UTC. Belo Horizonte was carrying 70,000 tonnes of coal. There is a deep-seated fire smouldering in No 7 hold. Fire service dealing with this. Strathclyde Fire Service plans to empty No 6 hold, then transfer contents of No 7 hold into it, damping down as this happens. They also intend to monitor temperatures of fuel space with regards to possible explosion. Advice has been taken from firefighting specialists. (Note -- Belo Horizonte arrived Hunterston Quay Sep 13, from Indonesia.)

London, Sep 15 -- Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 0849, UTC: At 0847, UTC, Clyde MRCC were advised by Clydeport Authority that the fire in the affected hold of bulk Belo Horizonte had been extinguished and that all units had been stood down. All cargo has been transferred from the affected hold to an empty hold.

BERKAN B. (Georgia)

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

BRO TRAVELLER (Sweden)

See under "Pollution".

CHENG CHING FENG (Taiwan)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy."

CHING YI 218 (Taiwan)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy."

CHIOS BEAUTY (Panama)

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

CHRISTOS XVIII (Greece)

London, Sep 13 -- Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the morning of Sep 11, tug Christos XVIII (290 gt, built 1960) sustained fire on board while moored at the harbour of Souda. The fire brigade successfully extinguished the fire without injuries or pollution being caused.

COMAR PRIMO (Italy)

Ancona, Sep 13 -- Floating crane Comar Primo (561 gt, built 1975), loaded with two cranes and towed by tug San Cataldo, sunk at Ortona Aug 31. The attempts made for the pontoon's salvage have been unsuccessful due to lacking of suitable salvage's means. A new salvage attempt is planned for tomorrow. There have not been any injuries to crew members. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CORA (Germany)

London, Sep 13 -- Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Product tanker Cora (169 gt, built 1969), owned by Gluesing Mineraloele, Cuxhaven, with diesel oil, ran aground in the river Weser close to the port of Brake in the morning of Sep 11 due to a machine failure. The vessel came to

rest on an even keel and thus sustained no damage to the cargo holds. As the tide was falling there was no chance of an immediate salvage. Salvage attempts started with the rising flood in the afternoon and the ship was towed free and brought for inspection to a nearby shipyard in Bremerhaven. No pollution was reported.

DONGJIN PHOENIX (South Korea)

London, Sep 9 -- Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 0435, UTC: General cargo Dongjin Phoenix is still aground in the same position.

London, Sep 14 -- Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 2345, UTC, Sep 13: General cargo Dongjin Phoenix is still aground. Salvage company on scene and conducting fuel oil removal operation. This will take one to two days. Refloating operations will then be considered.

ELLI T. (Malta)

Piraeus, Sep 9 -- Passenger ro/ro Elli T. (12338 gt, built 1976) struck the Patras port quay, at noon, yesterday, while performing berthing manoeuvres. The vessel had sailed from Brindisi bound for Igoumenitsa and Patras, with 65 passengers and 37 vehicles on board. There were no reported injuries to the passengers or crew members. No pollution occurred. The vessels' stern sustained damages. The vessel was inspected by the local port authorities and sailed at 2015 hrs, yesterday, with a destination of Italy. -- Lloyd's Agents.

EUGENIO (St.Vincent & Grenadines)

Durban, Sep 14 -- General cargo Eugenio is still in port and is currently in dry dock having grounding damages assessed. Local Agents do not know at this stage when vessel will sail which will only be known on completion of damage assessment. -- Lloyd's Agents.

FEDERAL VENTURE (Hong Kong)

London, Sept 9 -- While berthing at No.2 Duncan, Port Alfred, Quebec, the starboard bow of the loaded bulk Lowlands Saguenay (37721 gt, built 1985) struck the aft stern of bulk Federal Venture (21469 gt, built 1989) moored at Duncan No.1, at 1620, EDST, Sept 7. Both vessels sustained minor hull damage.

Montreal, Sept 9 -- While berthing at Port Alfred, bulk Lowlands Saguenay contacted the stern of bulk Federal Venture, which was berthed ahead, on Sept 7. There is minor local damage to Federal Venture and Lowlands Saguenay sustained damage to the starboard hull in way of the house pipe. In both cases, permanent repairs are deferred. No temporary repairs are required. -- Lloyd's Agents.

GC 55

See Kiperousa.

GRETE THERESA (Singapore)

London, Sep 14 -- Following received from Australia RCC, timed 2315, UTC,

Sep 13: Distress alert received at 0835, UTC, Sep 13, from chemical/oil carrier Grete Theresa (821 gt, built 1996) in lat 23 21.6S, long 166 30.1E, engine-room flooding. Latest information is that situation is under control, awaiting pumps. A navy vessel is standing by.

Noumea, Sep 14 -- Chemical/oil carrier Grete Theresa, Noumea for Norfolk, oil inside its tankers, had a leak about 70 miles from Noumea at 1900, local time, Sep 13. As the machine failed, the vessel stopped and one tug from SORA society tasked to rescue and assist the vessel. At 0920, UTC, this morning, vessel was towed by tug Tamaniu owned by SORA society. Grete Theresa and tug are expected to be safe at Noumea terminal by the end of this afternoon. - Lloyd's Agents.

HSIN LIEN FENG 36 (Taiwan)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy."

HUA FU 101 (Panama)

London, Sep 9 -- Ref Hua Fu 101 arrived Kaohsiung Aug 26 and sailed Aug 28. (See issue of Apr 25.)

HUAL TRAPPER (NIS)

London, Sep 14 -- Vehicle Hual Trapper sailed Durban Sep 10 for Jakarta.

ISERAN (France)

London, Sep 15 -- Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0820, UTC: Fishing Iseran (222 gt, built 1981) was reported during the night broken down off Wolf Rock with water in engine-room. At approximately 0735, UTC, Iseran was in lat 49 54N, long 05 27W. Penlee lifeboat was launched and is now alongside and has passed a pump to Iseran and situation now appears to be under control. French trawler Tourmalet is en route to assist and will probably tow Iseran into Newlyn.

KALAMINJA 401 (Maldives)

London, Sep 10 -- Ref Kalaminja 401 arrived Male Aug 24.

KAVIROS (Greece)

London, Sep 12 -- Lloyd's Casualty Representatives in Piraeus report: Passenger ro/ro Kaviros (142 gt, built 1979) Samothraki to Alexandroupolis, nine passengers on board, sailing 3.5 nautical miles from Alexandroupolis, sustained damage to its port main engine, morning Sep 9. Following the incident the vessel arrived at Alexandroupolis, sailing conventionally, where departure was prohibited pending issuance of a class maintenance certificate.

KIPEROUSA (Malta)

London, Sept 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: A survey of the weather-damaged barge (GC 55) that has arrived from the Middle East to help off-load logs from bulk Kiperousa took place yesterday. Once the report has been made to the owners, repair work can begin. Senior salvage master for SvitzerWijismuller, Captain Nick

Sloane, said that a survey had been conducted with representatives of the owners, and the report now had to be sent to the owners in the United Arab Emirates. He said once the go-ahead had been given, the barge would be repaired. So far only one of the four holds has been cleared, and Kiperousa is beginning to break up. It is feared that bad weather may cause the ship to break up completely. Sloane said the biggest worry surrounding the breaking up of the ship was the logs getting into the current and affecting ships, yachts and swimmers. "The logs are really big so they can do a lot of damage, but that is what the salvage team and the underwriters are trying to avoid." The ship, which has already broken into three parts, does prove a safety risk for the salvage team, he said. Sloane said, weather permitting, the team hoped to have completed the operation in the next two months.

KOZNITSA (Bulgaria)

Malaga, Sep 10 -- Bulk Koznitsa (16502 gt, built 1984) arrived at Malaga at 1200, Sep 7 in tow of bulk Kapitani Georgi Georgiev, due to severe main engine damage. -- Lloyd's Agents.

LADOGA 101 (Russia)

St. Petersburg, Sep 14 -- General cargo Ladoga 101 (1853 gt, built 1988) bound Great Britain, 1641 tons of steel and saw-timber on board, ran aground in the entry to Gulf of Finland near Vyborg about 2330, local time, Sep 13. Understand vessel struck some submerged object and the master made decision to run aground to increase stability and to decrease quantity of salt-water coming through the hole. Today, tug Buran equipped with powerful salt-water pumps will inspect Ladoga 101 and dewater. -- Lloyd's Agents.

LADY HAMILTON (Hong Kong)

London, Sep 9 -- Bulk Lady Hamilton reported making contact with the bottom forward while loading at section 15, port of Sorel, Sep 4. Vessel was pulled aft and into deeper water. No damage reported.

LIPARIT (Turkey)

London, Sep 8 -- The quay at Erdemir Iron & Steel Factory will remain closed for berthing for about four months, following an accident involving bulk Liparit (12668 gt, built 1976) Sep 2, according to a statement issued by the Erdemir Iron & Steel Factories Co. The Turkish flagged vessel hit shore cranes after its towing lines failed during berthing, resulting in the death of a shore crane operator and damage to the shore cranes at the new quay. Until the repair and replacement of new cranes can be completed, expected to take about four months, the quay will be closed to berthing vessels. The damaged quay accommodates Cape size vessels which handle 99% of Erdemir's imported (ore & coal) raw materials for production. Until repairs are completed, imported

cargoes will be handled at the old quay which accommodates Panamax size vessels.

LONG XUYEN (Vietnam)

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

LOWLANDS SAGUENAY (Panama)

See Federal Venture.

MAKOURIA (Guyana)

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Minister of Public Works and Communications, Anthony Xavier has ordered an investigation into what caused one of the two ferries operating the Berbice River, Rosignol-New Amsterdam, crossing to break down. Commuters were stranded for up to three hours on Friday (Sep 9), when ferry Makouria (560 gt, built 1959) had trouble leaving the Rosignol stelling. The ferry was grounded for some time before being towed to New Amsterdam by ferry Torani, another ferry operating the route. Yesterday, Minister Xavier said he understood that the ferry had engine problems, which resulted in it being delayed. He said repairs were done on the ferry over the weekend but yesterday it was discovered that the ferry has another problem and it was taken back for more repairs. Sources said yesterday that the ferry was being run by a mate instead of a master. The sources said a mate was not authorized to operate a ferry; it should be piloted only by a master with a certificate of competence. Sources also said that two people were to be fired in connection with Friday's breakdown. Asked about this, Xavier said that was unclear at this time. "I asked the General Manager at Berbice to properly investigate the matter so that we could all know what happened," he said. According to reports, passengers were told to board Makouria at 0900 hrs only to be told half an hour later to leave the boat, which had started to move off only to break down and drift back into the stelling. Around 1030 hrs, the other ferry arrived with its passengers who could not disembark because Makouria was blocking the stelling. Later, the two boats were tied together and Torani towed the stricken Makouria to New Amsterdam.

MALASPINA CASTLE (Cayman Islands)

London, Sep 13 -- Bulk Malaspina Castle arrived Uusikaupunki 08 Sep.

MANIRUL ISLAM (Bangladesh)

Karachi, Sep 14 -- Bangladesh inland cargo vessel Manirul Islam, laden with 11,000 tonnes of cement clinker for Metropolitan Cement Factory, sank on its way to Narayanganj from Chittagong outer anchorage yesterday. According port authority sources, the inland vessel, which loaded clinker from bulk Lindos at outer anchorage, capsized under the influence of strong current accompanied by stormy weather and shortly sank in the

Meghna channel. However, the pilot and all 12 crew, were rescued unhurt by local passing trawlers. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent

MARINA TSVYETAYEVA (Russia)

London, Sep 15 -- Ferry Marina Tsvyetaeva sailed Nakhodka Sep 6 for Kholmnsk.

MELINA & KEITH II (Canada)

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Fishing Lady Charlotte Star and an aircraft were searching late today for four fishermen who went missing after fishing Melina & Keith II (127 gt, built 1988) sank in calm seas off the coast of Newfoundland. Four other crew members from it that sank were safely brought on board the Lady Charlotte Star, that rushed to the area after an emergency beacon went off. Andy Caines, a spokesman for the coast guard in St. John's said the rescue co-ordination centre was originally told the men were hoisted from the water into a Cormorant search and rescue helicopter. However, Caines said later that the four men had been rescued by the Lady Charlotte Star, as the Cormorant hovered overhead at the site about 200 kilometres east of Gander. The Lady Charlotte Star and one other fishing vessel in the area were searching for the four missing crew, who apparently managed to get off the St. John's-based vessel Melina & Keith II. "All eight have been reported to have actually gotten off the vessel. However, there's four still missing and we're still searching and of course that's being hampered by darkness," said Caines. The coast guard is sending several vessels to the area, and they are expected to arrive in the small hours of the morning. There was no sign of the vessel, besides from a 400-metre long oil slick at the site.

London, Sep 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: The search for three missing fishermen from fishing Melina & Keith II was scaled back yesterday. Four fishermen were rescued late Monday after Melina & Keith II capsized about 150 kilometres north of St. John's, but four other crew members were reported missing. Only one body has been recovered so far. Yesterday evening, two surviving crew members from the ship and the body of one of the missing men were brought into St. John's harbour by a coast guard cutter. The 19-metre longliner went down Monday in calm seas off Cape Bonavista. It was about two hours before the boat finally sank around 1630, local time, setting off the automatic emergency beacon on board. Three hours later, another fishing vessel was the first to reach the area, where four surviving crew members were found clinging to a small aluminum boat amid debris from the longliner. Coast guard officials said they were told all eight men escaped from the fishing boat before it sank, but four of them drifted away before the others found the aluminum boat. Four Canadian Coast Guard ships,

five fishing vessels and a Canadian Forces Hercules out of Greenwood, N.S., searched the waters throughout the night. None of the crew had time to put on survival suits and hope faded that any of the missing men would be found alive in the 14 C water. The Canadian Transportation Safety Agency has dispatched investigators to look into how the vessel capsized so quickly in calm seas. Recovery efforts were expected to cease once sun went down yesterday.

London, Sept 13 -- Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 1330, UTC: Fishing Melina & Keith II sank in lat 48 55.6N, long 51 18W. Four person were rescued and four persons are still missing.

MICHELLE (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Sep 9 -- Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0820, UTC: General cargo Michelle remains in the same position with salvage operations continuing.

London, Sep 11 -- Following received from Den Helder MRCC, timed 1030, UTC: General cargo Michelle remains in the same position with salvage operations continuing.

London, Sep 12 -- Following received from Den Helder MRCC, timed 1050, UTC: General cargo Michelle remains in the same position with no salvage operations due to weather conditions.

London, Sep 14 -- Following received from Den Helder MRCC, timed 0950, UTC: General cargo Michelle remains in the same position with no salvage operation in hand due to weather conditions and a new salvage plan is having to be decided.

MILKY WAY (U.S.A.)

London, Sep 15 -- A Coast Guard Seattle press release, dated Sep 14, states: Four fishermen and their dog are safe after fishing Milky Way (113 gt, built 1978) capsized and sank four miles west of Quillayute River, Wash., this evening. Coast Guard Station Quillayute River received a distress call at 1745 hrs, from a recreational fishing boat reporting that Milky Way had capsized near James Island, Wash. A response boat was immediately launched from the station and a motor lifeboat was diverted to assist. Before the Coast Guard arrived the crew of the vessel were able to get into their 15-foot skiff, but were unable to don survival suits or make a distress call before the vessel capsized. Milky Way crewmembers were safely taken onboard the motor lifeboat and verified they were the only people onboard the vessel when it capsized. All four men and their dog were taken to Station Quillayute River for further transport to the vessels homeport of Grays Harbor, Wash. None of the men were injured or required medical treatment. The cause of the capsizing is unknown. The vessel had about 2,500 gallons of diesel fuel onboard when it sank.

London, Sep 15 -- Following received from Coast Guard Seattle, timed 0735, UTC: Fishing Milky Way, official No.599711, sank in lat 47 51.9N, long 124 45.9W.

MINH LINH 27 (Vietnam)

See "Vietnam" under "Weather & Navigation."

NAZEK T. (North Korea)

London, Sep 9 -- General cargo Cpt George, ex Nazek T., arrived Alkexandria Sep 1.

NOVA (Comoros)

Istanbul, Sep 14 -- During the late afternoon of Sep 11, fire broke out in the holds of general cargo Nova (5886 gt, built 1961), Diliskelesi for India, while the vessel was loading a cargo of machines at Poliport Diliskelesi. The local authorities immediately intervened to extinguish the fire. The vessel "made beach" in lat 40 46.66N, long 29 29.87E. In order to minimise any threat to the environment, barriers have been placed around the vessel. The vessel is said to be listing about 15-20 degs to port. The fire does not appear to have affected the accommodation/structure, being restricted to the vessel's forepart and hold. -- Lloyd's Agents.

OCEAN WARWICK (U.S.A.)

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

ORIANA

London, Sep 10 -- Understand exhibition ship Oriana, following removal of its interior fittings, is undergoing complete demolition at the Zhangjiagang shipyard and will not be continuing onward to Alang for final scrapping.

ORIENT BRILLIANCE (Panama)

Lima, Sep 12 -- Bulk Orient Brilliance is still being repaired approximately two kilometres from the port. There have been extremely bad winds in the area up to 38 knots and it is now being questioned if the repairs can be carried out satisfactorily where the vessel lies. There is talk about towing the vessel to Callao and repairing it there. -- Lloyd's Agents.

PACIFIC SKY (U.K.)

London, Sep 14 -- Passenger Pacific Sky arrived and sailed Brisbane Sep 10.

PARKGRACHT (Netherlands)

London, Sep 9 -- General cargo Parkgracht sailed Antwerp at 2207, Sep 8 bound Bilbao.

PEI SHENG

London, Sep 12 -- Following received from the Japan Navigational warning, dated today: Unmanned fishing Pei Sheng, 520 gt, adrift in vicinity of lat 43 10N, long 148 49E at 1900, UTC, Sep 11.

PERINTIS (Malaysia)

London, Sep 12 -- A press report, dated Sep 11, states: Four crew members of floating production Perintis (54702 gt, built 1984) suffered burns after a small explosion in its boiler room caused a fire. The incident happened near the Sotong oil platform

about 200 nautical miles off the coast of Terengganu this morning and two of them were reported to be in serious condition, having suffered 70% burns on their faces and bodies. Roszaini Mohd Rawi, 33, and Ong Chan Cheng, 29, who were seriously injured are being treated at Kuala Terengganu Hospital (HKT)'s Burns Unit, a Petronas spokesman said. The other two, Ismadi Ishak, 23, from Pantai Remis in Perak and Setia Anak Jalek, 28, from Sarawak escaped serious injury and have been warded at HKT for light burns. The incident happened when the four were about to begin work at 0800 hrs on Perintis, belonging to a company doing exploration works for Petronas. "It has not been determined how the explosion occurred and investigations are underway," the spokesman said. Shortly after the explosion happened, all four were airlifted by helicopter to Petronas' Rantau clinic at 0910 hrs for initial medical assistance before being transferred to HKT at 1130 hrs for further treatment.

PINE PIA (South Korea)

London, Sep 14 -- General cargo Pine Pia arrived and sailed Busan Sep 10.

POMORZE ZACHODNIE (Liberia)

London, Sep 9 -- Bulk Pomorze Zachodnie (16696 gt, built 1985) reported losing an anchor in lat 45 37 10N, long 73 29 45W, near section 96, while manoeuvring to berth at Montreal at 1645, EDST, Sep 7.

London, Sep 16 -- Bulk Pomorze Zachodnie arrived Three Rivers Sep 8.

PUERTO DE ALTAMIRA (Panama)

Veracruz, Sep 8 -- At 2030 hrs, yesterday, after its arrival, cutter suction hopper dredger Puerto de Altamira (3460 gt, built 1982), owned/operated by Dragamex, collided with a berth while shifting berths, in preparation to start work to deepen the port of Veracruz. Reports state that a fresh wind pushed the dredger against the corner of the "Turismo Nautico" berth, a "T" berth normally used by tugs and pilot boats, close to the port entrance. This damage resulted in a leakage into the engine room, causing the vessel to sink. Currently its aft is on the seabed and the bow afloat. -- Lloyd's Agents.

RASHA STAR (Malta)

London, Sep 14 -- Bulk Rasha Star arrived Antwerp Sep 11 from Vigo.

ROWAN NEW ORLEANS (Panama)

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

SAGA MASCOT (Bahamas)

London, Sep 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Oceanus Maritime Agency, responsible for general cargo Saga Mascot, which spilled oil in Guanabara Bay on Saturday (Sep 3), and the Enave/Renave shipyard were each fined US\$4.3 million by the Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources

(Ibama). These fines are in addition to ones totalling US\$5.16 million issued by the Rio State Department of the Environment, based on the findings of the State Environmental Engineering Foundation (Feema). According to the Ibama technicians, the absence of measures to avert the accident and flaws in the operation of the tugs were the main problems determining the definition of the fine.

SAN ROCHELLE (New Zealand)

London, Sep 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: A report into a fire on board fishing San Rochelle shows it didn't have any fire alarms on board or a sprinkler system. The vessel's crew had to abandon it off Cape Reinga last October after it became engulfed in flames. A Transport Accident Investigation Commission report says the three crew had to escape in a liferaft and the vessel sank. The report identifies safety issues such as the lack of fire detection and alarm systems on the San Rochelle, as well as no breathing apparatus. The report says fire detection and extinguishing capabilities are important on any vessel but it isn't making any recommendation for maritime rule changes.

SARAH JANE

Vigo, Sep 15 -- Ref Sarah Jane is still undergoing repairs at Vigo. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SEA COMMANDER (Canada)

See Swiftsure Prince.

SEA ELEGANCE (Vanuatu)

Kolkata, Sep 9 -- Bulk Sea Elegance left berth 4A, Haldia Dock at 0030, local time, Sep 5. The repair work to the damaged parts has not been carried out as the owner of the vessel is not agreeing to have the work done at Haldia. Sea Elegance is now awaiting at sandheads and will recall shortly at Haldia for loading of iron ore. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SEMLOW

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy."

STOLT TERN (Cayman Islands)

London, Sep 9 -- A press report, dated Sep 8, states: Port bosses have brought in a 600ft exclusion zone off Holyhead after chem.tank Stolt Tern ran aground. Maritime accident investigators blamed poor communication on board Stolt Tern for the accident off Holyhead breakwater on Dec 1. Stena Line Ports UK, which runs the Anglesey Port, set up a nautical cable-long, 600ft, exclusion zone around the breakwater, to stop it happening again. It will be shown on navigational charts. The tanker was carrying 4,000 tonnes of gas oil when it ran aground. But although the hull split, there was no pollution and the ship was refloated the same morning. Stena Line chiefs also launched a review of the entry into Holyhead Port, including a tidal

stream check. In addition the way in which risk assessments was made were changed. Now a designated company man, the harbour-master and port safety superintendents, carry out the checks, verified by an external marine auditor. A Stena Line spokesman said: "Stena Line Ports Ltd have already implemented the recommendations in the report

SWIFTSURE PRINCE (Canada)

London, Sep 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: A log barge (Swiftsure Prince, 4411 gt, built 1970) was adrift off Cape Flattery and in danger of running aground, Makah Indian Tribe officials said today. An oil spill adviser for the Makah Tribe, Chad Bowe chop, said he was notified by the Coast Guard about 0100 hrs that the barge had separated from its tug Sea Commander (661 gt, built 1945). The barge carried no logs but has a crane on board with as much as 3,000 gallons of fuel and hydraulic fluid. Bowe chop said the tug has been repaired at a Canadian port and is returning to the scene, and the Coast Guard said another tug was on its way from Bellingham. If the barge goes aground, it could threaten tribal property and the Olympic Coastal Marine Sanctuary.

London, Sept 9 -- Following received from Coast Guard Seattle, timed 2010, UTC: The towline from tug Sea Commander to barge Swiftsure Prince broke about 120 ft from the bridle while entering Barkley Sound. The tug now has a line on board the barge and persons have been placed on the barge to raise the barge's anchor. The tug and barge will then proceed to Barkley Sound probably under escort of another tug.

London, Sep 12 -- A Coast Guard Seattle press release, dated Sept 9, states: The Coast Guard is monitoring the tow of 350-foot timber barge Swiftsure Prince that separated from tug Sea Commander in severe weather at approximately 2230, last night near Barkley Sound, British Columbia. The barge has been taken in tow by Sea Commander at 1225 hrs, and plans to tow it to an anchorage near Barkley Sound. Tug Hunter is expected to arrive by 1300 hrs, to provide additional support. The barge has not sustained any known damage and there is no pollution threat from the 3,000 gallon tank used to fuel on board machinery.

London, Sep 12 -- Barge Swiftsure Prince, under tow of tug Sea Commander, arrived Westminster, British Columbia, at 1727, local time, Sep 11.

TAKASAGO MARU (Japan)

London, Sep 11 -- Following Japan Navigational warning dated yesterday, states: Drifting general cargo Takasago Maru, 199 gt, 59 metres, sank in a depth of 65 metres in lat 33-01.0N, long 132-22.7E at 1356, JST, today.

TENACITAS (North Korea)

Istanbul, Sep 13 -- General cargo Tenacitas (1887 gt, built 1972), Dellys

for Hereke, had engine breakdown 1354, local time today, while transitting Dardanelles. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 14 -- A press report, dated Sep 13, states: General cargo Tenacitas broke down as it was passing from the Canakkale Strait, it was reported today. Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) officials said that the ship was carrying 2,000 tonnes of scrap metal from Algeria to Hereke. Tug Kurtarma 2 was sent to the region after the master of Tenacitas informed the VTS that the ship's engine broke down. Officials said the ship, accompanied by the tug, would drop anchor near Gelibolu against any possible danger and would later be allowed to leave following necessary procedures.

TERRY UNO (Panama)

London, Sep 10 -- Cement Caribe Star arrived Aruba Aug 27 and sailed Aug 28 for Paramaribo.

VOC GALLANT (Antigua & Barbuda)

Dubai, Sep 12 -- Understand bulk VOC Gallant is expected to complete discharge sometime today and then it will be moved to lay berth and expected to proceed to Dubai Dry Dock for repairs on Sep 21. -- Lloyd's Agents.

YEOMAN BRIDGE (Bahamas)

See "Outbreak of Virus on Bahamas Flag Vessel" under "Miscellaneous."

ZHEN HUA 11 (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Sep 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: Seven people were confirmed dead with four others burned in crude oil tanker Zhen Hua 11 (ex Star 2, 48145 gt, built 1981), belonging to Shanghai Zhenhua Port Machinery (Group) Co, Ltd, following a fire that broke out yesterday morning in Jiangyin. According to local government officials at Jiangyin port, yesterday morning, oil residue in the tanker caught fire when it was being refitted in the Jiangyin area. The ensuing fire and choking smog killed seven workers onboard immediately and injured another four. The vessel has been at Jiangyin, from Tianjin, for less than one month and the refitting operation has lasted for 10 days or so. According to the reequipment plan, the vessel would be transformed from an oil tanker into a special transport ship for global services. (Note Star 2 had arrived Jiangyin Aug 11.)

London, Sep 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: The four victims in Sunday's fire on board crude oil tanker Zhen Hua 11 remained in stable condition in Jiangyin People's Hospital, Jiangsu Province yesterday. The blaze that occurred at a wharf in Jiangyin that morning killed seven and injured four, all of whom were either oil cleaners or gas cutting workers. According to Jiangsu Safety Production Supervision Administration, a gas cutting operator

began the cutting with acetylene before the oil cleaning operation had been finished, thus causing the huge fire in a sealed "cabin". The ship arrived at the wharf last month and the renovation had begun just 10 days before the accident. Seven of the workers were burned to death on the spot and the other four were rushed to the hospital. Doctors at the hospital confirmed that all the injured were out of danger, but did not provide further information about their names or ages. An employee of Jiangsu Safety Production Supervision Administration said that a special team of senior officials would carry out a thorough investigation into the accident.

ZIEMIA GORNOSLASKA (Liberia)

Montreal, Sep 9 -- Bulk Ziemia Gornoslaska is undergoing temporary repairs to the rudder stock and rudder in Valleyfield which could be complete approximately Sep 15. It will then proceed on its normal voyage to load in the Great Lakes. -- Lloyd's Agents.



LONDON TOWER (Liberia)

See "Nigeria" under "Piracy".

NIGERIA

London, Sep 8 -- Following received from BIMCO, dated today: BIMCO members report that one seafarer on board the Liberian c.c. London Tower (17651 gt, built 1994) that was attacked off Lagos on Sep 2, suffered injuries to his forehead and hand during a scuffle with the attackers. The incident took place at 0300 hrs, in lat 06 05N, long 03 24E, about 19 miles off the Nigerian coast. Four attackers boarded the ship at its forecastle, all carrying long knives. Once detected by the crew two of the attackers jumped into the water to escape, however the other two engaged in a fight with two of the crew. In the meantime the ship's alarm was sounded and the crew was mustered and approached the forecastle. The two remaining attackers then escaped into the water. A search of the ship was conducted revealing that the attackers had not managed to steal anything whilst on board. At 0430 hrs, the ship proceeded to the open sea to avoid further attacks.

SOMALIA

Manila, Sep 13 -- Philippine Labour secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas said today that the Philippines, Somalia, and Taiwan have now established channels of communications to pursue negotiations and secure the release of the 45 crew members of fishing Cheng Ching Feng, Ching Yi 218 and Hsin Lien Feng 36 held hostage by Somali insurgents. "It is our hope that in the negotiations being pushed chiefly by

Taiwan, Somalia, and the Philippines, we would see results this week or as soon as possible," she said. She said that Taiwanese President Chen Sui Bian had directed Taiwanese Foreign Affairs Minister Tan Sun Chen to start negotiations with the Somalian hostage takers. On Somalia's part, Somalian Minister for Foreign Affairs Abdullabi Sheikh Ishmail and Minister for Reconstruction Harre Aaden Shire, are interceding for the release of the hostages, she pointed out. Of the 45 hostages, 12 are Filipinos. The Filipinos were on board Cheng Ching Feng which was seized by Marejan soldiers at the Kismayu Harbour in Somalia on Aug 16. Chung Yi 218 and Hsin Lien Feng 36 were seized separately last month. The rebel soldiers have demanded a ransom of 1.5 million dollars for the vessels and hostages. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Sep 15 -- The hijackers who seized a UN-chartered ship carrying tsunami aid to Somalia 11 weeks ago have agreed to release the food on board after negotiations. General cargo Semlow is now moving towards a port which serves the capital, where its rice cargo will be handed over to Somalia's transitional government. The pirates had initially demanded \$500,000 in ransom, but the United Nations' WFP says no money was paid. The ship's owner confirmed passengers were still on board the vessel. "It has sailed from where she was and she is proceeding to Elmaan port, with passengers on board," Inayet Kudrati of the Motaku Shipping agency told Reuters news agency. The WFP said the journey was likely to take between three to five days.



UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sept 8 -- A Maritime & Coastguard Agency press release, dated today, states: General cargo Berkan B. (3988 gt, built 1985) was detained at Ipswich on Sept 5 following an inspection by the MCA. Surveyors were alerted to the vessel by the pilot who was told by the master that the crew had not been paid for three months and were living off bread and olives. The attending Inspector found the following detainable items: Difficulty launching starboard lifeboat Engine-room fire dampers seized open. GMDSS radio equipment reserve power deficient. In general major safety items were poorly maintained. The accommodation was in a bad condition and deficiencies included: deep freeze not working; insufficient food on board; no laundry facilities; domestic fridges in poor condition and floor coverings missing. The detaining surveyor said: "The ship

was in a poor condition, living and working conditions were particularly poor with no fresh provisions on board. The local chaplain from the Missions to Seaman is liaising with the crew and the ITF have been informed of the non payment of wages." (Note -- Berkan B. arrived Ipswich 0926, Sept 3.)

Seizures & Arrests



AGIOS SPYRIDON K. (Greece)

London, Sep 9 -- A report in the Sep 9 issue of "Newsfront" states: Ro/ro Agios Spyridon K. has been listed for auction on Sep 14 and Sep 21. Lying at Salamina, the vessel carries a start-up price of Euros 150,000.

BOREAS (Cyprus)

Bilbao, Sep 12 -- General cargo Boreas is still under embargo at the port of Bilbao. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CAN GIO (Honduras)

Copenhagen, Sep 8 -- General cargo Can Gio was released from arrest in Dar es Salaam, at the end of August and sailed for Mombasa for shipyard check. At the moment vessel is lying in India awaiting a cargo bound for Vietnam. -- Correspondent.

EGEON P. (Greece)

London, Sep 9 -- A report in the Sep 9 edition of Newsfront, states: After being seized several times, the latest by a private creditor end-November, in pursuit of a Euros 9,102 claim against the registered owners, cement Egeon P. has been listed for auction on Sep 14. Lying in Perama, the vessel carries a starting price of Euros 60,000.

EUGENIA P. (Honduras)

London, Sep 12 -- The mystery surrounding general cargo Eugenia P., carrying ammunition cargo which has been grounded at Kolkata Port since Aug 30, is continuing by the day. Customs and Kolkata Port Trust were tight-lipped. "I cannot comment anything about the vessel. Investigation is on in this regard and hopefully a clear picture will emerge by tomorrow afternoon," said Abhijit Bhattacharya, Commissioner of Customs (Port). The chairman of Kolkata Port Trust, Dr Anup Chanda, maintained: "Since the matter is being investigated by the Customs, I am not in a position to make any comment." The vessel has not been allowed to set sail despite initial claims by the Customs department that there was nothing illegal about the cargo. The vessel has been docked at Kidderpore Dock, Berth No 1, since its arrival on Aug 30, with special surveillance being mounted on it. The chances of the ammunition being meant for some Indian destination are not being ruled out. After setting out from Honduras

in South America, the vessel, along with its consignment, had been ferrying in Indian waters for quite sometime.

TURAMAN (Cambodia)

London, Sep 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Australia has staged a high seas arrest of fish factory Turaman (2145 gt, built 1973) with an international crew suspected of fishing illegally in sub-Antarctic waters. An armed Australian patrol boat was escorting the 76 metre, Cambodian-flagged vessel to port in Hobart in Tasmania, said Fisheries Minister Ian Macdonald. "There are 31 crew on board the Taruman of Chilean, Ukrainian, Russian, Peruvian and Spanish nationality," Macdonald said. "All are reported to be in good health. We understand the master is Spanish and has been cooperating with Australian authorities," he added. The vessel was boarded in international waters in the Southern Ocean, north-west of Australia's exclusive economic zone around Macquarie Island and about 660 nautical miles south of Hobart on Sep 6. "This boarding on the high seas was done on the express permission of the Cambodian government, the flag state of the vessel," Macdonald said.

TURAMAN (Panama)

London, Sep 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: Australian Fisheries officers have found 130 tonnes of patagonian toothfish on board the seized Cambodian-flagged fish factory Turaman. The ship was escorted into Hobart on Saturday (Sep 10) by the patrol boat Oceanic Viking. After a lengthy surveillance operation, armed customs officers boarded the Turaman on the high seas north-west of Macquarie Island, 1,200 kilometres south of Hobart. Federal Fisheries Minister Ian MacDonald says officers from the Australian Fisheries Management Authority are searching for evidence on board the Turaman. "They are conducting a search of the vessel, looking for log books, charts and navigational equipment to see if there is evidence available and if there is evidence to support a charge of illegal fishing, then a charge will be laid," he said.

Pipeline Accidents



KIRKUK AREA, IRAQ

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: A pipeline carrying crude oil from the rich fields near Kirkuk in northern Iraq to a refinery to the south-west sprang a leak and caught fire during a pumping test, a North Oil Co. official said today. An Iraqi army official who does security work along the line, which has been regularly attacked by insurgents, said company officials

repeatedly were warned about technical problems along the line near the village of Qaryqat Safra, about 55 kilometres south-west of Kirkuk.

Pollution



ASSAM, INDIA

London, Sep 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: A massive crude oil spill in Assam has triggered panic with hundreds of people fleeing for safety, officials said yesterday. A spokesman of the state-owned Oil India Limited (OIL), India's premier oil exploration firm, said the spill began late Tuesday (Sep 13) in a well near a tea garden in Dikom, about 520 km east of Guwahati. "We have been partially successful in checking the flow of oil gushing out of the well although it would take some more time to control the spill completely," GK Talukdar, OIL's group general manager, said on telephone from its headquarters in Duliajan in eastern Assam. "We do not know for sure if the spill was a result of some sabotage by militants or an accident. Our priority now is to check it and we can investigate later on as to how it happened." Oil authorities have shut down operations in the area in view of the spillage. "We are using high pressure fluid to keep the area cool and then trying to close the valves to plug the leakage," he said. There are no people living at least 300 metres near the oil well although the area is surrounded by a tea garden. Witnesses said the gushing crude oil had spilled over to the tea garden.

BRO TRAVELLER (Sweden)

London, Sep 10 -- A press release from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, dated yesterday, states: Maritime & Coastguard Agency prosecuted Brostrom Tankers AB, owners of the chem.tank Bro Traveller (7973 gt, built 1988) in Kingston upon Hull Magistrates Court today for breaches of the UK Maritime Pollution legislation. Brostrom Tankers AB, were fined £20,000 and ordered to pay costs of £11,344 after an incidents in the Firth of Forth on Mar 17 2004. In the evening Mar 17, the vessel was in the Firth of Forth after leaving Grangemouth for Rotterdam. A routine internal transfer of bunkers was taking place when it was noticed on the bridge that oil was coming on deck. A quantity of oil spilled down the vessel's side into the water. The crew commenced clean up operations. The problem causing the spill was identified as a breakdown in procedure following maintenance to a transfer pump. This was when a system allowing automatic shutdown of the bunker transfer system on the initiation of a high level alarm had been de-activated. District Judge, Mr F. Rutherford said: "The incident was

caused by error and negligence - which caused the pillage to take place, and that the Company failed to have proper procedures to ensure that this type of incident did not happen." Mr Toby Stone, Head of Counter Pollution and Response with the MCA, stated.

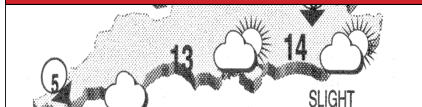
NITEROI AREA, BRAZIL

See Saga Mascot under "Marine."

RIVER MISSISSIPPI

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

Weather & Navigation



AFGHANISTAN

London, Sep 11 -- Flash floods caused by torrential rains killed at least seven people and destroyed several houses in eastern Afghanistan, an official said today. Three other people have been missing since heavy rains lashed Kunar province yesterday, provincial government spokesman Zahidullah Zahid said. "So far, seven bodies have been recovered and three others are still missing," he said adding that the floods washed away many houses in the area.

CANADA

London, Sep 9 -- A press report from LaSalle, dated Sep 7, states: The insurance industry says it expects to pay out more than \$400-million in the wake of a storm that hit Southern Ontario Aug 19. The Insurance Bureau of Canada says this would make it the highest insured loss in the province's history. The 2004 Peterborough flood, by comparison, cost the insurance industry \$95-million. The storm pummelled communities from Kitchener-Waterloo to Toronto and spawned two tornadoes in the Fergus area. Insurance companies have reported more than 15,000 claims to date, and the number is growing, according to the bureau. The vast majority of claims are for sewer backup, and there also have been auto and business claims.

London, Sep 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than 45 cm of snow fell in south-western Alberta on the weekend (Sep 10-11). The storm knocked out power to nearly four thousand homes. Crowsnest Pass, 260 km south-west of Calgary, was hit particularly hard. Hospitals in the area were running off generators as volunteers scrambled to feed nursing home residents and erect shelters. Stan Orlesky, a spokesman for Fortis Alberta, the power company that supplies electricity to the area, said at least 50 power poles were broken by the heavy, wet snow. It's unlikely that power will be restored before Monday night, when temperatures are expected near freezing. Alberta disaster services is sending blankets and cots to communities affected by the storm.

HURRICANE "KATRINA"

London, Sep 8 -- Following navigation warning, dated Sep 7, states: Submerged platforms in the Gulf of Mexico exist in lat 28 51.93N, long 89 38. 65W, lat 28 51.72N, long 89 39.41W, and lat 28 51.69N, long 89 37.92W. Port and waterway closures: Bayou la Batre and Port of Biloxi. Port and waterways open to traffic: Port of Gulfport open to day light transit and vessels with a draft of 30 feet or less. Port of Panama City open to traffic with a draft of 34 feet or less. Port of Pensacola open to traffic with a draft of 31 feet or less, Navsta Pensacola open to traffic with a draft of 37 feet or less. Port of Mobile open to day light transit and vessels with a draft of 43 feet or less. Port of Pascagoula open to day light transit and vessels with a draft of 36 feet or less. Lower Mississippi River is open to daylight transit and vessel with a draft of 39 feet or less. Port of Bayou Cassotte open to day light transit and vessels with a 41 feet or less. Gulf Intra Coastal Waterway is open but vessels must use the Baptiste Collette alternative route to bypass the ihnc, which remains closed. All ports in New Orleans are open to navigation with restrictions per safety zones. Generally, facilities south of Hahnville-Luling Bridge are inoperable due to storm damage, power outages or personnel constraints.

London, Sept 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Rowan Companies Inc has located the wreckage of drill platform Rowan New Orleans which capsized and sank in 155 feet of water in Main Pass Block 185 offshore Louisiana during hurricane "Katrina". The rig was insured for approximately \$1.1 million more than its carrying value. Rowan is currently developing a plan for removal of the wreckage, the cost of which is expected to exceed the Company's \$5 million annual insurance deductible. Damage to Rowan's other rigs resulting from "Katrina" appears to be minimal.

Baton Rouge, Sep 8 -- Biologists expect to find major destruction when they take their first close-up look at the impact of hurricane "Katrina" on wildlife habitats and Louisiana's vital fishing industry, the state's top conservation official said yesterday. Dwight Landreneau, Louisiana's secretary for the department of wildlife and fisheries, said until now biologists had been part of search and rescue efforts but would soon begin damage assessments to coastal areas, marshes and forests that surround New Orleans. "We're going to see some massive destruction of the habitat in the coastal area when it deals with wildlife and with the fisheries," Landreneau said. "With everything that is involved in dealing with the seafood industries, we're going to have some very high numbers," he said. Louisiana provides as much as 40% of all seafood enjoyed in the United States, especially oysters and shrimp. Landreneau said the department's fisheries division will focus on

evaluating hurricane damage to coastal and inland waterways. -- Reuters.

Cape Canaveral, Sep 8 -- Hurricane Katrina will cost NASA at least \$1.1 billion, the space agency said today in its first assessment of the toll at its facilities along the US Gulf of Mexico. The storm was likely to set back NASA's plans for another shuttle launch next year. The hurricane hit the Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, which assembles shuttle fuel tanks, and the Stennis Space Centre in Bay St Louis, Mississippi, which tests shuttle rocket motors. Bill Gerstenmaier, NASA's newly named associate administrator for space operations, put the preliminary damage estimate at \$1.1 billion but it was unclear whether that figure included the cost of lost production as well as damage to facilities and equipment. The agency is still assessing the storm's impact to its workforce. While most of the 300 employees at Stennis have been located, Lockheed Martin, which operates the Michoud facility under contract with NASA, has yet to hear from half of its 2,000 workers. No deaths have been reported but many workers lost their homes. -- Reuters.

Gulfport, Miss, Sep 8 -- The death toll from hurricane "Katrina" along the Mississippi Gulf Coast had crept up to 151, a senior official said today, far fewer than some had initially feared. Colonel Joe Spraggins, director of civil defence in one of the state's worst-hit regions, Harrison County, said he was sure salvage teams would find more corpses but that he did not expect a surge in the body count. By the same token, Spraggins said that 10 days after "Katrina" hit, there was little chance of finding anyone else alive under the mounds of debris that litter vast swathes of the Mississippi and Louisiana coastline. Instead, it was time to focus on rebuilding, he said in Gulfport. Spraggins said the 151 dead came from the six Mississippi counties closest to the sea, with Harrison County alone accounting for 80. Some local politicians initially predicted that several hundred might have died in Mississippi. The state's overall toll had reached 201 by today. In adjacent Louisiana, officials are still predicting a substantially higher death toll, mainly due to the flooding of New Orleans, Spraggins said rescue teams would keep searching the tonnes of rubble that fill cities such as Gulfport and Biloxi. "Some of that debris is eight to 15 feet high. Once we start digging through that there is no question in my mind that we will probably find additional dead people," he said. Mississippi officials said their main priority was getting water and sewer systems back to normal. Both services were running at about 35% capacity and although water had returned to most households, it was still not safe to drink. Other services were gradually improving. Crews have worked around the clock to restore power to more than 60% of homes

along the Mississippi coast and estimate that figure will rise to 80% by Monday (Sep 12). Battered telephone networks are also steadily recovering, while Biloxi reopened its airport today for the first time since the storm hit. Lines at gas stations have virtually vanished as supply improves and bulldozers have swept most of the roads clear. "We're getting back to some form of normality and that is what we're going to have to do for life to continue," said Spraggins. However, down on Gulfpoint beachfront, normality still seemed months or probably years away. Almost every building facing the sea was swept away by the storm. -- Reuters.

London, Sep 9 -- A press report, dated Sep 8, states: Oil storage tanks ruptured by hurricane "Katrina" may have dumped as much as 3.7m gallons of crude oil into the lower Mississippi River and surrounding wetlands. Officials estimate the spillage at roughly a third of the volume of the huge spill when tanker Exxon Valdez ran aground off Alaska in 1989. Last night experts said they could not yet assess the short-term effects of the spills but were hopeful there would be few long-term effects. Some of the oil is expected to find its way into the Gulf of Mexico. However, officials at the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality remain cautious because it is difficult to gain access to the area, which can be reached only by water. It is also unclear how much oil has been lost. The largest spill, believed to be about 3.3m gallons of crude oil, occurred after two 80,000-barrel storage tanks ruptured at a Bass Enterprises Production site at Cox Bay, Louisiana, just above the mouth of the river. The tanks were not full at the time of the rupture, a company executive said. Nevertheless, if current estimates prove correct, the spill would be big as a 1969 incident following a blow-out at an offshore well near Santa Barbara, California. That accident is seen as seminal to the development of the US environmental movement. The second spill at the Murphy Oil Corporation refinery at Meraux, Louisiana, is thought by state officials to have released 420,000 gallons of crude into a flooded area around the refinery. The Murphy spill was discovered by aerial surveillance a few days ago. The Coast Guard, the federal Environmental Protection Agency and a clean-up contractor are working at the site to contain the oil. Contractors have also been dispatched to the Bass spill. Eric Olsen, a spokesman for the National Resources Defence Council, said the environmental group was attempting to monitor the clean-up and remained concerned about possible threats to drinking water. In recent days concern has mounted over toxic water in New Orleans. The polluted water is being pumped into Lake Ponchartrain, where it is likely to cause significant short-term environmental damage. Frank Manheim, an associate professor at

Virginia's George Mason University and an expert on pollution in Lake Ponchartrain, said the environmental impact "probably will not be very long lasting but it may be severe in the short term." Experts said Ponchartrain -- an estuary on the Gulf -- should not sustain significant long-term damage. However, Prof Manheim, a former geochemist at the US Geological Survey, said the floodwater could be polluted with "things that are serious that we don't know about," including pesticides and toxic chemicals.

New Orleans, Sep 9 -- With President George W. Bush promising to speed help to anxious and frustrated survivors, the official death count from hurricane "Katrina" exceeded 300 today in the two hardest-hit regions. Relief supplies poured in from around the world and the US Congress rushed through approval for \$51.8 billion in new aid, after an earlier \$10.5 billion was exhausted. Bush, under criticism for his administration's response to the disaster and with his approval ratings at a low, immediately signed the measure. "More resources will be needed as we work to help people get back on their feet," he said. The president earlier said he would untangle bureaucratic red tape that had triggered complaints from some of the one million people displaced by the Aug 29 storm, and he pledged to ease access to special relief payments and government programs. However, confusion and complaints continued. At Houston's Astrodome, some of the thousands of storm evacuees housed there complained of standing in line for hours and getting nowhere. The official death toll surpassed 300 in the two hardest hit states when Louisiana officials said they had confirmed 118 deaths, on top of 201 in neighbouring Mississippi. Thousands more may still be missing but the extent of the carnage remains unknown. In New Orleans, police and National Guard troops were trying to roust out the remaining 10,000 or so people either unwilling to leave the one-time city of 450,000 or unable to help themselves, despite an order for everyone to clear out. The city's police chief, Eddie Compass, repeatedly said that the first priority was to help those still waiting for rescue and that forced evacuation of the unwilling would be a last resort, done with minimal force. The below-sea level city was inundated by levee breaks following the storm, and homes and streets filled up with water poisoned by bacteria, gasoline, oil, chemicals and submerged bodies. As the steady trickle of hold-outs left they were taken to a collection centre where their bags were checked by soldiers for weapons. Medical attention was given to those needing it, and all were handed cold water or soft drinks. UN Emergency Relief Co-ordinator Jan Egeland said 90 countries and international organisations had offered humanitarian aid to the victims and shipments were already arriving. Vice President Dick Cheney,

touring the devastation in Gulfport, Miss., voiced confidence in top federal emergency and security officials. "I think the progress we're making is significant," he said. "I think the performance in general at least in terms of the information I've received from locals is definitely very impressive." In New Orleans the Army Corps of Engineers said about an eighth of the city's pumping capacity was back in service, draining fetid water from the city. -- Reuters.

London, Sep 9 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Drill platform Ocean Warwick thought to be missing after Hurricane "Katrina" has been found. The rig was found 66 miles away from its work location, off the coast of Alabama. The rig had run aground on Dauphin Island. The oil rig sustained substantial damage but crew members won't know if the rig is repairable until they're able to re-board the unit.

London, Sept 9 -- A press report, dated Sept 8, states: Diamond Offshore Drilling Inc said today that it may take as long as a year to repair its drill platform Ocean Warwick that sustained serious damage from hurricane "Katrina". That estimate includes the time required to determine whether it makes economic sense to repair the rig or simply to take a loss, said Lawrence Dickerson, Diamond's president and chief operating officer. He was speaking at Lehman Brothers' CEO Energy/Power Conference. On further evaluation, "we will make the call about whether it's a total constructed loss or a candidate for an upgrade," he said. Ocean Warwick ran aground on an island off the coast of Alabama about 66 miles northeast of its work location. The rig is insured for \$55 million, net of deductibles, but Dickerson said he did not have a cost threshold in mind at which the company would deem the rig not worth repairing. "We wouldn't spend \$150 million to repair it, because we can build a higher class of rig for \$150 million," he said, adding that he might consider paying around \$70 million for repairs. While no shipyard slot has been reserved for an upgrade, he said he would like the work to be done in the U.S. The Houston contract driller also had two semi-submersibles rigs damaged by "Katrina" but did not offer any details on repair times or costs.

New York, Sept 8 -- Defense contractor Northrop Grumman Corp today said hurricane "Katrina", which significantly damaged some of its shipbuilding operations in the U.S. Gulf region, will hurt full-year earnings. The company said it expects that work delay will negatively impact its 2005 earnings by 6 cents to 12 cents per share. Northrop said it expects to begin a phased resumption of shipbuilding activity in New Orleans, Pascagoula, Mississippi, and Gulfport, Mississippi, this month. The company was building U.S. Navy destroyers and amphibious assault ships in Mississippi, and a polar tanker and commercial tankers in New Orleans

before the storm, said company spokesman Dan McClain. Work has not been transferred elsewhere, he added. The Los Angeles-based company said it expects insurance to cover damage costs. -- Reuters.

New Orleans, Sep 11 -- The official death toll from Hurricane "Katrina" climbed past 400 today, as President George W. Bush arrived in New Orleans. The confirmed death count from the Aug 29 storm, which has displaced a million people, was far lower than initial projections that ran into the thousands. "We didn't lose as many lives as had been predicted although we're still in the process of finding those we lost," said Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco. Bush was greeted at the airport by Mayor Ray Nagin as he began his third visit to the disaster region. This evening Bush went to a base camp for hundreds of firefighters from around the country who had come to help, shaking hands and putting his arm around shoulders. The search for the dead -- and perhaps some victims still alive and trapped -- went on in the now largely deserted city. Members of the Oklahoma National Guard moved through a middle-class residential area, breaking down doors. The water in that area had once stood seven feet deep but had now receded, leaving a layer of stinking sludge. Boat teams navigated the flooded streets of the worst-hit neighbourhoods, using axes to break into the attics of homes. Helicopters spun overhead all day although there were no signs of rooftop rescues. New Orleans police said they had decided not to forcibly evict anyone still in the city, despite an order for everyone to get out and earlier threats to use force. The thousands of holdouts who stayed were being told that if they remained, they would be on their own facing floodwaters poisoned by sewage and chemicals. Public health officials announced they would start spraying for flies and mosquitoes tomorrow. Louisiana State Police said they would issue permits for business owners to visit their properties in the central commercial district but told them they could go nowhere else in the city. Gary LaFarge, head of the Port of New Orleans, said the facility suffered serious damage but not as bad as feared, and could be back to normal in four to five months. Louisiana raised its official death count to 197, while Mississippi, the other hardest hit state, had 211 confirmed killed. There were also fatalities, though much lower numbers, in Alabama and Florida. The National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children said 1,600 children were still listed as missing by their parents, or were seeking their families. -- Reuters.

London, Sep 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: Based on recommendations from the pilots, the Coast Guard has agreed to the following for the Lower Mississippi River: Commencing at 0600 hrs today, vessels with a draft between 40 and 45

feet may transit in either direction from the sea buoy to Mile 116. All outbound vessels with a draft of 40-45 feet must reach Pilottown by 1500 hrs, and all inbound vessels with a draft of 40-45 feet must reach Pilottown by 1200 hrs, to continue with their respective transits. All vessels with a draft 39 feet or less will be moved during daylight hours only up to Mile 116. The Coast Guard is working to establish Aids to Navigation below Mile 104 to the sea buoy, which will allow 24 hour transits.

London, Sept 12 -- A Coast Guard Alexandria, La, press release, dated Sept 9, states: The Coast Guard, the Environmental Protection Agency and the state of Louisiana are working together with local industries to recover spilled oil and mitigate further environmental damage in the aftermath of hurricane "Katrina". The Coast Guard Sector New Orleans Federal On Scene Coordinator has established a forward operating base in Baton Rouge, La., to coordinate the pollution response efforts. The following industries are responding to product release in the aftermath of "Katrina": The Murphy Oil Corporation, near Chalmette, estimated 16,000 barrels of oil have been discharged, with the vast majority contained within the existing secondary containment unit located on refinery property. Oil recovery operations are currently on going. During the hurricane, an unknown quantity of oil escaped the secondary containment and affected the surrounding neighbourhoods. The EPA and Coast Guard are working together to oversee the ongoing oil recovery operations. As of today, 1,645 barrels were recovered using 12 vacuum trucks and 10 drum skimmers. There are plans for 24-hour operations with two high-volume pumps. Shell Pipeline Company LP has confirmed that damage from "Katrina" resulted in two crude oil spills from company-owned assets in southern Louisiana. In the first incident, crude oil was found leaking from an above-ground storage tank and into a tank dyke and surrounding area at the company tank farm in Pilottown. The incident was caused by apparent wind damage. Of the approximately 10,000 barrels estimated to have been leaked in Pilottown, more than 6,200 barrels have been recovered to date. About 2,800 feet of absorbent boom has been deployed and 2,000 feet of eight-inch hard boom has been deployed. Workers also placed 600 feet of 10-inch hard boom in the affected area. No further pollution is expected as the water/oil mixture within the secondary containment unit has been pumped to a level below the break in the containment unit. In the second incident, crude oil was found leaking from a 20-inch pipeline in Nairn. Damage to the pipeline resulted from a breach in a hurricane protection levee. The release was estimated at 250 barrels. There is no further potential for loss of oil as the pipeline has been secured. Pollution response

equipment and responders are on scene and are cleaning up the remaining spilled oil. Bass Enterprises reported approximately 81,000 barrels of oil from two storage tanks were discharged into the secondary containment system surrounding the tanks. Preliminary tests indicate substantially all of the oil is contained within the secondary containment levee and approximately 7,500 barrels are still in the tanks. Pollution response equipment and responders are on scene and are transferring the oil in the containment system to a barge and have deployed boom to contain a visible sheen on the river. No sheen is visible beyond the booms. The Chevron Empire Facility reported 23,000 barrels of oil were discharged into the containment and are being pumped out. The majority of the oil is contained at the facility. Pollution response equipment and responders are on scene. The Chevron Pipeline Company reported an estimated 200 barrels of oil was discharged into West Bay, near Venice, La. Approximately 100 barrels of oil has already evaporated, and approximately 100 barrels of oily water mixture has been recovered. Venice Energy Services Company reported an unknown amount of oil discharged in Tante Phine Pass near Venice, La. The oil is contained within the facility's secondary containment. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the Coast Guard are working together to oversee recovery operations. Pollution response equipment and responders are on scene. The Coast Guard will continue to coordinate the pollution response efforts.

London, Sep 13 -- The Lower Mississippi River is now open to all commercial traffic, the US Coast Guard said yesterday. The news came as the Port of New Orleans said it was readying to work its first incoming container carrier Lykes Flyer tomorrow. The port expected to restart commercial operations yesterday by working its first outgoing steel cargo. The US Maritime Administration, as reported on the American Association of Port Authorities website, released a damage estimate of \$1.6bn for the Port of New Orleans, including two bridges and a lock. The damage estimate for the 50-mile Port of South Louisiana was \$1.85m, including \$350,000 for emergency operations and \$1.5m for repairs. On the river, daylight transit restrictions remain in place south of Mile Marker 104, Coast Guard spokesman Dan Tremper said. He said the main reason for this was the state of navigation aids, which were badly damaged by Hurricane "Katrina". He did not have an estimate on how long this restriction would remain in place. The Coast Guard has previously estimated repairs would take up to two weeks. Cargo interests welcomed the lifting of all draught restrictions. The last restriction had been 39 ft south of Mile Marker 116. There is a concern on whether the busy waterway, and the ports that dot it,

could ramp up capacity in time for the US grain export rush expected to begin shortly. The US Army Corps of Engineers said last week about 1,000 loaded barges travelled through the Mississippi's biggest lock near St Louis since Sep 1. Traffic is expected to grow as harvests pick up in the grain-growing US Midwest. There were 63 vessels waiting in queue outside New Orleans yesterday

London, Sep 13 -- About 60% of the US Gulf's daily crude oil production, 38% of natural gas production and four major refineries representing 5% of national capacity were still shut at the weekend, exactly two weeks after Hurricane "Katrina" swept across the southeast coastline. About 56 rigs were damaged, with 20 total losses. An estimated 122 out of 819 manned platforms and three out of 134 rigs in the region remained evacuated, according to the US Department of Energy. Although the "shut-in" percentage of oil and gas production declined from 95% and 88% respectively, immediately after the storm, the latest figures confirm a growing view that a return to normality would stretch into November. The only solace was in a reported 4% decline in US weekly gasoline consumption, as pump prices skyrocketed. Experts advised circumspection on this figure, since it was not apparent whether shortages played a role. The Colonial and Plantation petroleum product pipelines are back up to 100% of capacity. The Dixie pipeline, which supplies propane into the south-eastern US, is at 95%-100%. Supplying these pipelines with products may become an issue as long as some of the refineries remain shut down or running at reduced rates. According to figures available at the weekend, refineries with a combined 930,000 bpd capacity, or nearly 5% of US capacity, remained shut. The EIA said these would remain shut "for an extended period." A premium is therefore being placed on supplying other refineries with extra crude. The Capline, a major crude oil pipeline that supplies crude oil from the Gulf Coast to some Midwest refineries, is past 90% according to operator Shell. The LOOP started operating two of its three berths last week and was understood to be approaching 100% utilisation at the weekend.

London, Sep 12 -- During hurricane "Katrina" 1,148 platforms were likely exposed to hurricane force winds and an additional 1,633 platforms were likely exposed to tropical storm force winds. Newfield Exploration Company initial findings of an aerial survey of its operations in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. The Company's "A" production platform at Main Pass 138 appears to have been lost in the storm. All other Newfield operated structures flown over appear to be intact. Shell's Block MC 807 Mars TLP sustained topside damage. VK823 Virgo fixed platform, operated by Total E&P USA, sustained topside damage. South Pass 24, operated by Forest Oil, also sustained

damage. Platform rig ENSCO 29, sustained significant damage. Semi-sub pontoon GSF Celtic Sea, located Green Canyon 562, was listing slightly, and drill ship GSF Development Driller I was also listing slightly.

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: The spiralling cost of Hurricane "Katrina" is taking a growing toll on the insurance market, leading firms warn. The world's second-biggest reinsurer, Swiss Re, now reckons that companies will have to pay out a total of \$40bn, £22bn, twice its initial estimate. California-based Risk Management Solutions, which assesses disasters for insurers and financial institutions, said losses may be even higher. It sees insured losses at more than \$60bn, with total damage at \$125bn. Risk Management said its higher figure was based on reconnaissance work carried out last week. Flood damage is expected to account for half the total economic loss. And estimates of the wider economic cost of the hurricane are also growing. In the UK, Lloyd's of London gave its syndicates until the end of business on Monday to supply details of the likely impact of the hurricane on their businesses. Swiss Re, which covers insurers against the cost of big claims, estimates its own exposure will be \$1.2bn instead of a previously forecast \$500m. Munich Re, the largest reinsurer in the world, said Sep 2 that it could face claims in excess of its initial estimate of \$496m. On the same day, Germany's Hannover Re, the fourth-biggest group, became the first reinsurance firm to warn that the cost of Hurricane "Katrina" would pull its profits lower. Hannover Re has said it expects a bill of 250m euros for Hurricane "Katrina."

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Captain of the Port for the Port Mobile Area of Operations has issued a summary of the current status of ports and waterways in his area: Port of Panama City: Open to all traffic with a draft of 34 feet or less. Port of Pensacola: Open to all traffic with a draft of 31 feet or less. NAVSTA Pensacola is open to all traffic with a draft of 37 feet or less. Port of Mobile: The Mobile Bar and Mobile Bay are open to all traffic with a draft of 43 feet or less. The Mobile River is open to normal channel usage. Theodore Channel is open to all traffic with a draft of 37 feet or less. Arlington Channel, Garrow Bend, and Chickasaw Creek are open to normal channel usage. There are temporary aids to navigation in the channels and all vessels should proceed with caution. Port of Pascagoula: Pascagoula River and Upper Sound is open to all traffic with a draft of 36 feet or less. There are temporary aids to navigation in the channels and all vessels should proceed with caution. Bayou Casotte is open to all traffic with a draft of 42 feet or less. There are temporary aids to navigation in the channels and all vessels should proceed with caution. Port of Gulfport: Open to all traffic with a draft of 30

feet or less. There are temporary aids to navigation in the channels and all vessels should proceed with caution. Gulf Intra-Coastal Waterway 9GICW: Open to normal channel usage from the Inner Harbour Navigational Canal (New Orleans) to MM 350 (Aucilla River, FL). Baptiste Collette alternate route is open to vessels with a draft of 9 feet 6 inches. Pearl River: Open to all traffic from the mouth of the Pearl River to Port Bienville and including the Port Bienville Industrial Park. Bay St. Louis: Open to normal bay usage. The Hwy 90 bridge is inoperable; therefore vessels are restricted under the bridge to 13 feet vertical clearance. The Wolf River is open to vessels with a draft of three feet or less due to shoaling in the channel. The Jordan River is open to vessels with a draft of five feet or less due to shoaling in the channel. Bayou Portage is open to normal channel usage; however two obstructions are in the channel. The obstructions are visible and can be manoeuvred around. Biloxi: The East Access, West Approach, Back Bay and Benard Bayou in Biloxi are open to normal channel usage. The Lateral Channel into Biloxi is open to vessels with a draft of nine feet or less. The Industrial Seaway is open to normal channel usage, however vessels should use caution when transiting the Industrial Seaway as sunken vessels are partially blocking the channel, but vessels can navigate around the sunken vessels. Also there are temporary aids to navigation in the channel and all vessels should proceed with caution. Bayou La Batre: Open to vessels with a draft of 12 feet or less in the Sound Channel and vessels with a draft of 15 feet or less in the Bayou Channel. All waterways from the Mississippi-Louisiana state line to Aucilla River, FL. that are not covered above are open to all traffic. Vessels should proceed with caution as aids to navigation may be off station or missing.

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Katrina" and the floodwaters that swept through New Orleans in its wake may have damaged 160,000 homes beyond repair, an official with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said today. Col. Richard Wagenaar said that one of the local government's biggest challenges would be letting residents return to look at their homes. Water flowed into the city from Lake Pontchartrain through five breaches in three levees after the storm hit on Aug 29, leaving 80 percent of the city submerged. Workers should be able to pump the remaining water out of the city by the end of October, said Wagenaar, the New Orleans district commander of the Corps of Engineers. "It's set up by neighbourhoods," he said. "Some of them will be done by early October, other ones by mid-, late October -- if everything goes right, Mother Nature doesn't give us any rain and our pumps continue working." Wagenaar said the process would speed up once

water recedes around the city's main pumping station -- Pump Station No. 6 -- and its 1920s-era pumps can go back online. That's not expected for another two weeks. He said that workers were focusing on making "semi-permanent" repairs to the levee system that protects the low-lying city -- that could take two or three months. More permanent fixes would be made once investigators have determined why the levees failed. Water overtopped a repaired levee along the London Avenue canal yesterday evening, but the problem resulted from the repair operation and not from a new breach, a state official said. Crews reduced the water pressure to correct the problem, the official said. Wagenaar said Army Blackhawk helicopters would bring more 7,000-pound sandbags to shore up the levee. The Corps of Engineers hasn't completed surveys of the levees outside the city, but Wagenaar said they appeared to be badly damaged. Some areas remain inaccessible and can only be looked at from the air. "The levee at the Mississippi River and Gulf outlet is virtually gone," he said. Ninety percent of the 10-mile-long, 17-foot-high levee on the east flank of the river is gone, leaving only a small, 60-foot-long levee intact. "Should another storm come in, it could do more damage than it already has," Wagenaar added. Rescue workers have removed 45 bodies from a downtown New Orleans hospital that was surrounded by floodwaters from "Katrina", a spokeswoman for the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals said. The bodies were recovered Sunday (Sep 11) from Memorial Medical Center, spokeswoman Melissa Walker said. Tenet Healthcare Corp., the company that owns the hospital, said in a statement that "a significant number had passed before the hurricane." Tenet spokesman Steven Campanini wrote that the hospital was told Wednesday "that we were on our own to evacuate, [and] we brought our own helicopters to take the patients out." He said, "Every living patient was evacuated by Friday afternoon." The statement said that once all of the patients were evacuated, officials brought in guards to secure the hospital until the coroner could remove the bodies. Officials have confirmed 279 deaths in Louisiana in the wake of the hurricane. Meanwhile, authorities were considering launching a criminal investigation into the failure to evacuate St. Rita's Nursing Home in St. Bernard Parish. Thirty-four residents died when the facility was flooded. In other developments: Michael Brown, under fire over his qualifications and for what critics call a bungled response to "Katrina", announced his resignation Monday as director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. President Bush later named David Paulison, a 30-year veteran of fire and rescue work, to be acting FEMA director. A limited number of cargo and commercial flights are scheduled to start flying into Louis Armstrong

New Orleans International Airport today, the director of the agency that runs the airport said.

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated Sep 12, states: Donjon-SMIT, LLC, an OPA-90 Alliance, performed a salvage operation on the Mississippi River in New Orleans. Bulk Chios Beauty ran hard aground at Mile Marker 93.2 while in ballast. The vessel grounded on Aug 29 after breaking free from the Praline Dock as a result of high winds during hurricane "Katrina". The vessel was reported to be intact with a total of 21 crew members and one passenger on board at the time according to the US Coast Guard. During an initial refloating effort, a local pilot boarded the casualty and attempted to pull the vessel afloat with five tugs, but was unsuccessful. Owners then quickly contracted Donjon-SMIT to respond. Donjon-SMIT mobilised a salvage master and a four-man salvage team to the scene to determine the extent of the grounding and the necessary assets required to remove the vessel. After conducting a survey, preparing and having its salvage plan approved by the US Coast Guard, Donjon-SMIT discharged the remaining water ballast and utilised two tugs to effect the refloating. Chios Beauty was refloated on Sep 3 by a combination of controlled bottom scouring from a tug's propeller wash and pulling until the vessel broke free.

London, Sep 14 -- Shell has said Hurricane "Katrina" caused two crude oil leaks from its pipelines in southern Louisiana. Shell found the leaks during early surveillance following the hurricane, the company said in a statement. After damage caused by high winds, some 10,000 barrels of crude leaked from above-ground storage at a tank farm in Pilotown, Louisiana. It leaked into a tank dike and the "surrounding area." Shell said about 6,2000 barrels had been recovered. Shell could not be immediately reached on whether the crude leak was entirely contained at the tank farm. In the other leak, some 250 barrels leaked from a pipeline in Nairn. Shell said the US Coast Guard assisted with cleaning up the spills. -- Reuters.

London, Sep 14 -- A press report, dated Sep 13, states: The Port of New Orleans began unloading its first cargo ship since hurricane "Katrina" this evening a sign that disruption to the nation's shipping capacity may be less severe than originally forecast. After the storm, port officials figured it would take six months to resume service in New Orleans and at facilities throughout the Gulf Coast. Importers scurried to reroute coffee, steel and other commodities, and Midwest farmers worried that they would not be able to ship their grain to the rest of the world during the harvest. The disruption threatened the supply of goods across the United States, and some forecasters said it would cause a drag on the economy. But today, the port was coming back to life, with electrical power restored to

parts of the facility by late afternoon. About 2030 hrs, c.c. Lykes Flyer pulled into the port, and cranes began lifting containers of plywood and coffee beans from the ship. Gary P. LaGrange, chief executive of the port, said he expects it to be at 80% of capacity within three months. The Port of South Louisiana and Port Fourchon, on the Gulf Coast, have also partially restored service, and the Port of Pascagoula, Miss., expects to resume service by early October, according to the American Association of Port Authorities. The improved expectations depend on continued progress, and there are no guarantees that it will continue at this pace, analysts said. Coastal Cargo Co., for example, operates barges from a terminal at the Port of New Orleans and yesterday shipped out a load of steel coils to an automaker in Alabama. But that was after a two-week effort to get back to business, and the company has only two, instead of its usual 10 to 15, "gangs" of workers, each of which has about a dozen people. One of Coastal Cargo's barges was washed ashore in the storm, but was in decent condition, said Mike Lauland, the company's director of risk management. So it has been put to use to help clear out barges clogging shipping channels. More will be needed to get the local economy fully back in business. For example, Folgers coffee has a roasting plant in New Orleans that accounts for more than half its supply. For the first 10 days after the storm, it was unreachable except by helicopter, because of downed trees and security concerns on the roads. For the plant to be reopened, it needs a return of water, sewer and natural gas service, said Doug McGraw, vice president for global coffee at Folgers' parent company, Procter & Gamble. There is enough green coffee in storage to supply the roasting plant for now, but without water and fuel, the company lacks the ability to turn bitter green coffee beans into the Folgers that shows up on shelves. "We're hopeful that between starting some initial production, and living on inventories in the distribution centres and at retailers, the disruption to consumers will be limited," McGraw said. "But it's going to be a problem." The faster-than-expected reopening came about through some bureaucratic arm-twisting, coordination between groups, and a careful focus on the most urgent areas for repair, said LaGrange and outside analysts. "They're moving at light speed," said C. James Kruse, director of the Center for Ports and Waterways at the Texas Transportation Administration. "It's been an example of good cooperation between federal agencies and the port authority, and an action plan to get to the critical things first and fix other problems later." LaGrange said the most immediate problems were finding workers and getting a place for them to stay. The federal Maritime Administration provided ships with sleeping quarters, which are docked at the port and serve as floating

dormitories for longshoremen and managers. The port also collaborated with the dockworkers' union, the International Longshoremen's Association, to bring in workers from other ports. LaGrange said it was necessary because most Port of New Orleans employees were forced to leave the area and could not be located. And state police are guarding the access roads from hijackers, and agreed to give truck drivers delivering goods to and from the port clearance to deliver their loads.

London, Sept 14 -- A press report, dated Sept 13, states: Workers could be seen yesterday walking the decks of drill platform Ocean Warwick that was carried by hurricane "Katrina"'s violent waves more than 60 miles and left resting 100 yards off the beach at Dauphin Island. Work crews plan within a week to use tugs to move the severely damaged rig to a boatyard somewhere on the Gulf Coast, said officials with the rig's Houston-based owner, Diamond Offshore Drilling Inc. "It seems like a fairly straightforward operation right now. We don't anticipate any dredging will be necessary," said Les VanDyke, Diamond Offshore's director of investor relations. "Tugs should be enough." VanDyke said the boatyard where the rig will be taken has not been chosen yet. At the boatyard, the vessel will be inspected, and "we'll determine if it's economically feasible" to repair the 34-year-old rig and put it back into service, VanDyke said. The rig's hull was apparently not breached, and there was no known leakage of fuel or other hazardous materials, so the vessel poses no immediate threat to the environment, VanDyke and Coast Guard officials said.

London, Sep 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: The port of New Orleans has reopened for business after Hurricane "Katrina". Yesterday the first vessel to leave the port in more than two weeks since the devastating storm went to sea. Lykes Flyer was carrying an assortment of products for Brazil, Argentina and Mexico after earlier unloading Brazilian coffee. Experts predict "Katrina" could cost the insurance industry as much as \$25bn, after it wrecked homes and businesses across the Gulf of Mexico. Limited operations Paul Zimmermann, director of operations at the Port of New Orleans, said the port - one of the busiest in the US - was in "fairly good shape for the most part", but still far from regaining full operational capacity. Only two of the port's 27 terminals are now open for business. Its main exports include machinery, paper products and some grain, while imports are coffee, rubber and steel. Most Gulf ports affected by the storm have now resumed operations.

London, Sep 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Although the clean-up will likely take months, New Orleans Mayor Ray C. Nagin said the tourist-friendly French Quarter and central business district of the city may reopen as early as Monday (Sep

19) after the Environmental Protection Agency said the foul-smelling air in the city was not overly polluted. Nagin said he expects about 180,000 people to return to the city within a week or two, when power and sewer systems are restored. Some retailers should be operating by then, as well as two hospitals. Meanwhile, the Coast Guard and other rescue teams continued searching for bodies by boat and helicopter in areas that were still under several feet of water. The body count in Louisiana climbed to 474 yesterday, and it was expected to rise further as state and federal officials went about the tedious task of collecting bodies and identifying them through DNA tests. The total death toll in five states reached 710. President Bush planned to make a prime-time address from New Orleans today to offer new federal spending for the monumental task of helping hurricane victims rebuild their lives. The most obvious sign of progress has come from the lights flickering on. About 168,000 customers were still without power in the New Orleans area, mostly in places still flooded, but that number has gone down 10,000 in a day. The Hibernia Corp., Louisiana's oldest bank, whose landmark building was once the city's tallest, turned on its lights at sunset yesterday. About 40 to 50 percent of the city was still flooded, down from 80 percent after "Katrina" hit, as pumps worked to siphon off eight billion gallons a day. In Baton Rouge yesterday, Gov. Kathleen Blanco echoed Bush's words from a day earlier, taking responsibility for missteps in the immediate response to "Katrina". "We all know that there were failures at every level of government: state, federal and local," Blanco told lawmakers in a special meeting of the Louisiana Legislature. "The buck stops here, and as your governor, I take full responsibility." Also yesterday, the state attorney general's office said all of its investigators have been pulled from other tasks to work on the Medicaid Fraud Unit, the team whose work led to negligent homicide charges against the husband-and-wife owners of a Chalmette nursing home where 34 elderly residents drowned in floodwaters. Kris Wartelle, a spokeswoman for Attorney General Charles Foti, said the office has been besieged with allegations of neglect that may have led to injuries or deaths at other nursing homes and hospitals. Recovery efforts continued in Mississippi, where Gov. Haley Barbour said officials would offer some evacuees room aboard a small cruise ship moored off the Gulf coast. Barbour called the lack of temporary housing for evacuees the state's largest problem, but he did not provide a timetable or other details about the 490-passenger vessel. He said about 2,000 travel trailers and mobile homes are en route to storm-damaged areas of Mississippi but most are still in staging areas, and fewer than 250 were ready for occupancy.

HURRICANE "MARIA"

London, Sep 9 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Maria" was located near lat 39.7N, long 44.8W, and has tracked north-east, or 50 degs, at 12 knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 30 nautical miles. The estimated minimum central pressure is 994 mb. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 55 knots, with gusts to 65 knots. Radius of 50 knot winds: 120 nautical miles in the north-east and south-west quadrants, 150 nautical miles in the south-east quadrant and 90 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. Radius of 34 knot winds: 225 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants, 250 nautical miles in the south-east quadrant and 280 nautical miles in the south-west quadrant. At 0600, UTC, Sep 10, the centre is predicted to be near lat 43.6N, long 39.6W, with maximum sustained winds of 50 knots and gusts to 60 knots.

London, Sep 10 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Maria" in lat 43.6N, long 38.6W at 0900, UTC, today.

HURRICANE "NATE"

London, Sep 9 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of hurricane "Nate" was located near lat 33.4N, long, 59.1W. The position is accurate within to 30 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the east-north-east, or 65 degs, at 19 knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 985 mb. The maximum sustained winds are 70 knots with gusts to 85 knots. Radius of 64 knots: 60 nautical miles in the north-east quadrant, 50 nautical miles in the south-east and north-west quadrants and 20 nautical miles in the south-west quadrant. Radius of 34 knot winds: 240 nautical miles in the north-east quadrant, 180 nautical miles in the south-east quadrant, 90 nautical miles in the south-west quadrant and 120 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. At 0600, UTC, Sep 10, the centre is predicted to be near lat 35.1N, long 50.2W, with maximum winds of 50 knots and gusts to 60 knots.

HURRICANE "OPHELIA"

London, Sep 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm "Ophelia" strengthened off Florida's Atlantic coast early today, menacing one of the few spots spared serious damage from the six hurricanes that have hit the state in 13 months. "Ophelia", with sustained 60 mph winds, stalled offshore about 70 miles east-northeast of Cape Canaveral, but forecasters said it was impossible to say what path the storm would take, or whether it would reach hurricane strength. "We have to wait and see what "Ophelia" is going to do. The possibilities are endless," said Steve Letro, a meteorologist with the

National Weather Service in Jacksonville. Brisk wind and forceful rain began hitting the Jacksonville area yesterday.

London, Sep 9 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Ophelia": A tropical storm warning remains in effect for the east coast of Florida from Sebastian inlet northward to Flagler Beach and a tropical storm watch remains in effect from north of Flagler Beach to Fernandina Beach. At 0600, UTC, today, the storm centre was located near lat 28.9N, long 79.3W. The position is accurate to within 15 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the north-north-east or 20 degs at five knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 991 mb. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 55 knots, with gusts to 65 knots. Radius of 50 knot winds: 25 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 60 nautical miles in the north-east, south-east and south-west quadrants and 50 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. At 0600, UTC, Sep 10, the centre is predicted to be near lat 30.5N, long 77.9W, with maximum sustained winds of 65 knots and gusts to 80 knots.

London, Sep 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm "Ophelia" strengthened into a hurricane as it stalled 70 miles off the northeast Florida coast yesterday, churning up waves that caused beach erosion and drenching Kennedy Space Center with rain. Yesterday night, "Ophelia" had top sustained winds of 75 mph, just over the threshold to be classified as a hurricane, forecasters at the National Hurricane Center said. But forecasters said it was still unclear where "Ophelia" was headed. If it hits Florida, it would become the third hurricane to strike the state this year and the seventh in the last 13 months. Downpours from earlier storms had caused flooding in Flagler County, raising anxiety levels about the effect of more rain. Authorities shut down a mile-long stretch of beachfront road in Flagler Beach so transportation workers could shore it up with sand and boulders. As a precaution, 14 Navy vessels at the Naval Station Mayport in Jacksonville headed to sea. Two shelters in Flagler County were also readied just in case. At 2300, it was centred about 80 miles east-northeast of Cape Canaveral, with hurricane-force winds stretching up to 25 miles from the centre. The storm was nearly stationary. Hurricane specialist Jack Beven said "Ophelia" should start moving north or northeast, away from land, within a day or so. However, it could curl back early next week and slam north Florida or Georgia as a Category 1 hurricane. Storm warnings or watches were posted for Florida's east coast from Sebastian Inlet to Fernandina Beach. Officials at NASA were also keeping an eye on "Ophelia".

London, Sep 10 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Ophelia" in lat

31.2N, long 76.8W at 0900, UTC, today. Maximum winds 60 knots. Forecast position lat 31.7N, long 76.5W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 65 knots. Forecast position lat 31.9N, long 76.7W at 0600, UTC, Sep 11. Maximum winds 70 knots.

London, Sep 11 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Ophelia" centre located near lat 31.7N, long 75.9W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 20 nautical miles. Present movement is stationary. Estimated minimum central pressure 978 mb. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots with gusts to 90 knots. Forecast position lat 31.6N, long 76.0W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 75 knots, gusts 90 knots. Forecast position lat 31.6N, long 76.2W at 0600, UTC, Sep 12. Maximum winds 75 knots, gusts 90 knots.

London, Sep 12 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Ophelia" centre located near lat 31.3N, long 76.7W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 15 nautical miles. Present movement towards the west or 270 degrees at 3 knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 985 mb. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots with gusts to 80 knots. Forecast position lat 31.4N, long 77.2W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 65 knots, gusts 80 knots. Forecast position lat 31.9N, long 77.5W at 0600, UTC, Sep 13. Maximum winds 65 knots, gusts 80 knots.

London, Sep 13 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Ophelia" located near lat 32.0N, long 78.0W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 20 nautical miles. Estimated minimum central pressure 990 mb. Maximum sustained winds 60 knots with gusts to 75 knots. Forecast position lat 32.4N, long 78.2W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 65 knots gusts 80 knots. Forecast position lat 33.1N, long 78.2W at 0600, UTC, Sep 14. Maximum winds 65 knots, gusts 80 knots.

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: More of the exposed Outer Banks chain of island was ordered evacuated today as tropical storm "Ophelia" drifted closer to the coast of the Carolinas with pounding surf and a threat of heavy rain. Rain was scattered along the coast as the storm moved slowly to the north-north-west, with its top sustained wind staying at about 70 mph through the morning. A hurricane warning was in effect today from Georgetown, South Carolina, to North Carolina's Cape Lookout, east of Morehead City, the National Hurricane Centre said. A tropical storm warning extended north along the Outer Banks from Cape Lookout north to Oregon Inlet. All residents and visitors were ordered to evacuate Hatteras Island in the Outer Banks today, visitors already had been ordered off Ocracoke Island and 300 National Guard troops were on duty. The National Park Service closed the

Cape Hatteras lighthouse and the Wright Brothers National Memorial in Kill Devil Hills. Schools were closed in several coastal counties in both North and South Carolina. Virginia Governor Mark R. Warner had declared an emergency yesterday, putting all state agencies to work preparing for the storm. South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford called for a voluntary evacuation of oceanfront and riverside areas in the north-eastern part of his state. "This is a serious storm that's got the potential to do a lot of damage and put lives in jeopardy if we don't take it seriously," Sanford said. However, few people heeded Sanford's call. The storm's slow, erratic movement made it hard to predict its path, but it appeared to be on a reasonably steady course towards North Carolina, Robbie Berg, a meteorologist at the National Hurricane Centre, said today. After reaching land, the centre's latest long-range models show it veering north and east from North Carolina's Pamlico Sound, potentially crossing the Outer Banks and then moving away from the coast, Berg said. "The centre could still pass very near Virginia." It could regain hurricane strength, forecasters said. At 1100, EDT, "Ophelia" was centred about 130 miles south of Wilmington and about 120 miles east-south-east of Charleston, SC. It was moving north-north-west at three mph. A gradual turn towards the north was expected during the night or tomorrow, but continued erratic motion was likely, the hurricane centre said.

London, Sep 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Ophelia" edged toward North Carolina early today. The National Hurricane Centre upgraded the storm's status from a tropical storm to a Category 1 hurricane yesterday, saying maximum sustained winds had reached 75 mph, with higher gusts. Further strengthening was possible. "Ophelia" has meandered since forming off the Florida coast last week and that makes landfall predictions difficult. At 0200 hrs, "Ophelia" was centered about 100 miles south of Wilmington and about 125 miles east of Charleston, S.C., drifting northward. The storm's effects were already being felt as heavy rains fell on the coast near the border of the Carolinas. A hurricane warning extended about 275 miles from the South Santee River in South Carolina to Oregon Inlet at Pamlico Sound in North Carolina, meaning hurricane conditions were expected within 24 hours. Forecasts showed the storm skirting the North Carolina coast today, then veering through Pamlico Sound, crossing the Outer Banks and heading back out to sea by late tomorrow. The storm was moving slowly, so heavy rain could linger over land and cause serious flooding. The hurricane centre said up to 15 inches of rain was possible in eastern North Carolina. State and local officials blanketed the coast with a mix of voluntary and mandatory evacuations,

closing schools and opening shelters. Nearly 100 people had checked into a shelter in an elementary school near central Wilmington yesterday night. Along the exposed Outer Banks, all residents and visitors were ordered to evacuate Hatteras Island yesterday, visitors had been ordered off Ocracoke Island and the National Park Service closed the Cape Hatteras lighthouse and the Wright Brothers National Memorial in Kill Devil Hills. Schools were closed in several coastal counties in the Carolinas, while classes were cancelled at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and East Carolina University in Greenville, S.C. A surfer was missing along the South Carolina coast, with the search suspended because of rough seas. North Carolina Gov. Mike Easley said coastal residents should be prepared to go without power for two to three days. "The beaches we expect to take a real beating," Easley said. "The bottom line is we're definitely going to get flooding, not just on the coast but in low-lying areas as the rivers swell from the storm surge itself." However, many people were taking a wait-and-see approach.

London, Sep 14 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane centre "Ophelia" located near lat 33.2N, long 77.9W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 10 nautical miles. Present movement toward the north or 360 degrees at 4 knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 980 mb. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots with gusts to 80 knots. Forecast position lat 33.8N, long 77.6W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 70 knots, gusts 85 knots. Forecast position lat 34.7N, long 76.5W at 0700, UTC, Sep 15. Maximum wind 70 knots, gusts 85 knots.

London, Sep 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: The port of Wilmington, NC, was closed on Monday afternoon (Sep 12) and remains closed due to Hurricane "Ophelia". The U.S. Coast Guard has advised of plans to close the port of Norfolk to traffic at 0800 hrs, today, due to the impending hurricane. The duration of the closure depends on the track of the hurricane. In the worse case, the port could be closed for up to three days. However, this is not anticipated as current projections indicate that the hurricane may tail away from the US, back to sea. At 0800 hrs, "Ophelia" was centered about 60 miles south of Wilmington and about 110 miles south-west of Cape Lookout on the Outer Banks. Slight strengthening was possible. "Ophelia" was moving at six mph toward the north-northeast and had sustained winds of 80 mph. It was expected to gradually turn toward the north-east and pick up a little speed by late today, with the center making landfall close to the Outer Banks tomorrow, the U.S. Hurricane Centre said. The forecast storm track had it then moving out to sea, but the storm's slow progress meant heavy rain could linger over land and cause serious

flooding. The hurricane centre said up to 15 inches of rain was possible in eastern North Carolina.

London, Sep 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Ophelia" lashed the North Carolina coast with high winds and heavy rains yesterday, beginning an anticipated two-day assault that threatened serious flooding and an 11-foot storm surge. "Ophelia" was moving so slowly - just 7 mph last night - that authorities expected the storm's passage through North Carolina to take 48 hours from the start of rainfall on the southeastern coast Tuesday afternoon to the storm's anticipated exit into the Atlantic late today. The storm had sustained winds of 85 mph, the National Hurricane Centre said. Hurricane warnings covered the entire North Carolina coast from the South Carolina line to Virginia, where a tropical storm warning covered the mouth of Chesapeake Bay. More than 12 inches of rain had fallen on Oak Island at the mouth of the Cape Fear River, said meteorologist Jeff Orrock with the National Weather Service in Raleigh. More than 120,000 homes and business were without power in eastern North Carolina, electric utilities said. On Ocean Isle Beach, south of Carolina Beach, a 50-foot section of beachfront road was washed out by heavy surf and the only bridge to the island was closed. At 2300 hrs, "Ophelia's" centre was about 20 miles south-southeast of Cape Lookout and moving north-east at about seven mph toward Cape Hatteras, about 85 miles away.

London, Sep 16 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Ophelia" located near lat 34.7N, long 76.1W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 10 nautical miles. Present movement towards the north-east or 55 degrees at five knots. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots with gusts to 90 knots. Forecast position lat 35.0N, long 75.5W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 70 knots, gusts 85 knots. Forecast position lat 35.7N, long 74.7W at 0600, UTC, Sep 16. Maximum winds 65 knots, gusts 80 knots.

London, Sep 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Ophelia" crawled along the North Carolina coast at a tortuously slow pace today, but early indications were that the storm had not caused the severe flooding many feared. However, the exposed Outer Banks islands of Ocracoke and Hatteras were still at risk as the storm paralleled the shore just to their east. Thousands of homes and businesses had no electricity. "Ophelia" was expected to head back out into the open Atlantic later in the day or early tomorrow after an anticipated 48-hour onslaught of lashing rain and wind. The Category One hurricane had sustained wind of 85 mph today and was expected to bring three to five inches more inches of rain along the coast. Hurricane warnings covered about 220 miles along the state's coast from Surf City north of Wilmington to the Virginia

line, where a tropical storm warning covered the mouth of Chesapeake Bay. More than 12 inches of rain had fallen on Oak Island at the mouth of the Cape Fear River south of Wilmington, according to the National Weather Service in Raleigh. In New Bern, on Pamlico Sound, water was receding today after failing to reach the flood levels seen during 2003's Hurricane "Isabel". However, high water had trapped some people in their homes in the community of Harlowe, said Chuck Webb, assistant chief of the Harlowe volunteer fire department. "They are stuck," Webb said. "They are on islands." About 225 people spent the night in four county shelters, Craven County manager Harold Blizzard said. At 0700 hrs, "Ophelia" was centered about 35 miles east-northeast of Cape Lookout, and about 45 miles southwest of Cape Hatteras. It was moving northeast at about six mph. The hurricane centre said it did not expect the eye of the storm to make landfall but the outer eyewall, the ring of high wind surrounding the eye, could pass over the Outer Banks. Following the criticism of its response to Hurricane "Katrina", the Federal Emergency Management Agency had 250 workers on the ground - a larger-than-usual contingent given "Ophelia's" size. FEMA also put a military officer, Coast Guard Rear Adm. Brian Peterman, in place to command any federal response the storm might require. More than 120,000 homes and business were without power early today in eastern North Carolina, utilities said and on Ocean Isle Beach, south of Wilmington, a 50-foot section of beachfront road was washed out by heavy surf. Officials on the Outer Banks warned that "Ophelia" could bring 10 hours of hurricane-force wind to exposed Hatteras Island. The southernmost villages of Hatteras, Frisco and Buxton were expected to get the worst of the winds and the flooding. Even so, hundreds of Hatteras Island residents defied an evacuation order.

PAKISTAN

London, Sep 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 11 people have been killed in Karachi following a lashing of unexpected rains at the end of the monsoon season. Rainfall in the city reached an average 50 millimetres during what is thought to be the last wave of the monsoons for Pakistan. A spokesman for the Edhi Foundation, the country's largest charity, said that over 3,000 households in low-lying areas by the Malir and Lyari rivers were inundated due to the rise in water levels following the rains. Around 1,200 people have been evacuated to temporary relief camps where they have been provided with food and healthcare services.

THAILAND

London, Sep 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: A girl and a man were killed in flooding, yesterday, caused by a depression which threatens to bring more rain over the

next few days. The rains have caused flooding in the lower North-east, the East, the upper South and Bangkok. As the depression moved from the north-eastern province of Nakhon Ratchasima to Saraburi and Lop Buri in the Central Plains, rain fell in Bangkok throughout Tuesday night and yesterday. As much as 120mm an hour fell, flooding streets and paralysing traffic. Bangkok Governor Apirak Kosayodhin said city drains could handle the rain but he was worried about the impact of runoff from elsewhere, which would raise the level of the Chao Phraya river. The river could run as fast as 2,500 cubic metres per second by the time it reached the city, compared to the 1,000 cubic metres a second coming in now. The city was building flood walls along the river banks with sandbags. The surge from the North could reach Bangkok next week, he said. Minor floods were reported in the heart of Nakhon Nayok, while trains were delayed in Muang district of Prachin Buri, after the tracks were submerged. Parts of Chachoengsao were covered in up to 70cm of water. A 43-year-old man who tried to open a dyke gate to save Pho Kaeo village in Plaeng Yao district slipped into a canal and drowned. Chon Buri, suffering from drought just a few weeks ago, was hard hit. Floods were reported in Si Racha district and Laem Chabang Industrial Estate. Si Racha experienced flash floods of up to a metre high. The strong current from hilly ground knocked down a karaoke booth that toppled onto a five-year-old girl, killing her on the spot. Pattaya, where a water shortage threatened until recently, stands to benefit from the heavy rains as they are supplying over one million cubic metres of water to its Map Prachan reservoir. The rain led to the suspension of the ferry service between Trat and Koh Chang at times yesterday. In the North-east, rain helped solve drought problems in Nakhon Ratchasima province, with water levels are rising in its Lam Phra Ploeng and Lam Takhong reservoirs. Local rivers in Yasothorn province overflowed onto more than 10,000 rai of agricultural land. In the North, more than 1,000 families in Tak's Sam Ngao district and about 15,000 rai of farmland were affected by flooding. However, water levels in the lower North including Sukhothai and Phitsanulok provinces were subsiding. The Meteorological Department is still warning of sudden floods in the lower Northeast, the East, the Central Plains and the upper South (Chumphon province), and of high waves in the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea over the next few days.

TROPICAL STORM "JOVA"

London, Sep 15 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Jova" centre located near lat 13.7N, long 129.1W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 30 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west or 270 degrees at 10 knots. Maximum sustained winds 40

knots with gusts to 50 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds: 40 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 20 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 60 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Sep 16: Position near lat 13.6N, long 133.1W with maximum winds of 50 knots and gusts to 60 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds. 30 nautical miles north semicircle, 20 nautical miles south semicircle. Radius of 34-knot winds: 50 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 40 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 70 nautical miles elsewhere.

TROPICAL STORM "KENNETH"

London, Sep 15 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Kenneth" centre located near lat 13.1N, long 119.7W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 30 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west-northwest or 290 degrees at eight knots. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Forecast position lat 13.5N, long 120.7W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 40 knots, gusts 50 knots. Forecast position lat 13.9N, long 121.9W at 0600, UTC, Sep 16. Maximum winds 45 knots, gusts 55 knots.

TYPHOON "KHANUN"

London, Sep 9 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Khanun" was located near lat 20.4N, long 129.6E, approximately 360 nautical miles south-south-east of Okinawa, and has tracked north-north-westward, or 330 degs, at 14 knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 75 knots, with gusts to 90 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 south-east quadrants and 100 nautical miles in the south-west and north-west quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 28 feet. At 0600, UTC, Sep 10, the centre is predicted to be near lat 23.9N, long 125.6E, with maximum sustained winds of 95 knots and gusts to 115 knots.

London, Sep 10 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Typhoon "Khanun" near lat 24.2N, long 125.2E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 315 degrees at 14 knots. Position accurate to within 25 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 100 knots, gusts 125 knots. Forecast position lat 26.1N, long 123.4E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 100 knots, gusts 125 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 20 nautical miles all quadrants. Forecast position lat 28.1N, long 121.6E at 0600, UTC, Sep 11. Maximum sustained winds 85 knots, gusts 105 knots.

Beijing, Sep 11 -- A typhoon made a direct hit on a sprawling city in

prosperous eastern China today after nearly a million villagers and farmers had been evacuated from flimsy coastal and hillside huts to safety. Typhoon "Khanun", which spared the island of Taiwan yesterday after forecasts predicted a near direct hit, made landfall in China's mountainous Zhejiang province, where storms regularly trigger fatal floods and landslides. The new city of Taizhou, with a population of over 5 million, took the full brunt, a city government official said, adding that those evacuated by the army had been taken to schools, railway stations, hotels and other solid buildings for protection. "Signboards have been blown down and definitely trees will be uprooted and houses damaged," the official said, adding that 330,000 people had been moved to safety in Taizhou alone. "It's too early to talk about damage to property." With its zigzag coastline, Taizhou is home to several ports, one being Taizhou Bay Haimen, with more than 10,000 tonnes of handling capacity. In nearby Leqing Bay is China's largest tidal power station. Xinhua news agency said Zhejiang had so far evacuated 814,267 people to safer places. About 35,400 vessels and other vessels had returned to port. The ancient trade port of Ningbo was directly in the path of the storm which was unleashing maximum sustained winds of up to 110 miles per hour. Authorities in Shanghai, China's financial centre north of Zhejiang, had issued the yellow warning signal, demanding that more than 100,000 people working outdoors or living in sheds and other temporary housing evacuate to safety. Thirteen flights between Hong Kong and three eastern Chinese cities had been cancelled or delayed because of the storm today. Dragonair Airways said it has decided to cancel six flights between Hong Kong and Shanghai, Hangzhou and Ningbo. China Eastern Airlines said it had delayed seven flights from Hong Kong to eastern China. -- Reuters.

London, Sep 11 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Typhoon "Khanun" in lat 28.8N, long 121.3E at 0900, UTC, today. Maximum winds 75 knots near centre. Radius of over 50 knot winds 50 miles. Forecast position lat 32.5N, long 119.3E at 0900, UTC, Sep 12. Maximum winds 45 knots.

Beijing, Sep 12 -- Typhoon "Khanun" slammed into the city of Taizhou, in Zhejiang, yesterday. At least one person was reportedly killed during the storm, which was unleashing maximum sustained winds of up to 177km/h and brought rainfall of as much as 300mm to some parts of the city. China News Service reported that the victim died from an electric shock. "Khanun" made landfall at 1450 hrs. It moved north-west afterwards, gradually affecting Zhoushan, Ningbo, Shaoxing and Hangzhou. In Ningbo, Hangzhou and Shanghai, where "Khanun" is expected to bring strong wind and heavy rain today, authorities suspended school classes for today, a first for the city. In all, 1.05 million

people were evacuated and 37,000 boats had returned to port by noon yesterday, Xinhua reported, in accordance with an order issued by provincial flood-prevention officials on Saturday. They were quoted by China News Service as saying that the coastal areas of Zhejiang were vulnerable to mudslides after being hit by Typhoons "Talim", "Matsa" and "Haitang" since July. Taizhou took the full brunt, a city government official said, adding that those evacuated by the army had been taken to schools, railway stations, hotels and other solid buildings. Authorities in Shanghai upgraded the alert from yellow to red. The typhoon resulted in the cancellation of 116 flights operated by China Eastern Airline to and from Shanghai and Zhejiang cities including Hangzhou, Ningbo and Wenzhou between 0600 and 2000 hrs yesterday. -- Reuters.

London, Sep 12 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Khanun" lat 33.0N, long 119.4E, central china moving north 12 knots. Maximum winds 35 knots. Forecast position for lat 35.7N, long 122.8E at 0600, UTC, Sep 13. Maximum winds 13 knots.

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 15 people were killed in Zhejiang province as Typhoon "Khanun" ground its way inland, causing widespread damage and forcing the evacuation of more than a million people in coastal areas. Eight people died when a flood swept through Qinglin village, near Ningbo, and swamped 20 houses. In Taizhou, which suffered the full fury of the storm overnight, seven people were killed, a flood control official said. Eight others were reported missing, the Ministry of Civil Affairs said, adding that 5.5 million residents had been affected in Zhejiang. Xinhua said vast tracts of farmland were flooded and reservoirs damaged, with economic losses estimated at 6.8 billion yuan. Shanghai officials said the city did not suffer any major damage. Economic losses were still being calculated. The central weather bureau said "Khanun" had weakened by yesterday morning. It moved from south to north across Jiangsu province, home to 74 million people, hitting nearly every major city on its way, ripping up trees and power lines and bringing heavy rain. "The typhoon is still battering the province as we speak, and we do not have a precise estimate yet of the material damage," said Ji Hongfei, a spokesman for the Jiangsu flood control headquarters. The cities of Suzhou and Wuxi were severely hit and were forced to close all schools.

TYPHOON "NABI"

London, Sep 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Nabi" left Japan yesterday, dissipated after criss-crossing the country in a path of destruction that left at least 32 people dead or missing in Japan and South Korea, flooding nearly 10,000 homes. The typhoon headed onto the Sea of

Okhotsk, east of Siberia, and was downgraded nearly a week after it first built up in the subtropical Pacific waters south of Japan. The worst-hit area was Japan's Miyazaki Prefecture on the southern island of Kyushu. With the typhoon bringing violent rains to most of Japan, police said that 143 people had been injured in 31 of Japan's 47 prefectures.

London, Sep 10 -- Elementary school classes, as well as local air flights were cancelled on Kamchatka peninsula yesterday as the "Nabi" typhoon approached it overnight. The education department of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky said kids of the first years of education could stay at home. The local airport said all flight across the peninsula were cancelled and only flights to the mainland were taking off. A storm warning has been issued on the peninsula. The typhoon has lost its power, however the wind is expected to reach the speed of 40 metres per second along the south-west coast of Kamchatka and 30 meters in the south of the peninsula, and 19 metres in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. On the Island of Sakhalin ferry service Vanino-Kholmsk resumed operations after Nabi has passed. However, on the north Kurile Island of Paramushir the sea is force four and the wind blows at 23 meters per second. The fishing fleet is hiding in the port of Severo-Kurilsk.

Busan, Sep 12 -- General cargo Long Xuyen is now under salvage operation by the local salvor, Korea Salvage Co., Ltd., Busan, and operation expected to be completed on or about Sep 15. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

UNITED STATES

London, Sep 14 -- A press report, dated Sep 13, states: A storm packing strong winds knocked over some buildings, flattened airplane hangars and damaged some planes, causing more than \$4 million in damage in one north-western Wisconsin town, the police chief said today. The winds destroyed a feed mill and several of its buildings, damaged a strip mall and hit a house where a family had taken shelter in the basement, Police Chief Thomas Marson said. No one was injured. The storm, which moved through late yesterday and early today, also damaged five hangars and six planes at the Amery Municipal Airport, he said. Marson said he thought the storm might have spawned a tornado, but the National Weather Service had not determined that yet. Meteorologist Karen Trammell said the agency would send a survey team to the area in the next few days. The storm developed west of Minnesota's Twin Cities and weakened after leaving Polk County, she said.

VIETNAM

Hanoi, Sep 10 -- Seasonal floods have killed at least five people in southern Vietnam's Mekong Delta where 28,000 people have been evacuated to higher

ground, state-run media reported today. Four people, three of them children, drowned in Dong Thap province where nearly 1,500 houses were submerged and another 136 homes collapsed, the Tuoi Tre newspaper said, quoting a report by the province's disaster management committee. Floodwaters from Cambodia pouring into the fertile southern delta, which produces around half of Vietnam's grain, have forced 5,600 families -- 28,000 people -- to higher ground in Dong Thap, the report said. -- Reuters.

London, Sep 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Seven people, including a child, were killed as heavy rains caused by low tropical pressure battered central Vietnam, an official said today. The adverse weather gripping the central provinces also damaged 276 houses and vast areas of crops, said the official from the region's flood and storm prevention department.

London, Sep 15 -- About 1,600 fishermen, reported missing after a tropical depression hit Vietnam earlier this week, are safe and sound, Da Nang province authorities said yesterday. The fishermen - in over 260 boats instead of the almost 400 reported initially - had gone into the sea just before the front hit. Meanwhile, the depression claimed four lives and injured seven in Vietnam's central region. It also caused severe damage to property. Hundreds of kilometres of national highways were washed away, many dykes were breached, hundreds of hectares of rice and salt fields were inundated, and about 350 houses and schools lost roofs. While the damage is yet to be estimated, it is thought that dozens of millions of dollars will be needed to restore roads and other properties lost in the disaster. Eleven crewmen general cargo Minh Linh 27 were rescued after almost 24 hours of being confined on the vessel which ran aground Tuesday morning (Sep 13). They were taken to Chan May port in the central province of Thua Thien Hue. The vessel, carrying 1,000 tons of coal, ran aground about a mile from Thuan An port in Thua Thien Hue. Strong winds and high seas had delayed their rescue. But the danger is not past in the central region with rivers in provinces like Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, Quang Binh and Ha Tinh flowing at alarming levels.

Earthquakes



INDIA

London, Sep 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: A medium earthquake, measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale, occurred at 2232, yesterday in the location of the Nicobar Islands of India, about 984 km north-west of Penang. According to

the Malaysian Meteorological Services Department, the earthquake occurred at lat 7.7N, long 91.7E. The tremors may not be felt in Peninsular Malaysia, it said.

INDONESIA

London, Sep 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale occurred 329km southeast of Manado (north Sulawesi) and 1,133km from Tawau, Sabah at 1209, Thursday (Sep 8), the Meteorological Services Department said. It said the earthquake took place at lat 0.1N, 127.4E and tremors may not be felt in the East Coast of Malaysia.

London, Sep 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake rocked Indonesia's tsunami-battered Aceh province yesterday, causing residents to flee their homes in panic. The magnitude 5.8 earthquake was centred under the Indian Ocean, about 20 miles north-west of the province capital Banda Aceh, said Sutiono, an official at the Jakarta office of Meteorological and Geophysical Agency. The tremor occurred some 20 miles beneath the earth's surface.

London, Sep 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: An intense earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale was recorded in the seas off the coast of Indonesia, the Hong Kong observatory said today. It said the quake's epicentre was determined west of the Nicobar Islands and about 890 kilometres west-north-west of Medan in Indonesia. The quake occurred at 2239 hrs (1839, UTC) yesterdays evening, Hong Kong's Government Information Services reported the agency as saying.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

London, Sep 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: A major earthquake has rocked Papua New Guinea, registering a magnitude 7.3, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage from Friday evening's quake. The quake struck at 1727 hrs and was located 25 miles east-southeast of Taron or 540 miles north-east of the capital, Port Moresby. The epicentre was 60 miles underground. The Japan Meteorological Agency said on its Web site there was no danger of a tsunami from the earthquake.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

London, Sep 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: US and Afghan troops have killed some 30 suspected Taliban militants in southern Afghanistan, officials said yesterday. "During an operation in Grishk district of Helmand on Friday, Afghan

and coalition forces killed 30 enemies and captured... 60 others," defence ministry spokesman Mohammad Zahir Azimi told reporters in Kabul. Mr Azimi said large amounts of weapons and ammunition were also seized from the captured fighters during the operation in the south-west province of Helmand. The operation involving Afghan and US-led forces was ongoing, Mr Azimi said. The US put the preliminary death toll from the operation in the Taliban stronghold and major opium growing province at 26 dead, with three wounded and 48 detained by US and Afghan forces. "Battle damage assessments are ongoing. We will continue to engage the enemy up to during and after the election to ensure that democracy prevails," said Lieutenant Colonel Jerry O'Hara.

London, Sep 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Taleban rebels have shot dead seven people carrying voter cards ahead of the Afghan parliamentary elections on Sunday (Sep 18), local officials say. The killings took place when a vehicle was ambushed in central Uruzgan province yesterday. The Taleban oppose the polls and have stepped up violence, with about 1,200 people killed in the past six months. Yesterday, Afghan President Hamid Karzai said there needed to be a rethink on how to bring peace. Uruzgan governor, Jan Mohammed Khan, said those killed in the ambush in Gizab district were all men. US and Nato forces have been increased in the run-up to the elections. About 2,800 people are running for parliament and another 3,000 competing for 34 provincial assemblies. Five candidates are so far known to have been killed in attacks officials blame on the Taleban. Nato defence ministers are currently in Brussels reviewing the deployment of the 11,000-strong International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) in Afghanistan. The US also has about 18,000 soldiers in the country.

BURUNDI

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated Sep 12, states: Former rebels and past members of government-backed militias will get \$100 each for their weapons under a disarmament scheme that began today, a government official said. The three-month programme aims to disarm some 30,000 civil war fighters, said Brig. Gen. Libere Hicuburundi, spokesman for the government's demobilisation program. The launch was delayed from May in a dispute over who qualified for compensation. "If successful, it (the disarmament) will lead to a total disarmament of the population and to total peace," Hicuburundi said. Previous schemes have integrated rebels into the national army, police and intelligence services.

Bujumbura, Sep 13 -- Burundi's peace process suffered a serious blow today when the only remaining rebel group rejected an offer of peace from the new government.. Rebels of the

Forces for National Liberation (FNL) said they did not recognise the new government and warned of more fighting. "We ignore the current government led by Pierre Nkurunziza, because this government was imposed by the international community and it was not elected by Burundian people," Pasteur Habimana, spokesman for the Hutu FNL, told Reuters, but the government said the FNL had no option but to join the negotiating table, raising fears of continued fighting. "They don't have choice, they must negotiate. The government will use all its capacity to bring the FNL to the negotiating table," government spokesman Karenga Ramadhani told Reuters. The president last week appointed a team of eight people to start negotiations with the FNL, but the FNL said the government offer was not genuine because he planned to divide the movement. "Nkurunziza and his party the FDD (Forces for Defence of Democracy) have a mission of dividing the FNL," Habimana said. "We have information that they want to negotiate with a former senior member of the FNL, who has resigned in the movement and was fired by the top organ of the movement." The FNL said the government had been wooing Jeane Bosco Sindayigaya, a former vice chairman of the rebel group who was sacked in 2003 for wanting to negotiate with the government. "The current government has the mandate of the people and is supported by the international community," Ramadhani said. "The government and its security forces will act against any person or any group which wants to disrupt the country's security." -- Reuters.

COLOMBIA

Bogota, Sep 8 -- At least 17 people were killed during combat between Marxist rebels and far-right paramilitary militias yesterday in the south-west Colombian province of Putumayo, police said. Fourteen of the dead were wearing camouflage uniforms without markings that would make it clear which side they were on, police said today. Three civilians were caught up in the fighting and killed, police said. The battle took place near the town of La Hormiga, an area with many plantations that grow coca, which is used to make cocaine. -- Reuters.

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated Sep 12, states: The Colombian government freed a leader of the country's smaller rebel group from prison today in hopes that he will be able to persuade his fellow guerrillas to hold peace talks. Francisco Galan, a commander of the National Liberation Army, known as the ELN, walked out of Itagui prison outside the city of Medellin and said he was personally committed to seeking peace. The government gave him a three-month furlough in hopes of initiating a peace process with the 3,500-strong ELN. Galan will remain under the watch of police during his time away from prison as he seeks to hold talks with other ELN leaders, government

officials, delegates from the international community and members of civil society. His base will be in a so-called peace house in Medellin, Colombia's second-largest city. Galan, who has been in prison for 13 years, said he remains committed to the ELN.

INDIA

Kolkata, Sep 12 -- Suspected Maoist rebels killed at least 13 villagers in a pre-dawn attack today in India's eastern state of Jharkhand, police said. The dead were members of a village defence committee, one of hundreds formed by the state government to fight the Maoist insurgency, deputy inspector-general of police Neeraj Sinha said. Sinha said around 200 rebels ringed a village in the Bhelwaghati area, about 150 km north of the state capital Ranchi, and dragged the villagers out of their homes before gunning them down. -- Reuters.

INDONESIA

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Indonesian National Police chief Gen. Sutanto said today that at least 13,000 police officers would be withdrawn from Aceh in line with the peace agreement signed in Helsinki on Aug. 15 between the government and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM). "We already withdrew 780 police officers on Aug 14. The second withdrawal will be conducted tomorrow, and will mean the (eventual) withdrawal of 13,000 police officers," he said after attending a co-ordination meeting on politics, laws and security. Sutanto said the pullout showed the police were serious in their support of the peace process. Today's meeting, which lasted three hours, discussed the necessary steps the Indonesian Military (TNI) and the police must take to abide by the agreement.

London, Sep 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Preparations are under way for a watershed disarming of rebels in the Indonesian province of Aceh, in line with a peace deal signed last month. Free Aceh Movement (Gam) members gathered dozens of assault rifles due to be handed over tomorrow. The government is to withdraw all forces sent to quell the rebellion by the end of the year, and 1,300 elite police left today. Some 210 Gam weapons - about a quarter of the total to be given up - are to be handed to international monitors in coming days, and the rest by the end of the year. At the same time, the Indonesian government is gradually withdrawing about 50% of the police and soldiers stationed in Aceh - 14,700 military and 9,100 police will remain. In return for laying down their arms, the rebels have put aside their demand for full independence, accepting political representation instead, and Gam political prisoners have been released. The atmosphere has already relaxed in Aceh, and Gam members have begun leaving their mountain hideouts to return home. However, the EU team

monitoring the peace deal did report a violation to the two sides' Memorandum of Understanding yesterday. It said Gam members wounded two soldiers in Lhokseumawe on Saturday (Sep 10), for which they would be reported to the government.

IRAQ

London, Sep 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Baghdad International Airport was closed today after the British company providing security suspended operations because of a payments dispute with Iraq's Ministry of Transport, officials said. London-based Global Strategies Group said the ministry, which owns the complex 12 miles from downtown Baghdad, "is not currently paying the company for the services it has rendered." No payment had been received for the last seven months, it said. The statement said that since the company took over responsibility last year for security at the airport, flights had risen from two or three a day to about 50, "while security incidents have fallen to virtually nil." The company said its staff would continue securing the facility, but that normal airport operations would be suspended until further notice. "Once payment is made by the client, Global will resume its work and allow normal operations to resume." An airport official said Global informed management last week that it planned to stop work because of unresolved financial problems with the government. "Today at 0800 hrs, they stopped work," said the official who asked not to be identified. It was not immediately possible to contact the ministry, which was closed on Fridays. In June, the company suspended airport operations for 48 hours for the same reason.

London, Sep 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Baghdad International Airport reopened early today after being closed for a day in a payments dispute between the government and a British security firm. "We have reached agreement with the Global security firm, and the airport is open now for domestic and international flights," said Esmat Amer, acting Transportation Minister. He declined to give details of the agreement. London-based Global Strategies Group has been providing security at the airport 12 miles from downtown Baghdad since last year.

London, Sep 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Iraq's Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari has revealed that US and Iraqi forces have launched an attack on the northern city of Talafar to rid it of suspected terrorists. In a statement, Jaafari said: "At 0200 today, acting on my orders, Iraqi forces commenced an operation to remove all remaining terrorist elements from the city of Talafar. These forces are operating with support from the Multi-National Force." Jaafari said the troops were responding to appeals for help from "all the different religious and ethnic elements in Talafar". The town, west of the northern city of Mosul and near

the Syrian border, is mostly populated by ethnic Turkmen. US and Iraqi forces have long said Talafar was being used as a conduit for equipment and foreign fighters smuggled in from Syria to fight the Kurdish and Shi'ite Muslim-led Iraqi government and occupying US forces across the country. Civilians have been evacuated from the town as military operations have stepped up.

Baghdad, Sep 11 -- Thousands of families are fleeing the northern Iraqi city of Talafar, aid workers confirmed, as Coalition forces conduct a military operation against insurgents. According to the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS), the situation is critical and hundreds of families are moving day and night to temporary camps donated and prepared by the aid organisation. "We need urgently supplies because we have already run out," Ferdous al-Abadi, spokeswoman for the IRCS, said. Heavy bombardment and artillery by gunship helicopters as well as street fighting could be seen in the al-Saray area of the city, Iraqi officials said. The operation in the city, some 80 km east of Mosul city, and near the Syrian border, started yesterday. With a population of nearly 400,000 residents, some 50,000 families, the city had received information that the operation may continue for a long period and that people should leave within 72 hours from the start of the operation. Talafar, one of the largest cities inside Ninewa governorate, has witnessed insecurity for the last 18 months due to insurgency that security forces are now trying to quell. The IRCS called on international humanitarian organisations to help overcome a shortage of medicine and essential materials caused by the unexpected and tragic stampede in a Baghdad district last week. Food cans, emergency first aid kits, blood bags, body bags, blankets, bed sheets, and stretchers, painkillers and anaesthetics are desperately needed, al-Abadi said. Based on the last humanitarian report yesterday, the IRCS said nearly 3,000 families were already displaced in the area between Mosul and Talafar in a village called Abu Maria (Al-Nakhwa). The camp is 20 km east of Talafar and has a capacity for 500 families only but the number is expected to increase to 5,000 families. -- Reuters.

London, Sep 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Turkish citizen kidnapped in Iraq, was freed after the payment a ransom of US\$200,000, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported today. Entering Turkey from Habur border crossing after being freed, Turkish jeweller Enver Unvar was quoted as saying that he was stopped by armed men when he was returning to Turkey after having a meeting with Iraqi businessmen in Baghdad 40 days ago. Unvar said the armed men called themselves "Iraqi mujaheddins" and he and his friend Feyaz Alisan were taken to an unknown place. "They told us that they would release us in return for

US\$200,000. My family paid the ransom. If they had not, I would not be alive and I would have been beheaded," added Unvar. According to Unvar, his friend Feyaz Alisan is still being held captive by the armed men. Turks have frequently fallen victim to the persistent violence in Iraq, where insurgents often resort to hostage-taking in an attempt to drive out foreign forces and companies.

Dubai, Sep 12 -- An Iraqi militant group has offered up to \$100,000 for killing the prime minister and top officials who launched an offensive on rebels in a northern town, according to an Internet statement posted today. The Islamic Army in Iraq, among several insurgent groups fighting U.S. troops and Iraqi forces, said Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari and the defense and interior ministers should die for the fighting in Tal Afar. "The leadership of the army has issued orders to all the mujahideen to intensify their attacks... to avenge the mass extermination occurring in Tal Afar," said the statement which was not dated but bore the group's logo. The statement could not be immediately verified. It put a \$100,000 price on Jaafari, \$50,000 for Interior Minister Bayan Jabr and \$30,000 for Defense Minister Saadoun Dulaimi. U.S. and Iraqi troops are hunting rebels and foreign fighters in Tal Afar, a city of 200,000 near the Syrian border. Yesterday, the leader of Iraq's al Qaeda, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, accused the U.S. army of using poison gas on the town to "finish off the mujahideen." -- Reuters.

Istanbul, Sep 13 -- Three Turkish engineers kidnapped by insurgents in Iraq two months ago have been released and have returned to Turkey, state-run Anatolian news agency said today. The three men were shown on a video released to Arabic television last month in which their captors said they were issuing a "last warning" to companies dealing with U.S.-led forces in Iraq. "They didn't push us around at all, but every night they threatened to kill us, saying 'we will cut off your heads'," the agency quoted one of the men, Fatih Yigit, as saying after reaching the Turkish border. The three men were released near the central city of Beiji yesterday morning, the agency said, but it was not immediately clear if their company had stopped its Iraq operations. -- Reuters. (See issue of Sep 13.)

Baghdad, Sep 13 -- A suicide car bomber blew himself up on Baghdad's western outskirts yesterday as he approached an Iraqi army checkpoint and a second bomber was arrested before he could detonate his vehicle, the defence ministry said. There were no civilian or military casualties. Elsewhere, in Hilla, two civilians were killed and 13 wounded when a man travelling on a bus, carrying a bomb concealed in a large sack of flour, stepped off the bus before detonating the explosives in the Shi'ite city of Hilla, police said. In Falluja, the bodies of three Iraqi civilians shot dead by insurgents were found by

Iraqi police on the highway just north of the town of Falluja, police said. -- Reuters.

Tal Afar, Sep 13 -- The Iraqi army said it killed 14 insurgents and captured 35 today as troops chased militants down the narrow streets of the rebel northern town of Tal Afar, on the fourth day of a major military assault. The attack, led by Iraqi forces backed up by U.S. troops, came as Iraq's President Jalal Talabani said Washington could withdraw as many as 50,000 troops by the end of this year as the Iraqi army became a credible fighting force in its own right. He said one Iraqi soldier was killed and five wounded by a roadside bomb in Tal Afar today, and the army had found a large number of weapons caches, including 13 mortars and three tonnes of munitions. -- Reuters.

Baghdad, Sep 14 -- A suicide bomber killed over 80 people in a crowded Shi'ite district of Baghdad today, while gunmen killed 17 north of the city and the capital resounded with explosions and gunfire. The violence came as Iraqi troops, with U.S. support, continued operations against insurgents across the country. Fears of civil war are growing in the run-up to a divisive vote on a new constitution for Iraq's post-Saddam Hussein era. The suicide bomber blew up an explosives-packed minibus in Kadhimiya, in Baghdad's old town, killing 82 and wounding 163, most of them labourers looking for day jobs, police said. An Interior Ministry source said the bomber lured the men toward his vehicle with promises of work before detonating the bomb, which contained up to 500 lbs of explosives. Around two hours later another blast was heard in central Baghdad, and two more car bombs exploded shortly afterwards. Police said five were killed and 20 wounded in one of the blasts, near the offices of a Shi'ite cleric. There were no details on casualties in the other explosions. Separately, gunmen dragged 17 people from their homes and killed them just north of Baghdad early today, police said. -- Reuters.

ISRAEL

London, Sep 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: The kidnapped son of slain ex-security chief Moussa Arafat was released early today, two days after he was seized by the attackers who killed his father. An Associated Press reporter saw Manhal Arafat enter the office of Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas in Gaza City early today, accompanied by Palestinian officials. Dozens of gunmen stormed the Arafat home Wednesday morning, killing the former head of Palestinian security and abducting his son. A masked man saying he represents the Popular Resistance Committees, a renegade group, reaffirmed responsibility for the killing and kidnapping, after leaders of the group distanced themselves from the attack. A Palestinian statement said Abbas would take part in the military

funeral for Moussa Arafat after midday prayers today. After meeting Abbas, Manhal Arafat was taken to his dead father's house. Gunmen outside fired in the air and kept reporters away. Abbas pledged to hunt down the killers. The killing raised new questions about the Palestinian Authority's ability to take control of Gaza after Israel completes its pullout next week. It occurred a block from the headquarters of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service, which failed to respond, and 400 yards from Abbas' Gaza residence.

Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, Sep 11 -- Israeli troops shot and wounded three Palestinians in a crowd pressing to enter an abandoned Jewish settlement in Gaza today as the army prepared to pull out of the territory, witnesses said. The clash occurred near a fence where Israeli troops remained on guard outside the ex-settlement of Neve Dekalim as commanders carried out a symbolic flag-lowering ceremony nearby. -- Reuters.

Neve Dekalim, Gaza Strip, Sep 14 -- Palestinian security forces took control in abandoned Jewish settlements in Gaza today, ending two days of anarchy following Israel's withdrawal from the territory. Security sources said Palestinian and Egyptian police halted a deluge of travellers over the nearby border with Egypt that Israel condemned, saying Gaza militants opposed to peace efforts could exploit the disorder to smuggle in weaponry. The former Gush Katif settlement bloc in south Gaza looked largely deserted today aside from Palestinian security units. Gone were the legions of Palestinian revellers, looters and armed militants who swamped it on Monday (Sep 12) and yesterday. But crowds were expected to return to Neve Dekalim, the largest of the ex-enclaves where 8,500 Jews lived, later in the day for an official mass Palestinian Authority celebration to be addressed by President Mahmoud Abbas. Abbas and Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei, who toured the tumult in the vacated enclaves yesterday, implored Palestinians to stop the chaos and start rebuilding to show the world they deserve a future state. After standing by and even joining in the wild festivities, security forces started late yesterday to curb movement into ex-settlements and confiscate booty from scavengers who stripped down greenhouses and synagogues, which were also torched. Chaos erupted along the border after Monday's withdrawal as tens of thousands of Palestinians, no longer deterred by a lethal Israeli army buffer strip, clambered walls into Egypt and flooded cheap Egyptian town markets and appliance shops. But Palestinian and Egyptian police clamped down early today, restricting access to seven informal crossing points, security sources and witnesses said. They said furious Hamas militants blew open a big hole in the border wall with a bomb but Palestinian and Egyptian police swiftly blocked the area. "We

started deploying along the border last night and have now reinforced. By this evening we will prevent anyone going through," a senior Palestinian security official told Reuters. The fenced boundary remained a sieve here and there. On Monday, Abbas said imposing law and order was vital to statehood aspirations in Gaza and the West Bank, where 245,000 Jewish settlers remain. His biggest challenge in Gaza will be subduing militant factions and motley armed gangs, many of them affiliated with his fractured Fatah movement. They refuse to disarm, but Abbas hopes to co-opt them with security and public service jobs. Israel rules out statehood talks under a U.S.-devised "road map" peace plan before militants are disarmed. Abbas, in a nod to the tens of thousands of Gazans whose houses were demolished in Israeli offensives into militant strongholds or who live in refugee hovels, announced plans for 3,000 new homes in a new town to be built on settlement ruins. -- Reuters.

JAMAICA

Kingston, Jamaica, Sep 8 -- Four people were shot and killed in partisan violence in the Mountain View community east of Jamaica's capital, where fires and gunfights raged, police said today. The violence began on Tuesday (Sep 6) during a nationwide protest against rising prices, which was organised by the opposition Jamaica Labour Party and led to a virtual shutdown of commerce on the island. A 71-year-old man was shot dead by a group of men during a dispute over an impromptu roadblock and police were trying to quell an ongoing dispute as his friends sought revenge. Three other men were shot and killed during the disturbances in the Mountain View neighborhood that links Kingston with Norman Manley International Airport. Police said four houses were set afire and burned to the ground and bombs were thrown into other homes. Supporters of the ruling People's National Party and the opposition party assigned themselves to sections of the community and have prevented each other from entering the other's neighborhoods. Scores of residents fled the area and traffic to and from the airport was diverted onto lengthy detours. The killings pushed Jamaica's murder tally to 1,157, the highest ever recorded for the year to date. The nation of 2.7 million people had 1,469 murders last year and police said the annual toll could top 1,500 for the first time in Jamaica's history. -- Reuters.

MOZAMBIQUE

Johannesburg, Sep 8 -- Mozambican politicians have roundly condemned a recent clash between supporters of the country's major political parties over disputed municipal elections. Twelve people were killed and 47 injured earlier this week after scuffles broke out between adherents of the ruling FRELIMO party and the opposition RENAMO party in Mocimboa da Praia municipality, in the northern province

of Cabo Delgado. The skirmish occurred during a march by RENAMO supporters to protest a Constitutional Council ruling upholding a disputed local by-election victory by the governing FRELIMO party in May. "There have been a lot of allegations that RENAMO supporters caused the trouble but that is not true -- we got news that the houses of local political leaders from both sides were burnt down. It is not clear what went wrong, and we do not encourage this; we are asking the authorities to investigate," RENAMO spokesman Fernando Mazanga said yesterday. "We must be careful not to paint a picture that there is violence between RENAMO and FRELIMO. This is a local problem and will be dealt with in that province (Cabo Delgado)," he added. FRELIMO spokesman Edson Macuacua said investigators from the capital Maputo had arrived in the municipality today to determine the reasons behind the confrontation. "It was not the police that fired on protestors, but instead we received reports that supporters from both sides had guns," he told IRIN. Although international observers endorsed the outcome of last year's general elections, RENAMO wholly rejected the results and threatened to boycott parliament. The former rebel group claimed irregularities in the final tabulation of results. FRELIMO's Armando Guebuza beat RENAMO leader Afonso Dhlakama to become Mozambique's president in December 2004 elections, replacing President Joaquim Chissano, who retired. Johane Zonjo of the University of Eduardo Mondlane in Maputo said although the incident was cause for concern, it did not reflect the relationship political parties usually shared in the rest of the country. "Yes, there is some bitterness among some RENAMO supporters over the recent election results but, generally, the party's support base has accepted that FRELIMO is in government," he commented. "But what is a concern is that even though it has been more than 10 years since the end of the (16-year civil) war, there is still some tension between the two sides and people are willing to use violence," said Zonjo. -- Reuters.

NEPAL

Kathmandu, Sep 11 -- At least seven people were injured and more than 100 detained during rallies against the king in Nepal today, a day after Maoist rebels said their week-old truce was at risk because of government sabotage. Riot police fired water cannon and teargas to stop thousands of people, from seven political parties, marching to the city centre near the palace to protest against King Gyanendra, who sacked the government and assumed absolute power in February. Protesters with red and blue party flags shouting "Down with the absolute monarch" and other slogans have been demonstrating since last week to press the king to restore democracy. The king refuses, saying he

had to act as he did to crush the Maoist revolt against his rule. The protests followed last week's announcement by Maoist chief Prachanda of a unilateral three-month truce, a move aimed at winning the support of the mainstream parties against King Gyanendra. Prachanda said the truce was at risk because the government was sabotaging it and appealed to the United Nations to help bring peace to the troubled nation. -- Reuters.

NIGERIA

Enugu, Nigeria, Sep 8 -- Anti-riot police arrested 45 protestors in the south-east Nigerian town of Onitsha during region-wide demonstrations called by a banned secessionist group, police officials and witnesses said today. The Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) said it called protests held in several south-eastern cities yesterday to protest alleged harassment of its members by the security forces and to intensify its demand for secession. At one protest in Onitsha, Anambra State, a policeman sent to stop the protestors was shot dead by MASSOB activists, according to police. "Four policemen were shot by the MASSOB men and one died on the spot, with the rest still in hospital," said police spokesman Kolapo Sofoluwe. The police remain on a high alert and ready to arrest any protestor attempting to take to the streets without police permission, he said. "Anybody who comes out in the name of MASSOB or any other banned organisation will definitely be arrested," said Sofoluwe. -- Reuters.

PAKISTAN

London, Sep 9 -- A press report, dated Sep 8, states: Bombs have exploded in two fast food restaurants in Karachi, injuring several people. The explosions rocked a Kentucky Fried Chicken branch in an upmarket residential area and a McDonald's outlet on the Karachi seafront. Several families were eating inside the KFC restaurant at the time of the attack, which caused major damage. The bomb inside KFC shattered glass across the restaurant and blew a hole in a concrete floor. There were no reports of serious injuries but several people were treated for cuts from flying glass, a police spokesman said. Eight minutes later a second device went off outside the McDonald's restaurant on Karachi's seafront, where some 80 people were dining. There were no reports of casualties here. Karachi police chief Tariq Jamil described the bombs as "home-made, low intensity devices". The city has been the scene of several other attacks blamed on Islamic extremists opposed to Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf and Western interests in the region.

London, Sep 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Reports from Pakistan say that a nation-wide strike called by opposition parties has attracted limited support. The strike

is effective in the city of Quetta, where hardline Islamic parties who are spearheading the protest have strong support, but in the country's other cities, life is carrying on as normal although some shops and businesses are shut. The opposition have called the strike to press for the resignation of the country's president, Pervez Musharraf. They say the move is a protest against local elections held last month. More than 40 people died in the two phases of the polls, amid widespread allegations of rigging. The strike is the first time that all the main opposition parties have come together since General Musharraf seized power in 1999. Opposition members also staged a walk out from the parliament in support of the strike. Authorities have stepped up security during Friday's action, the Associated Press reports. Some shops and businesses are shut in the cities of Karachi and Lahore and traffic is thinner than usual, but the strike has not had much impact on the capital Islamabad and the frontier city of Peshawar. "There has been a partial impact but the banks are open and attendance at government offices is almost normal," Salahuddin Haider, spokesman for Sindh province, is quoted as saying by AFP.

Karachi, Sep 13 -- Frontier Constabulary picket and the main Sui gas pipeline came under rocket and mortar attack in the Bhattai colony police area near Kandhkot in northern Sindh Province of Pakistan yesterday morning. According to local media report, a group of armed men from Balochistan launched the attack on the check-post of the Frontier Constabulary and police set up in the area to protect the main pipeline supplying Sui gas to Karachi and Punjab. Three rockets and mortars fired by the outlaws landed in a nearby area while one mortar did not explode. There was no loss of life or property. FC and police officials fired back, forcing the assailants to escape. A bomb disposal squad defused the 75-pound mortar shell which was of Russian make. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Pakistan's army destroyed a major al-Qaida hide-out and arrested 21 suspected militants, including foreigners, and a government official accused of helping them in a remote northwestern tribal region near Afghanistan, a military commander said today. During the four-day operation, thousands of troops seized a cache of weapons, including bombs, detonators and rockets; communications equipment used to exchange messages with militants in Afghanistan and propaganda CDs and literature. "It is the biggest-ever operation, which is still going on in North Waziristan," Lt. Gen. Safdar Hussain, the top army commander responsible for anti-terrorism operations in northwestern Pakistan, told a news conference. Hussain said foreigners and "some

important men are included among the captured people," although he would not elaborate. The latest operation came in the same area where suspected militants slit the throats of three people yesterday and threw their bodies in a drain in a village east of Miran Shah on suspicion they were spies. According to residents and officials, a note pinned on one victim said, "Anybody who works as a spy for America will have to face the same fate."

RUSSIA

Moscow, Sep 10 -- Two roadside explosions in Russia's Ingushetia region near Chechnya injured a police officer today, and a separate blast hit a regional gas pipeline, officials and media said. Two makeshift roadside bombs went off in the Ingush city of Malgobek when the police officer was driving to work in his car, a local interior ministry spokesman said. Another bomb exploded near a gas pipeline on Ingushetia's border with the southern Russian region of North Ossetia, Interfax news agency quoted regional sources as saying. No other details on the pipeline were immediately available. The latest blasts occurred less than a month after Ingushetia's Prime Minister Ibrahim Malsagov survived an assassination attempt. -- Reuters.

SUDAN

Khartoum, Sep 8 -- The Sudanese government and two main rebel groups from Sudan's western Darfur region said today they would attend peace talks scheduled to start on Sep 15. Diplomats in Khartoum said one faction of the Sudan Liberation Army/Movement wanted more time to prepare for the African Union sponsored talks but would send representation if the talks started as planned. Sudanese and US officials have said they hope the coming round of talks, due to take place in Abuja, will result in a peace deal to end the conflict, which has killed tens of thousands and driven around two million from their homes. -- Reuters.

Khartoum, Sep 13 -- A senior rebel leader in Sudan's western Darfur region said today the government killed 10 fighters and at least the same number of civilians in attacks aimed at derailing upcoming peace talks. An armed forces spokesman denied government forces were involved in any attacks in Darfur in the run up to peace talks in the Nigerian capital Abuja on Sep 15. "The government has attacked us for three days ... First there is shelling and then the government's militias attack us," Abdel Wahed Mohamed al-Nur, chairman of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) told Reuters. "The government wants the talks to fail," he added. Nur said the government was attacking SLA positions west of Sheng al-Tobei village, which is around 65 km south of El-Fasher, capital of North Darfur state. "Ten SLA soldiers and 10

civilians have so far died," Nur said, adding government forces last bombarded the SLA this morning. Nur said an SLA delegation was on its way to Abuja and had no plans to abandon the AU-organised negotiations. "If the government carry on like this the talks will take place but will have no future," Nur added. Sudanese and U.S. officials have said they want the latest round of peace talks to result in a peace deal to end the conflict, which started in early 2003. An AU official had no immediate information on the attacks but said officials were carrying out checks.

THAILAND

London, Sep 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two men were killed and five others wounded, including a village headman, in attacks in Yala and Narathiwat Provinces yesterday. Meanwhile, about 5,000 Muslim villagers in Narathiwat's Rangae district took oaths to combat the insurgency and bring peace to their communities. Orchard owner Sama-ae Jaewae, 54, was shot dead by two men on a motorcycle on Ban Samor-Kudong road in Narathiwat's Rangae district on the way to his house in the morning. Also in Yala, a truck driver was shot dead and one worker wounded when four men on two motorcycles sprayed bullets at the vehicle.

TURKEY

Diyarbakir, Turkey, Sep 11 -- One Turkish soldier was killed and two others were wounded in an attack on a gendarmerie station in Turkey's Bingol province today. Bingol governor's office said the military launched a large-scale operation against the separatist Kurdish group PKK militants, who escaped after the attack on the station. -- Reuters.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sep 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Police and civilians were injured as loyalist gunmen opened fire during ferocious rioting on the streets of Belfast. A barrage of blast and petrol bombs was also hurled at officers and soldiers as violence erupted over a bitterly disputed Orange Order parade. Two men were taken to hospital, one with a gunshot wound and the other seriously injured after being caught by one of the explosions. Up to six police officers were hurt as well, in some of the most serious disorder in Belfast for years. Plastic bullets and water cannon were deployed in a bid to halt the mayhem. Cars were hijacked and a bus set alight as chaos spread across west and north Belfast. Major roads were also blocked off, threatening huge traffic disruptions. Police could not confirm the extent of the officers' injuries, although at least one was taken away by ambulance with head wounds. Bullets and bombs struck a number of armoured Landrovers. At one stage men and women had to take cover behind their vehicles amid the gunfire, a security source said. Loyalist

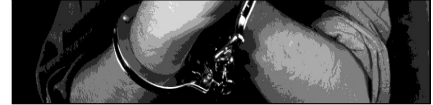
factions also clashed briefly with nationalists opposed to the controversial Whiterock Parade. Orangemen and their supporters had been incensed by a Parades Commission decision to reroute the march, following opposition from nationalist residents. Instead of passing through security gates onto the Springfield Road, marchers were told to go through the site of the former engineering firm, Mackies. As they made their way through, crowds on both sides taunted each other. The gates at Workman Avenue locked to keep loyalists out were pounded sporadically. The trouble was at its height further up on the North Circular Road, where the gun and bomb attacks were concentrated. Police fired baton rounds at rioters as the violence intensified. Disturbances then spread to the Upper Crumlin Road/Hesketh Road junction of north Belfast, with security forces pelted by more petrol bombs and stones. A vehicle was hijacked and set on fire at police lines, a PSNI spokesman said. Three more cars were reported on fire on the Ardoyne Road, while a burning bus blocked off North Queen Street, close to the city centre.

London, Sep 11 - The BBC reports today: A mob of around 700 people have taken to the streets of Belfast in a new wave of loyalist rioting, police said. Petrol bombs and missiles were thrown at security lines on Albertbridge Road in the east of the city. One police officer has been reported injured. A blast bomb also exploded outside New Barnsley Police Station in west Belfast, causing minor damage. Nearly 100 masked men have also attacked police with petrol bombs on Ardoyne Road, in the city's north. Police in east Belfast have recovered a digger, abandoned by rioters, who drove it along the Albertbridge Road knocking down street lights and causing extensive damage. An ATM was also believed to have been removed from nearby premises by the driver of the digger. As police recovered the items they and the military came under sustained attack. The trouble follows the worst rioting in years, yesterday. The Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde has ordered a major investigation into what happened. Later today, gangs reportedly set fire to a hijacked car and a van in south Belfast, while more vehicles were seized in the north. According to reports, two men hijacked a bus on the Belfast Road, in Bangor, then drove it to Clondeboye Road, where they stole personal belongings from the passengers, then ordered them off the bus. They then drove it to Green Road, at the Breezemount estate, Conlig, and set it alight. Police in the area are under attack from petrol bombs and other missiles. Nearly 100 masked men have also attacked police with petrol bombs on Ardoyne Road, in the city's north. The new wave of violence broke out after

police raided homes in search of the perpetrators of yesterday's riots, which resulted in 32 police officers being injured. Sir Hugh Orde has described it as the Province's worst rioting in years. He blamed loyalist paramilitaries of orchestrating the violence and trying to kill police officers. A 48-year-old man and a 16-year-old have been charged with riotous assembly and resisting arrest over the disturbances. They are due to appear before in Belfast magistrates tomorrow.

London, Sep 13 -- The BBC reported today: A police officer was knocked unconscious during a third night of loyalist violence in Belfast. Yesterday, soldiers and police were attacked with petrol bombs, blast bombs and fireworks in the Crumlin Road area. In west Belfast one officer was knocked out with a brick thrown by a rioter and petrol bombs were thrown at New Barnsley police station. Police moved water cannon onto the Shankill Road after being attacked by rioters throwing petrol bombs. They said the violence was not on the same scale as rioting by loyalists at the weekend. Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Hain is reviewing whether Ulster Volunteer Force or Ulster Defence Association members orchestrated the violence. Mr Hain will examine footage of the rioting. He said: "The evidence I have seen is absolutely clear-cut. If it wasn't clear-cut before, it's absolutely categorical now. As a result, I'm now going through, and indeed have been over the past week, a process in which I will be making an announcement in the next few days." Detectives investigating the disturbances, which began on Saturday (Sep 10) after an Orange Order parade was re-routed, have charged a man with weapons and terrorist offences. He will appear before magistrates in Belfast today. Cars were set on fire in the Ligoneil Road in the north of the city and on the largely loyalist Kilcooley estate in Bangor. Youths threw stones from Roden Street onto the Westlink in south Belfast. The Fortwilliam exit of the M2 and the Grosvenor Road were closed because of disturbances. Drivers were advised to avoid the area. Earlier, road and rail traffic leaving the city was disrupted by security alerts and protests. Police stopped a bus being hijacked in the Crumlin Road area, but were unable to stop two other vehicles being burnt out. The blockades followed intense rioting by loyalists over the weekend. Unionists said there had been a build-up of resentment within their community because of the government's handling of the peace process. Derriaghy Road, at Milltown, in the west of Belfast, was blocked by protesters, as was Broadway. The main Lisburn to Dunmurry road was also closed, due to a protest by a crowd of between 50 and 60 women, but has also been reopened.

Kidnappings



NETHERLANDS

London, Sep 14 -- A press report, dated Sep 13, states: Dutch police said today armed men have kidnapped a woman whose family owns a multimillion-dollar company, and a search was underway. Police said they received a report late yesterday that men had broken into the home of Claudia Melchers, 37, and that she had been taken away. They were treating the case as a kidnapping. Melchers family owns the Melchemie chemicals company, one of the Netherlands largest companies, which supplied chemicals to Iraq in the 1980s. It was unclear whether the possible kidnapping was related to the company's earlier dealings in the Middle East. Police said the woman's two young children were left unharmed in the house in an upscale neighbourhood of southern Amsterdam.

Labour Disputes



FRANCE

London, Sep 8 -- A press report, dated Sep 7, states: Total SA has resolved a strike at its French refineries less than 24 hours after it had begun. The oil company said workers have agreed to end a strike that had lowered production at five out of six of its refineries in France, adding that full capacity is expected to be reached tonight. The Confederation Generale du Travail labor union said it had called workers to go on strike to protest against sanctions the company imposed on four employees after a technical incident at the Provence refinery, near Marseilles. The incident, which occurred in August, had caused a mist of diesel fuel that rained on neighbouring land and houses. Total said it has agreed to soften the sanctions to accelerate the ending of the strike, but noted the four workers will be demoted.

ITALIAN AIRLINE PERSONNEL

London, Sep 8 -- A press report, dated Sep 7, states: Alitalia SpA cancelled only 52 out of a planned 1,600 flights over the past two days during the strike called by cabin crew trade union SULT, said airline sources. The SULT union called the strike over Alitalia's refusal to recognise the union any longer in industrial negotiations, and in defiance of government calls for the protest to be postponed. Alitalia

denied its cancellations were caused by the strike, though airline officials said some flights had been cancelled due to lack of passengers. Airport sources in Rome said Alitalia counters and check-in desks were deserted during the strike. SULT sources said the government had required cabin crews to maintain a minimum service, or face fines of up to 500 eur, while the airline hired temporary workers to man aircraft. SULT, which has 4,000 members, mostly in cabin crews, is the only one of 10 unions representing the 20,000 Alitalia workers which continues to oppose a restructuring plan.

PAKISTAN

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

PHILIPPINES

London, Sep 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: A transport strike, scheduled for today, is expected to paralyse major public routes in Philippines' key areas, especially if militant groups stage simultaneous mass actions nationwide in support of the move. The Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Operators Nationwide (Piston) vowed over the weekend to mount the nationwide transport strike to protest the continuing increases in oil prices in the country. Moreover, Piston president Mar Garbida called on militant groups to support their cause as he explained the planned transport strike will denounce the Department of Energy (DoE)'s failure to control the almost weekly oil price increases. He said Piston will also push for the junking of the Oil Industry Deregulation Act and claimed the fare hike that the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) had approved was already useless.

SOUTH KOREA

London, Sep 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hyundai Motor Co., South Korea's largest carmaker, agreed to raise its pay offer and added a bonus to end a two-week strike that had cost 591 billion won (\$575 million) in lost production. Workers will get a 6.9 percent pay rise and receive a 300 percent bonus, said Hyundai Motor's spokesman Jake Jang today. The increase, more than the Seoul-based carmaker's earlier 6.3 percent offer and less than the union's 8.5 percent demand, will be put up for a vote by workers on Monday (Sep 12), Jang said. In return, the union agreed to the company's demand that workers be allowed to be moved from one assembly line to another to raise productivity. Currently, that is prohibited by an agreement between the union and the management. Production was halted on as many as 42,707 Sonata and Elantra sedans, Santro minicars and other models during the strike, Hyundai Motor said. "The production loss can be recovered through overtime," said Kim Hagju, a Samsung Securities Co. auto analyst

who recommends investors buy Hyundai Motor's stock. The strike would have "minimal impact" on the carmaker's earnings, he said.

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Workers at South Korean carmaker Kia have ended a two-week series of strikes, four days after colleagues at Hyundai ended similar stoppages. They agreed to resume normal working after accepting a 6.9% pay increase, the same as their Hyundai counterparts. They also secured better conditions including changes in the shift system, union and company officials said. Workers at Hyundai and Kia, both part of Hyundai Motor Group, had repeatedly downed tools for lengthy periods.

TAIWAN

London, Sep 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: The employees of state-run Taiwan Business Bank decided to end a four-day work stoppage in protest of a privatisation plan and go back to work today after successfully appealing to lawmakers for help yesterday. Union representatives went to the Legislative Yuan yesterday and petitioned lawmakers to help postpone the sale of the government's holdings in the lender. "The legislature has agreed to include the halting of the bank's share-sale on the agenda [for this session]," Lin Wan-fu, chairman of the Taiwan Business Bank Industrial Union, said yesterday. Lin said the union had decided to temporarily cease its strike, since their pleas to stop the auction and their opposition to a takeover are now widely known, Lin said. Bank employees will renew their strikes once the ministry announces the potential buyer of the bank, no matter which financial institution it is, according to Lin. The government last week opened a tender to sell off its 44 percent stake in the bank. In response to the union, the Ministry of Finance, which governs state-owned banks, said yesterday that the bid would go ahead as planned, despite a difference of opinion with the legislature. The union began its work stoppage last Thursday (Sep 8) in opposition to the government's plan to sell its stake in the bank. The union's move hindered the auction to sell the government's stake in the bank, which opened the day after the strike began. The result of the auction is still pending. The auction reportedly attracted offers from only three interested buyers, including state-run Mega Financial Holding Co, Fubon Financial Holding Co and E.Sun Financial Holding Co.

UNITED STATES

London, Sep 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Boeing Co.'s third-quarter earnings may be reduced by at least 14 cents a share if a strike by machinists against the world's No 2 commercial-airline maker isn't resolved by the end of the month, analysts said. A 30-day strike would delay delivery of 30 planes, reducing

revenue by about \$2.1 billion, D.A. Davidson & Co. analyst JB Groh said. Boeing, whose union representing 18,300 machinists went on strike on Sep 2, was expected to earn 90 cents a share this quarter on \$14.7 billion in sales, the average estimate of at least 11 analysts surveyed by Thomson Financial. The dispute over pension and medical benefits presents the first major challenge to new Chief Executive Officer James McNerney and comes amid the strongest commercial-plane market in almost five years. The machinists, who make and assemble aircraft parts, have gone on strike six times in the past 57 years, the average walkout lasting about two months, according to union data. Boeing was expected to deliver 85 aircraft this quarter, with an average price of \$74 million, Groh said. The strike is unlikely to result in cancellation of current orders, said Paul Nisbet, an analyst at JSA Research in Newport, Rhode Island. Revenue from delayed deliveries will appear in later quarters, he said. "Deliveries will go down to a trickle very quickly and then stop altogether," said Nisbet. "But all the orders they have now will be there when the strike is over. What they lose this quarter will be gained in the next one or next year." Boeing's final offer to the machinists raises their pensions by 10 percent to \$66 a month for each year of service and increases some medical costs. Workers were seeking a 33 percent pension-payment increase from the current \$60. The proposed three-year contract mostly covers workers mainly in the Seattle area and some in Portland, Oregon, and Wichita, Kansas. No new contract talks are scheduled, said union spokeswoman Connie Kelliher and Boeing's Bickers. "This strike could go well into fourth quarter because there is such a divide between what the union is looking for and what Boeing is willing to provide," Nisbet said.

London, Sep 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: Northwest Airlines said it will begin hiring workers tomorrow to replace striking employees after contract negotiations broke down yesterday. The Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association discontinued talks, the St. Paul, Minnesota-based Northwest said in a statement. A recorded message on the union's hotline confirmed talks had ended. Northwest's 4,427 mechanics, cleaners and custodians walked out on Aug 20 rather than accept 25 percent pay cuts and layoffs of some 2,000 workers.

Mexico City, Sep 14 -- Strike-bound and bankrupt U.S. copper miner Asarco will employ replacement workers to boost production, the company said today after the union rejected its latest offer. Asarco said copper output had dropped 21 percent on the strike compared to a year ago, to almost 37 million pounds in July and August. Asarco Chief Executive Daniel Tellechea said he wanted to see strikers back at work, but in the meantime would employ replacements.

"We have been waiting and waiting. We can't wait forever," he said. "We need to continue producing copper to improve our cash flow." The union said Asarco's latest move sent the wrong message to workers. Around 1,500 workers went on strike over the July 4 weekend, refusing to accept benefit cuts amid record copper prices. Workers and the company came close to an agreement last week, but talks stalled over demands that the United Steelworkers union keep representing workers in the event the company was sold. Tellechea said Asarco, the U.S. subsidiary of world's No. 3 copper producer Grupo Mexico, produced 17 million pounds of copper in July, rising to 19.8 million pounds in August, down from last year but more than the company hoped to produce when the strike began. Asarco, one of the largest and oldest U.S. miners, filed for bankruptcy protection on Aug 10, citing steep environmental clean-up costs, around 95,000 asbestos-related health claims from former workers and the long-running strike. Creditors include the workers and the Deutsche Bank Trust Co., which holds a large share of Asarco's \$490 million bond debt and lease obligations. Today, Asarco negotiated a deal to avoid having power supplies cut off at its Arizona facilities. Since filing for Chapter 11 protection, Asarco has run up around \$2 million in power bills with Arizona's Salt River Project, on top of \$3.1 million owed prior to bankruptcy, according to court documents and a source close to the company. Under the new deal, Asarco will pay weekly power bills in advance, and has underwritten the \$3.1 million debt with land near Tucson, Arizona. Sources close to the company were confident Asarco could negotiate similar agreements with other utilities. Asarco's operations include three open-pit copper mines and two copper smelters in Arizona. It also has a copper refinery and precious metals plant in Amarillo, Texas. Tellechea said the impact of the replacement workers on output would not be felt until at least October. "We won't see a lot of impact in the month of September because of training issues, and because they will be relieving some of our salaried workers," he said. Asarco has managed to run some of its facilities with a skeleton staff of non-union workers. The company also says around 130 strikers have crossed the picket line. -- Reuters.

Awards & Settlements



INSIDER TRADING, UNITED STATES

New York, Sep 12 -- Lawrence Ellison, chief executive of software maker Oracle Corp, has reached a

tentative agreement to pay \$100 million to charity to resolve a lawsuit charging that he engaged in insider trading in 2001, the New York Times reported today. "The plaintiffs believe this is a very innovative settlement providing a positive benefit to Oracle," the newspaper quoted Joseph Tabacco Jr. of Berman DeValerio Pease Tabacco Burt & Pucillo, one of the lawyers representing shareholders in the suit, as saying. "It resolves a lawsuit that has been pending for almost five years," Tabacco told the Times. A spokeswoman for Oracle declined to comment to the newspaper and Alan Salpeter, a lawyer at Mayer Brown Rowe & Maw who has represented Ellison, also declined to comment. The unusual settlement, which requires the approval of Oracle's board and could still break down, would be one of the largest payments made to resolve a shareholder suit of this kind, known as a derivative lawsuit, the report said. Typically in derivative lawsuits, damages are paid directly to the company. Under the terms of the settlement, Ellison would designate the charity and the payments, to be made over five years, would be paid in the name of Oracle. The lawsuit charged that Ellison sold almost \$900 million of shares before news that Oracle would not meet its expected earnings target. The same amount of stock, after the announcement, was worth slightly more than half as much, the Times said. According to the court docket for the case, which was filed in Superior Court in San Mateo, California, a hearing on the settlement -- which requires court approval -- is scheduled for Sep 26. Under the terms of the agreement, the lawyers who brought the case for shareholders would receive about \$22.5 million, separate from the \$100 million payment, the Times report said. -- Reuters.

WRONGFUL DEATH, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: The family of a Wellesley man who suffered a fatal heart attack on a commuter train that continued to make stops to pick up passengers, has settled a wrongful death lawsuit against the MBTA and Amtrak for \$3.9 million, lawyers involved in the case said yesterday. The settlement was approved by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority board of directors last week, just three weeks before the case was scheduled to go to trial in federal court in Boston. James R. Allen, 61, an internationally recognized coastal scientist who worked for the US Geological Survey, was stricken on July 30, 2002. The commuter train he was on continued to make scheduled stops despite pleas from other passengers to seek medical help. More than 20 minutes after Allen collapsed, paramedics unsuccessfully used a defibrillator at the Back Bay station to try and revive him. A lawyer for Allen's wife, Marlene Allen, said she agreed to settle because the case

brought about changes in the MBTA's emergency procedures. The MBTA blamed Amtrak for Allen's death and said it would sue the federal agency to recover the full amount of the settlement. Amtrak contracted with the MBTA to run the commuter rail system and it was an Amtrak conductor who allegedly refused to stop the train. Amtrak no longer runs the MBTA's commuter trains.

Railway Accidents



SOUTH-HUTCHINSON AREA, KANSAS, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hazardous material teams determined that no liquefied petroleum gas leaked when two tankers and a flat rail car jumped the tracks yesterday in Reno County. Deputy Fire Chief Mike Patterson said the Burlington Northern Santa Fe train had just made a stop to pick up several tanker cars filled with gas when the accident happened yesterday afternoon outside South Hutchinson, which has about 2,500 residents and is located in south-central Kansas. No one was injured. BNSF officials were headed to the scene of the derailment yesterday evening, and a reason for the derailment wasn't given.

TOWNSVILLE, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: A goods train has derailed in the north Queensland city of Townsville after hitting a semi-trailer at a crossing. Police said the train hit the truck near the intersection of Hunter Street and Southwood Road in Stuart about 1900, AEST, yesterday. Four carriages of the train derailed in the accident, a spokeswoman said. The drivers were not injured. The train was shunting carriages inbound and the truck was travelling south on Southwood Road when the accident occurred.

VALENCIA, SPAIN

London, Sep 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two subway trains collided in the eastern city of Valencia today and injured at least 15 people, one seriously, authorities said today. One subway driver was reported to be in serious condition, while the others injured in the accident were treated for lesser, unspecified injuries, a spokeswoman of the regional office of Valencia said, speaking on customary condition of anonymity. The trains collided on the No. 1 line of the Valencia subway, just three miles south-east of the city. Service was interrupted after the accident. The spokeswoman said one of the trains had been at a standstill on the tracks, when it was hit from behind by the second train, which then partially derailed.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

London, Sep 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: A derailment about 160 kms from Port Hedland early yesterday morning is expected to have an impact on various stages of shipping at the port during the coming week. Up to 30 cars were significantly damaged and raiing will be suspended for 40 hours, whilst repairs are carried out to the track. BHP Billiton at Port Hedland advise that they will be requesting more vessels than normal be berthed out of arrival order.

Robberies & Thefts



JEWELLRY AND CASH, FREEHOLD BOROUGH, NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 8 -- A press report, dated Sep 7, states: Law enforcement officials are continuing to search for four men who robbed Ballew Jewellers, West Main Street, Freehold Borough, of \$1 million in jewelry and cash on the afternoon of Aug 26. In his first comments on the crime, Monmouth County Prosecutor Luis Valentin held a press conference on Sep 1, to ask for the public's help in trying to catch the quartet of black men who restrained four employees, cleared jewelry cases and walked out the rear door of the business in under 30 minutes. According to Valentin, during the course of the robbery the employees were secured and restrained with duct tape and brought to the basement of the building. The four suspects stole more than 300 items, including diamond jewelry such as necklaces, bracelets, engagement rings, wedding bands, earrings, Rolex watches and cash, the prosecutor said. The value of the stolen items is estimated to be more than \$1 million and Valentin said that is a conservative figure. According to Valentin, the store has a recording system which was operational at the time of the robbery. A video surveillance tape which was shown at the press conference.

Miscellaneous



OUTBREAK OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE, RUSSIA

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: More than 1000 foot-and-mouth infected cows were slaughtered in the Primorye territory. However, new foot-and-mouth cases are exposed in the territory. Veterinarians registered more than 100 new foot-and-mouth cases in cows last weekend, the Far Eastern regional emergencies centre reports. All new

foot-and-mouth cases are exposed in old infection spots where the quarantine is already in effect. The repeated vaccination of black and small cattle against the foot-and-mouth virus Asia-1 is underway in the Primorye territory. The vaccination of pigs has been launched simultaneously. The quarantine will last at least three weeks in settlements where foot-and-mouth cases are registered. The first foot-and-mouth cases were registered in cattle in Primorye on Aug 26.

POWER OUTAGE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Yesterday's outage affected about 2 million people served by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Traffic was snarled, people were trapped in elevators, and businesses were closed. The outage was triggered by a utility crew that, while installing a system upgrade, snipped several wires as a group, rather than individually, causing a short that tripped circuits. The blackout began about 1230 and stretched from downtown Los Angeles to the Pacific coast and north into the San Fernando Valley. All power was restored by 1500. Two men suffered minor injuries at an oil refinery when smoke backed up at the facility after the lights went out.

Fires & Explosions



AMMUNITION DUMP, MANILA, PHILIPPINES

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Huge blasts at a suburban Manila police ammunition dump injured at least 107 people, damaged several buildings and homes and set off security fears, officials said. Police ruled out sabotage or terrorism. An ammunition bunker filled with World War II vintage bombs and homemade explosives seized from Muslim militants and fishermen was obliterated by the explosions late yesterday. The blasts also damaged nearby buildings and homes in and out of Camp Bagong Diwa, police said. The blasts shattered glass windows and ripped off parts of the roof of a dormitory for drug addicts at a rehabilitation centre, hurled about 30 parked vehicles away and damaged a gas station, witnesses said. "Initially, I thought that the camp was under attack," said metropolitan Manila police chief Vidal Querol, who was at the camp when shock waves from the blasts shattered his windows. "We later found out that there was no hostile fire, no sabotage or terrorism." The injured included 101 patients at the drug rehabilitation clinic, four elite police officers and two civilians, police said. The explosions, which investigators say were apparently touched off by lightning, initially raised concerns of foul play due to swirling coup rumours

linked to the months-long political crisis hounding President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. Police Supt Warlito Tubon, explosives and ordnance disposal chief, said the destroyed munitions bunker had contained 30 110-pound bags of ammonium nitrate, 420 mines, some C-4 explosives plus anti-tank ammunition. He ruled out terrorism or sabotage based on accounts of witnesses who said a series of small and large explosions followed a blackout during a thunderstorm. Police pointed to a blackened lightning rod they said showed that lightning struck the armoury.

COAL MINE, KEMEROVO, RUSSIA

London, Sep 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Three miners were killed in a methane explosion in Russia's coal-mining region of Kemerovo yesterday. The region's governor Aman Tuleyev visited the mine to inspect the scene for himself this morning, the RIA-Novosti news agency reported. Tuleyev will head the commission looking into the cause of the accident. The explosion occurred yesterday night when 152 people were in the mine. Mine rescue workers managed to raise all the miners to the surface except those who had died in the blast. Four miners were admitted to hospital. All work in the mine was suspended pending the investigation.

COAL MINE, SHUANGYASHAN, HEILONGJIANG PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Sep 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: Nine people were confirmed dead with six others still missing in a coal mine fire that broke out yesterday morning in Shuangyashan City, Heilongjiang Province, local government sources said this morning. Rescuers discovered the remains of the nine dead miners under the fire-ravaged shaft at around 0900 hrs, this morning and are still searching for the six missing miners. The Jinyuan Coal Mine in Baoshan District of the city caught fire at about 1000 hrs, yesterday, when 15 miners were working underground. Preliminary investigation found the tragedy was caused by burned cables.

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Rescuers recovered remains of 14 miners underground, with one worker still missing, in a coal mine fire that broke out on Sunday (Sep 11) in Shuangyashan City, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, local government sources said this morning. The Jinyuan Coal Mine in Baoshan District of the city caught fire at about 1000, Sunday, when 31 miners were working underground. Of them, 16 managed to escape, and another 15 were trapped. Rescue work is continuing to search for the one still missing, the sources said. Preliminary investigation found that the tragedy was caused by burned cables. A checkup for workplace safety is underway throughout the province, with unqualified mines ordered to shut down.

COAL MINE, ZARAND, IRAN

London, Sep 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: An explosion in a coal mine in south-east Iran killed nine miners, the Iranian News Agency reported today. The agency said the explosion in the city of Zarand occurred at 100 metres underground, killing all the miners who were working at that level. A local official in Zarand, Ghulam Ali Nakhi, said the explosion might have been caused by a leakage of methane gas from a hole in the mine's wall. Nakhi said an official investigation into the incident would be conducted.

EGG PACKING PLANT, NORTH SCARLE, LINCOLNSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sep 14 -- A press report, dated Sep 13, states: Hundreds of workers at a Lincolnshire egg packing company may have to relocate to other sites for a time after a major fire. Managers say it could cost millions of pounds to repair the plant at Dean's Foods at North Scarle, near Lincoln. At its height, 15 crews tackled the flames. More than 60 firefighters from both Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire were at the scene of today's blaze. Crews were called at 0920, BST, and were still damping down in the afternoon. The site packs about one and a half million boxes of a dozen eggs every week, and employs around 300 staff. The fire broke out in a building containing packing equipment and grading machines. Fire crews battled to stop the flames spreading to the company's office space and chicken shed, which contained 750,000 birds. Head of operations at the plant Mark Gaskin said much of the building was affected, with probably a third of the floor space damaged. Station commander Ken Baker from Lincolnshire Fire and rescue said: "Our biggest problem to be honest with a rural location, and a large building like this is water supplies. Right from the start we've struggled to actually get enough water to fight the fire effectively. We've already started looking for the cause - we've no clues just yet. But yes, we've got to find out the cause and salvage work will commence as well."

FACTORY, SDYNEY, AUSTRALIA

London, Sep 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: A large-scale factory fire in Sydney's west could burn well into tomorrow, firefighters have said. About 80 firefighters from 16 stations are battling the building supplies factory blaze on the Cumberland Highway at Wentworthville. NSW Fire Brigade spokesman Superintendent Ian Krimmer said the entire factory complex was destroyed by the blaze, which started about 1640, AEST, today. Firefighters would continue to contain and monitor the blaze throughout the night, he said. "Surrounding factories including a tile factory and a toy manufacturer, which were under direct threat, have been

saved," Supt Krimmer said. "We expect the fire to burn most of the night, and could possibly continue to burn until lunchtime tomorrow." There had been no reports of injuries or people unaccounted for, he said, and no evacuations from the mostly industrial area.

GAS WELL, AMALAPURAM AREA, ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

Chennai, Sep 9 -- A blowout occurred in an explanatory well of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) at Thandavapalli village in the vicinity of Amalapuram in East Godavari district Andhra Pradesh, morning of Sep 8. However, the flame died out. The ONGC officials and the Amalapuram district administration expressed happiness that there were no casualties or injuries to the 20 persons who were working at the rig at the time. According to ONGC, four vehicles, bunks, which were near the well, completely gutted and the loss of equipment is yet to be assessed. The Crisis Management team is hopeful that it would complete control measures within 10 days with in the assistance of a four member expert team from the partner, Boots and Coots from Houston, United States of America. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MARINA, GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON

London, Sept 15 -- A press report, dated Sept 14, states: Investigators last week finished pulling up the last of the 48 boats lost in last month's Harborview Marina fire, including the vessel upon which the multimillion dollar blaze is believed to have started. While the exact cause of the fire had yet to be named, Gig Harbor Fire Marshal Dick Bower said he didn't believe arson was involved. Raised from the harbour floor last Friday, the charred hull was taken with more than a dozen others by barge to an undisclosed location near Tacoma for inspection. "We may never find the exact cause of the fire," he said. "Everything is burned very, very badly on that boat." Fire swept the marina on the morning of Aug. 31, spreading rapidly under the roof, which lacked a sprinkler system and hampered firefighting efforts. Within minutes, the 450-foot-long pier was fully engulfed. The fire took hours to quench and drew fireboats from Tacoma as well as Anderson and McNeil islands. With all of the boats up, on Monday contract divers scoured the harbour floor around the site, searching for any fuel tanks that may have fallen from the destroyed vessels. Following inspection on land, disposal of the remaining hulls, many burnt to the waterline, would become the responsibility of the individual owners and their insurance companies. But stricken boaters may find themselves online for more than just a tow to the dump, and could be stuck with the \$1.6 million cleanup bill. According to Lt. Commander Rick Rodriguez of the 13th Coast Guard District, the cleanup's lead agency, it remains

unclear whether the owner of the first boat, or all the marina's boat owners, will be made to pay. "If the investigation ever reveals whatever caused the initial fire, it is possible that the person could be held liable for the pollution response," he said. "Right now, the Coast Guard hasn't decided how to go about determining how the responsible party should bear the cost of the cleanup." While no hard numbers have been cited, one official with the cleanup efforts said damages from the fire have tipped the \$12 million mark and counting. While Bower and the office of Pierce County Fire Marshal Wayne Wienholz's office have taken over the investigation, the Coast Guard and the Washington State Department of Ecology are leading cleanup efforts, the former securing \$1.6 million from the federal Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. Much of the spilled oil and diesel fuel has been recovered by floating booms, DOE Outreach Coordinator Rick Manugian said Monday.

MARINA, GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 14 -- A press report, dated Sep 13, states: Divers and salvage crews yesterday raised the last boat that sank in a fire that destroyed 50 boats at the Harborview Marina in Gig Harbor on Aug 31. "We're actually ahead of where we expected to be at this time," said Petty Officer First Class Matt Valenti of the U.S. Coast Guard. "Once we got the debris from the marina out of the way, crews were able to bring the last boats up pretty quickly." Divers will continue to survey the harbour floor for remaining fuel tanks or other possible sources of pollution as crews wind up their work, Valenti said. With the last of the boats gone, crews were able to remove three booms that had been deployed to protect nearby creeks from possible pollution. Approximately 4,500 feet of boom remain around the burned marina. "All that's left is a small amount of debris and unrecoverable oil sheen," said Ron Holcomb, on-scene coordinator for the state Department of Ecology. "The on-water clean-up should be finished by today or tomorrow at the latest." Ecology and U.S. Coast Guard officials have overseen a clean-up that raised 46 boats from the harbour floor. Four other boats were damaged but managed to stay afloat. Authorities have been able to identify all of the boats. Authorities continue to investigate the cause of the fire. Investigators took an initial look at the boat suspected as the origin of the fire on Friday and will examine the boat in more detail in Tacoma. Gig Harbor Fire Marshal Dick Bower said, things were returning to normal in the harbour. "Within a day or two, boat traffic should be able to move freely," Bower said. As of yesterday morning, clean-up crews had recovered 4,500 gallons of water contaminated with gasoline, diesel fuel and other oils discharged as a result of the marina fire. In addition, crews removed 184

cubic yards of oily debris and filled five barges with more than 100 tons of debris from the collapsed marina structure. Clean-up and removal of boats and debris was conducted by three contractors under the direction of the Coast Guard and Ecology. Global Diving and Salvage, and Hurlen Construction, raised the boats and removed large debris.

PREMISES, BIDDENDEN, KENT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sep 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: The cause of a fire which badly damaged a three-storey golf club building in Kent is being investigated. More than 70 firefighters were called to the blaze at the Chart Hills Golf Club, in Biddenden, near Ashford. They found the club house was well alight but the building had been evacuated and no-one was injured. The course is the current home of the English Ladies' Open and is due to host one of the men's European Tour qualifying tournaments next week. The fire broke out in the main building of the golf club and sports complex at 2000, BST, yesterday. Firefighters said the fire quickly spread to all three levels. Firefighters remained at the scene overnight and used thermal imaging cameras to detect any remaining hotspots. Steve Griffiths, senior divisional officer for Kent Fire and Rescue, said the fire was so severe that it quickly spread through the building. "There has been a great deal of damage both through firefighting and also through the fire. We are working with the owners to try to salvage as much as possible," he said.

PREMISES, DARTFORD, KENT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire at an office building in Kent during the night is being treated as an arson attack by the emergency services. The blaze at west Hill House in Dartford started shortly after midnight and was tackled by six fire crews. Most of the first floor and about half of the ground floor was destroyed and the building was said to be structurally unsafe this morning.

PREMISES, NEW DELHI, INDIA

London, Sep 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire broke out at the Himalaya House building in the Connaught Place business and shopping district in New Delhi early today and was brought under control after almost two hours, fire department officials said. The fire, which broke out at around 0950 hrs on the ninth floor of the 12-storey building and spread to the 10th floor, was brought under control at 1130 hrs, the officials said. "Although the fire was medium in intensity there are no casualties," an official said. Around 25 fire tenders were rushed to the scene to extinguish the fire. People were evacuated from nearby buildings and the area cordoned off to avoid any casualties. Officials have not ruled

out the possibility of a short circuit. Almost all the offices on the building, on the busy Kasturba Gandhi Marg, were closed for the weekend when the fire broke out.

PREMISES, SHARJAH, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Karachi, Sep 12 -- A huge fire broke out in three warehouses storing chemicals, paint and wood in Industrial Area No 10, in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (UAE) 0400, yesterday. The fire spread to the nearby camp where more than a hundred workers were sleeping. As a result, more than 80 workers were injured, police said. Civil Defence firefighters from Sharjah, Dubai and Ajman and troops fought for hours to bring the fire under control by 0900 hrs. Police said the fire might have been started by an electrical short circuit. They estimated losses to run into millions of dirhams. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SCHOOL, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

London, Sep 15 -- Police have called for a public inquiry into a multi-million dollar fire at Kelso High School in the New South Wales central west. Officers from Strike Force Bickford now believe the Aug 19 fire was not deliberately lit, with investigations continuing into burnt-out electrical equipment from the school's administration building. "We're advising the Coroner to have a public inquiry because of all the public interest in the matter," Bathurst Inspector Ian Borland said today. The inquiry would examine all aspects of the possible cause of the fire, he said. Police originally treated the fire as suspicious. But a NSW Fire Brigade sniffer dog found no evidence of accelerants in the remains of the school's administration block where the fire is believed to have originated. Experts currently examining the blaze include an electrical engineer with forensic expertise. A team from the Coroner's office also is working with police and the NSW Fire Brigade to prepare a final report. The 750-student school was 95 per cent destroyed with damage from the blaze estimated at \$20 million.

SHOPPING MALL, DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Karachi, Sep 10 -- Dubai Civil Defence (DCD) of United Arab Emirates (UAE) said a huge fire broke out at the Oasis Centre (shopping mall), located on Shaikh Zayed Road in Dubai early yesterday morning. Owned by the Landmark group, it housed 21 shops and covered an area of 320,000 sq ft. It is said while nobody was killed, the interior of the mall was reduced to ashes, two security guards were injured and some animals kept in a pet shop perished. The DCD in a statement said it had received a phone call from one of the security guards at 0100 hrs saying that flames and smoke were coming out from the left rear of the centre.

Water tankers from Al Qouz, Al Jumeirah and Al Karama fire stations rushed to the location and finally contained the fire around 0500 hrs. A Press statement issued by Landmark Group, stated: "There were no human casualties and the exact cause of the fire is unknown as of now. The incident is being investigated by the police and civil defence authorities." Vipen Sethi, Group Director - Finance, Landmark Group, stated that millions had been invested to renovate the Oasis Centre and it was ready for re-launch on Sep 21 with its new facade. The extent of the damage is being assessed. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent

STEEL MILL, WESTERN PORT, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Australia's largest steelmaker BlueScope Steel says the recent fire at its Western Port steel plant in Victoria could cost the company as much as A\$50 million. The fire broke out in the electrical control room of the hot strip mill on Aug 22 and the steelmaker has estimated it will take three months to complete repair work. "It is expected that the total cost, incorporating both the cost of repairing damaged equipment and the impact on product mix and margin, will be in the order of \$45 million to \$50 million," the company said. BlueScope said \$15 million of this would be accounted for as capital expenditure. The company said it was making progress in its efforts to find alternative feedstock to allow metallic coating and painting operations at Western Port to continue.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: Crews yesterday were close to completing lines around a wildfire burning in north-central Washington. The Squaw Creek fire, about eight miles north-west of town, was 90% contained at 1,100 acres yesterday, according to the Washington Interagency Incident Management Team assigned to the fire. More than 440 firefighters are assigned to the fire. They focused yesterday on putting out hot spots and mopping up around the fire's perimeter. No injuries had been reported. One unoccupied residence was destroyed.



AIRCRAFT DAMAGED AT ZIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, BANGLADESH

Karachi, Sep 14 -- An aircraft of Qatar Airways remains grounded at Zia International Airport (ZIA) of Bangladesh for last three days after it

was seriously damaged by a ground handling vehicle which hit it at the boarding bridge on Saturday (Sep 10). An official of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) told local media that the CAAB authorities might have to compensate if it was proved that the accident occurred due to its carelessness. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

AIRCRAFT HIJACKED, COLOMBIA

See HK-4030X.

AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO DENPASAR, INDONESIA

London, Sep 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: A passenger plane owned by flag carrier Garuda Indonesia aborted its flight to Australia early today, due to mechanical problems, after being airborne for more than two hours. The Airbus A-330 returned to the Ngurah Rai Airport in the Bali capital of Denpasar after pilot heard strange noises from the engine, an airport official said. "There were strong vibrations from the engine and the pilot decided to return to Denpasar," Mohammad Fuschad, the head of administration office with the Ngurah Rai Airport, was quoted as saying by the Detikcom online news service. Prior to the landing, the plane flew "around several times" to reduce fuel and the weight of the plane, Mohammad said. The number of passengers and cabin crew aboard the plane was not known.

London, Sep 15 -- A packed Garuda aircraft travelling from Bali to Brisbane, Australia, was forced to make an emergency landing because of engine trouble, a senior airline official said yesterday. The Airbus aircraft had been flying for approximately 90 minutes when the pilot detected a problem with the aircraft's left engine and quickly decided to return to Ngurah Rai International Airport in Bali early yesterday. "The engine trouble forced the pilot to return to Ngurah Rai airport," said Totok Hermawan, Garuda's Ngurah Rai station manager. Totok said that as the aircraft was flying over the Indian Ocean, the pilot, Noor Wahyudi, detected a vibration in the aircraft's left engine and returned to Bali. The Airbus 330 aircraft with a seating capacity of 42 in business class and 252 in economy class was carrying 37 passengers in business class and 251 passengers in economy class. None of the passengers were injured in the incident.

C-FBHI

London, Sep 12 -- Eurocopter AS350 Super D, C-FBHI, operated by Bighorn Helicopters Inc., was attempting to land at Rolph Lake, 45 nautical miles north of Cranbrook, with five passengers and one pilot on board. The pilot was surveying the site for a suitable landing spot when the helicopter began to descend. The pilot tried to arrest the descent with collective, the low rotor RPM sounded, the helicopter contacted the ground

left skid first, rolled over and came to rest on its right side. A post crash fire immediately erupted, but all occupants were able to exit the helicopter with only minor injuries. The helicopter was completely consumed by the post crash fire.

C-FYPI

London, Sep 13 -- Cessna 150J, C-FYPI, was observed flying very low and slow near New Liskeard, Ont, as it banked to the right it stalled and the left wing dropped. The pilot was unable to recover from the stall/spin and the aircraft hit the ground at 1705, EDT, Sep 10. The pilot and passenger were fatally injured and the aircraft was destroyed. TSB investigators deployed.

CP-1429

London, Sep 13 -- Piper PA-23-250 CP-1429, owned and operated by Servicios Aereos Nilo Osuna, an on-demand air taxi operator, crashed following a loss of control while manoeuvring near Tarija, Bolivia, at approximately 1030, EDT, Aug 31. The pilot and three passengers were killed.

CRASH, BRAZZAVILLE AREA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, Sep 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft crashed north of the Republic of Congo capital, killing 13 people, officials said today. The Ukrainian-built Antonov 26, registered by Air Kasai in neighbouring Congo, went down 30 miles north of Brazzaville yesterday afternoon, government spokesman Alain Akoula said. Rescue workers found 13 bodies, including those of the four-person Ukrainian crew, he said. The cause of the crash was unknown. The aircraft had taken off from an airstrip in Congo's Equateur province and was bound for that country's capital, Kinshasa, after flying over eastern territory of the Republic of Congo. The two capitals of the neighbouring, similarly named countries face each other on opposite banks of the Congo River. Yesterday, Congo's government pulled operating licenses from dozens of the central African nation's airlines, grounding their planes after a spate of air accidents. Transport Minister Eva Mwakasa did not name the 33 prohibited airlines, telling reporters only that the companies were all registered in Congo.

London, Sep 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two flight recorders have been found on the An-26 crash scene in the Republic of Congo. The An-26 crew was made up of two Belarussian citizens and one citizen of Russia. The crash killed the entire crew and eleven passengers - citizens of the Democratic Republic of Congo, counsellor at the Russian embassy in the Republic of Congo Georgy Chepik said yesterday. He said the embassy had received the information from the Congolese authorities and the Air Kasai private airline that owned the crashed

aircraft. According to the preliminary information, the crash occurred because of a thunderstorm and strong wind.

CRASH, CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND

London, Sep 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two men had a lucky escape after a helicopter crash in Christchurch yesterday morning. Rohan Wills, the director of Christchurch company Boundary Bay Wines, walked out of the wreckage of the Robinson 22 machine, which crashed less than 200m from the southern arterial motorway near Canterbury Agricultural Park on Curletts Road. The helicopter was a write-off," a member of the Wills family said yesterday. The crash happened just after 0830 hrs, with the aircraft landing on its side in the roadside paddock.

CRASH, INGLEWOOD, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: A light aircraft has crashed in a paddock in southern Queensland, killing its pilot. The aircraft was reported missing to police about 1740, AEST, by Australian Search and Rescue. About 15 minutes later, the wreckage of the aircraft was found by passers-by in a paddock off Cunningham Highway at Whetstone, 20km south-west of Inglewood. The wreckage of the single-engine aircraft was strewn about a kilometre over the paddock but there was no sign of the pilot. Police found his body nearby about 2000 hrs. It was not clear whether he had been flung from the aircraft or jumped out in the moments before the crash, a police spokeswoman said.

CRASH, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 12 -- A press report, dated Sep 11, states: A two-seat Cessna plane crashed and killed both people aboard shortly after taking off from Long Beach Airport this afternoon, authorities said. The accident occurred at 1544 hrs, said airport spokeswoman Sharon Diggs-Jackson. The plane whose model was unknown crashed near the rear of a building at 3701 Industry Ave., an area on the west side of the airport. "They avoided the building and any of the public on the ground," said Long Beach Fire Department Battalion Chief Jeff Reeb. It was unknown where the plane was headed, Diggs-Jackson said. The names of the dead were not released this evening. The plane caught on fire as soon as it hit the ground, shattering and scattering pieces all over the lot.

CRASH, NORMAN'S CAY, EXUMAS, BAHAMAS

London, Sep 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Civil Aviation official last night confirmed that the pilot of a twin engine Beech Baron aircraft was killed yesterday afternoon when his plane crashed into waters

near Normanø Cay in the Exumas. Chief Operations Officer of the Department of Civil Aviation Anthony Dean said initial reports indicated that the body of Stephen Senner had not been initially found. Reports are that the aircraft, which authorities said left Nassau around 1230 hrs, experienced problems upon its approach to Normanø Cay. Eyewitnesses reported seeing smoke coming from one of the aircraft's engines and it appeared to be on fire, Mr. Dean said. He added that shortly after, the plane crashed. Reports are that Defence Force officers on patrol in the Exuma Land and Sea Park along with officials of the Bahamas Air Sea Rescue Association (BASRA) raced to the scene. Mr. Dean said someone aboard a boat in the vicinity of the crash reportedly retrieved Mr. Senner's backpack. A probe was last night underway as officials tried to determine what went wrong.

CRASH, PORT HARDY AREA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated Sep 12, states: Searchers have recovered what they believe are the bodies of two American men who were aboard a missing float plane. The plane vanished from radar yesterday night as it was coming into the Port Hardy airport on northern Vancouver Island. Gerry Pash of the Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Victoria said the investigation has been turned over to Port Hardy RCMP. On board the Cessna 185 was Bryan Gilbert, 46, from Washington State and Marshall Stout, 30, of California. The plane was on its way from Ketchikan, Alaska, to Washington State and had been scheduled to make a refuelling stop in Port Hardy.

CRASH, SAMARINDA, INDONESIA

London, Sep 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: A small training aircraft crashed today into a softball field in the Indonesian town of Samarinda on Borneo island, injuring two people on board, police and witnesses said. Habuddin, a local policeman, said a trainee pilot and his instructor were seriously injured in the crash. A witness told AFP he saw two people taken out of the aircraft. "It looks like one of them is very badly injured," he said. A spokeswoman at a local hospital said one of the victims admitted there suffered leg and head injuries but was conscious. The aircraft, whose type was not immediately known, was operated by Dirgantara Air Service.

CRASH, VEREENIGING, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Sep 12 -- Two people were killed on Saturday (Sep 10) when a jet crashed at a Vereeniging airstrip, about 60 km south of Johannesburg, South African Press Association reported. Gareth Stadler, a spokesperson for emergency service company, said it was uncertain what had caused the accident. "The pilot might have lost control. We cannot say

for sure what happened," he said. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said that it would investigate the cause of the jet crash.

CRASH, WABUSH COUNTY, INDIANAPOLIS, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: A small aircraft crashed in Wabash County Saturday (Sep 10) night killing all four on board. Police say at approximately 2100 hrs the 1967 Piper Cheyenne Six went down in a bean field near West County Road 500 South. Investigators believe the aircraft's right wing made initial contact with the ground before it and the front gear were broken off. The aircraft then flipped on its top and caught fire. The National Transportation Safety board is continuing the investigation to determine the cause of the crash.

CRASH INTO SEA OFF CATALINA ISLAND, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

See N9636B.

D-HMOE

London, Sep 13 -- Hughes 300AG helicopter, D-HMOE, crashed near Tallard, Germany, at 1730, UTC, Sep 4. Of the two persons on board the helicopter, one was killed and the other received serious injuries.

EMERGENCY LANDING, KUNUNURRA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

London, Sep 10 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Pilot and three passengers have escaped injury after a light aircraft made an emergency landing on a gravel road south of Kununurra airport in the north of Western Australia. The Cessna aircraft was coming into land this afternoon when it lost power, police said. The pilot realised he was not going to make the landing strip and then aimed for a road near the airport. The airport is just outside the town, situated 3200km north west of Perth. The passengers and the pilot walked away unharmed.

EMERGENCY LANDING, LAHORE AIRPORT, PAKISTAN

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated Sep 11, states: A Pakistani passenger aircraft made an emergency landing today in Lahore Airport, after the pilot discovered that one of the engines was on fire immediately after take off heading to Karachi. A Pakistani television channel said that the accident happened when the Air Asia aircraft left Lahore heading to Karachi and the pilot returned to Lahore Airport successfully and made the emergency landing. The company is investigating the technical reason of the fire in the engine and those responsible of this negligence.

EMERGENCY LANDING, PADANG AREA, INDONESIA

London, Sep 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Boeing MD-80

passenger plane with more than 130 people on board made an emergency landing on Indonesia's West Sumatra province today due to navigation problems. The plane landed on the Air Force's Tabing Airport which is located only 15 km from its original destination of Minangkabau Airport in the provincial capital of Padang, reported the Detikdomonline news service. "The landing was due to navigation problems. It's most likely that one of the passengers used a cellular phone during the flight," Yohannes, a staff with airport operator Angkasa Pura, was quoted as saying. The plane belongs to local budget carrier Wings Air. When contacted separately, Wings Air spokesman Hasyim Arsal Al-Habsy said the IW-8730 made a stopover at the Tabing Airport due to bad weather, denying an emergency landing. But reports said ambulances and fire trucks approached the plane when it touched down the runway at the Tabing Airport. No one was injured in the incident.

EMERGENCY LANDING, PALERMO, ITALY

London, Sep 10 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The pilot of the Alpi Eagles Fokker 100, which had to make an emergency landing shortly after take-off this morning, said that one of the engines was vibrating more than usual, possibly due to ice, which caused me to ask for an emergency landing. The pilot recounted that the 52 passengers were calm. Enac then clarified that this was not an emergency landing but a request as a precautionary measure for priority landing, which came in at 0753 hrs at Punta Raisi.

EMERGENCY LANDING, SIGONELLA, CATANIA, ITALY

London, Sep 14 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Emergency landing at 2230, yesterday evening at the military airfield of Sigonella for a US 4-engine PC3 aircraft, with 10 people on board, which launched an SOS following an engine failure. All passengers were unharmed. The pilot of the aircraft, travelling from Cagliari to Catania, communicated the failure to the control tower. All emergency measures were taken at Sigonella, and even a Coast Guard patrol unit left from Catania harbour, as well as a Fire Brigade unit, in case of water landing. The aircraft, however, managed to land successfully on the runway.

EMERGENCY LANDING, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Northwest Airlines aircraft has had to make an emergency landing because of mechanical trouble. The flight from Memphis, Tennessee, to Minneapolis landed in St. Louis after problems were reported with an engine and the landing gear. The crew had to lower the nose gear manually, and passengers were instructed to bend

down into a crouch position for landing. The aircraft had 62 people on board. It landed safely.

HB-LTM

London, Sep 13 -- Piper PA-31-400 HB-LTM, operated by Thomke Management AG, sustained substantial damage when the starboard main landing gear retracted after landing at the Meinerzhagen Airport, Meinerzhagen, Nordheim-Westfalen, Germany, at approximately 1620, UTC, Sep 2. The pilot and the two passengers were not injured. The flight originated in Lausanne, Switzerland.

HK-3069

London, Sep 13 -- Two men believed to be a father and son have surrendered at an airfield near Colombia's capital, Bogota, after hijacking an aircraft on a domestic flight. The men left the aircraft after talks with a priest and presidential official during which they gradually freed the 23 passengers and crew unharmed. They are said to have boarded the propeller-driven aircraft with grenades. The father is confined to a wheelchair and the hijack may have been related to a failed demand for compensation. It seems he had been involved in an incident with police which left him disabled, local television channel RCN reports. The hijackers first released women and children, then the rest of the passengers, after four hours of talks. The aircraft, owned by Colombian company Aires, had been flying from the town of Florencia in the province of Caqueta. It landed at a military airfield near Bogota's civilian El Dorado Airport.

London, Sep 13 -- Piper PA-31-350 HK-3069, owned and operated by Lans Ltda, Bogota, an on-demand air taxi operator, crashed following a loss of control while manoeuvring at the Guaymaral Airport, near Santa Fe de Bogota, Colombia, at 1046, EDT, Sep 1.

HK-4030X

London, Sep 14 -- De Havilland Canada DHC-8-301, HK-4030X, 24 persons on board, was hijacked by a man in a wheel chair and his son Sep 12. Reportedly a social security benefit application by the man in the wheel chair had been turned down by the Council of State. They surrendered to authorities at 1705 hrs.

INCIDENT AT BANKSTOWN AIRPORT, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

London, Sep 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Three people have sustained minor injuries after an incident involving a light plane at Bankstown Airport in Sydney's west. Witnesses say the Cessna nose-dived near a control tower just before 1600, AEST. Investigations into the incident are continuing.

INCIDENT AT MAE SOT AIRPORT, THAILAND

London, Sep 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Phuket Air

passenger aircraft from Bangkok skidded off the runway on landing at Mae Sot airport, in heavy rain, yesterday morning. All 28 passengers and crew on board the ageing YS11 twin turbo-prop emerged unhurt. Flight 9R326 took off from Bangkok around 0730 hrs and arrived at Mae Sot airport about 0900 hrs. A witness said the aircraft appeared to land at an unusually high speed, probably more than 100kph, and touched down far beyond the middle of the runway. The aircraft appeared to lose balance as it made a turn at the end of the runway. It skidded off the runway, tilting to one side and came to a stop. There was fuel leaking from the aircraft, the witness said. Airport director Pongsak Phanthumitr said the 24 passengers and four crew escaped uninjured. Since the accident happened only 200-300 metres from a petrol station on the Mae Sot-Rim Moei highway, and there was fuel leaking from the aircraft, the area was put off limits to the public and the petrol station was closed immediately. The airport was also closed until 1800 hrs today. Mr Pongsak said a preliminary inspection found little damage to the aircraft. The Aviation Department was sending a team of experts from Bangkok to investigate. The airline suspended all Bangkok-Mae Sot flights yesterday.

London, Sep 14 -- Troubled Phuket Airlines has suspended its last services to the north of Bangkok, after its only available aircraft for the flights skidded off the runway and was damaged at Mae Sot airport in heavy rain last Sunday (Sep 11). Phuket Air was the only carrier flying to Mae Sot and to Buri Ram, and while the airline said yesterday the flight suspensions were "temporary," executives gave no target date for resuming service to Tak province and the Northeast town. The damaged YS-11 twin turbo-prop aircraft was still listing off the end of the Mae Sot airport runway. The aircraft's flight recorder was recovered and sent to Japan for decoding to help with investigating the cause of the accident. The inquiry is likely to take about a month, Phuket Airlines executives said. None of the 28 passengers and crew aboard the aircraft was hurt in the Sunday accident, which some witnesses said occurred when the plane touched down too far down the runway. The Flight Safety Standards Bureau pulled the licences of the pilot and co-pilot and announced an investigation into their status, including whether they had been drinking before the flight. There is no immediate plan to replace the damaged aircraft with a new one, according to airline officials.

N2768J

London, Sep 13 -- Cessna A185E, N2768J, was taxiing for take off on Idabel Lake, BC, when it struck a submerged rock with the left float at 1230, PDT. The pilot attempted to return to the shore but was

unsuccessful due to the rapidly filling float. The pilot was able to exit the sinking aircraft and was rescued.

N36237

London, Sep 13 -- Bellanca 7GCBC (Champion), N36237, crashed near Nenana, Alaska, at 0210, Sep 13. The two persons on board were killed.

N4032R

London, Sep 12 -- Piper PA-32-300 (Cherokee Six), N4032R, operated by Quest Abla LLC, with four persons on board, crashed at 2100, UTC, Sep 11, at Wabash, Indianapolis, United States. The aircraft was substantially damaged and all four persons on board died.

N42619

London, Sep 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Federal aviation authorities will help investigate an airplane crash in Decatur. Officials say the single-engine plane was destroyed after striking a hanger and a utility pole while landing at Gage Airport last night. The pilot, 57-year old Dennis Scheumann of Decatur was hospitalized in stable condition. Officials say preliminary crash findings suggest Schumann's plane was landing with the wind, and could not properly slow down before reaching the end of the airfield's grass runway.

London, Sep 14 -- Maule MT-7-260, N42619, struck a hangar on landing at Decatur, Indiana, at 2340, Sep 13. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board suffered minor injuries.

N6565L

London, Sep 12 -- Cessna 152, N6565L, operated by Aviation West Flight School Inc, while on a local flight from Long Beach, California, with two persons on board, reported poor climb performance on departure. Requested to return to Long Beach Airport and crashed at 2245, UTC, Sep 11, half a mile west of Long Beach Airport. The aircraft was destroyed and both persons on board died.

N862Z

London, Sep 13 -- Bell 47G, N862Z, crashed near Swifton, Arkansas, at 2140, Sep 10, while on a flight from Swifton to Black Rock, AR. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board suffered minor injuries.

N90421

London, Sep 8 -- A press report, dated Sep 7, states: Rowan Companies, Inc. reported today that a Sikorsky S-76 helicopter (N90421) carrying 10 passengers and two crew members crashed in the Gulf of Mexico yesterday afternoon. All 12 persons on board, including eight Rowan employees, were rescued last night by the U. S. Coast Guard and transported to nearby hospitals. Six Rowan employees have been treated for minor injuries and released. The other two employees remain hospitalized for treatment and observation. Neither

appears to have suffered any life-threatening injuries. The helicopter had departed Rowan's jack-up rig, the Bob Keller, located in High Island Block 346 at approximately 1545 hrs, en route to the Company's Sabine Pass, Texas facility. At just after 1600 hrs, a distress signal was received by the Federal Aviation Administration. The helicopter was found approximately 23 miles south of Sabine Pass.

London, Sep 9 -- Sikorsky S-76 N90421 struck the water south of Sabine, Texas, at 2105, Sep 6, while on a flight to Sabine Pass. The aircraft caught fire and sank. The 12 persons on board were rescued.

N9636B

London, Sep 9 -- Cessna 172 RG (Cutlass) N9636B crashed into the sea west of Catalina Island, California, at 1928, Sep 7, while on a flight from Redlands, CA, to Avalon, CA. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

XB-CHO

London, Sep 13 -- Cessna 152 XB-CHO, owned and operated by Provelo de Aviacion de Guadalajara, Mexico, crashed following a loss of control while on approach to runway 28 at the Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla International Airport, near Guadalajara, at 1557, CST, Sep 7. The flight instructor and student pilot were killed.

Product Recalls



CHAIN SAWS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Sep 12 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with DOLMAR Power Products, of Duluth, Ga, today announced a voluntary recall of about 1,300 DOLMAR chain saws. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The flywheels on some of the chain saws may come apart during use, which could cause serious personal injury. DOLMAR has received three reports of the flywheel coming apart. There have been no reports of injury. The recall involves DOLMAR PS6400 and PS7900-model chain saws in which the last five digits of the serial numbers are within the following ranges: PS6400 71998 through 79250 and PS7900 40156 through 43009. The chain saw's housing is "warm red" with "DOLMAR" written on it. The chain saw's serial number can be found on the right hand side of the silver nameplate which is located on the back of the fuel tank. No other DOLMAR chain saws are involved in the recall. Any PS6400 or PS7900 chain saws with the letter "N" preceding the serial number on the nameplate and a blue dot on the

shipping carton have been repaired and are not involved in the recall. Sold at outdoor power equipment distributors and industrial suppliers nation-wide sold these chain saws from October 2004 through August 2005 for between \$570 and \$750. Manufactured in Germany. Consumers should stop using these chain saws immediately and contact DOLMAR to arrange for a free repair. Known purchasers were sent direct mail notification of this recall. -- Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Washington, DC, Sep 12 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Makita U.S.A. Inc., of La Mirada, Calif., today announced a voluntary recall of about 3,400 Makita Chain Saws. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The flywheels on some of the chain saws can come apart during use, which could cause serious personal injury. Makita has received three reports of the flywheel coming apart. There have been no reports of injury. The recall involves Makita DCS6401 and DCS7901-model chain saws in which the last five digits of the serial numbers are within the following ranges: DCS6401 41915 through 45612, 81722 through 82057 and DCS7901 31182 through 31491. The chain saw's housing is teal with the name "Makita" written on it. The chain saw's serial number can be found on the right hand side of the silver nameplate which is located on the back of the fuel tank. No other Makita chain saws are involved in the recall. Any DCS6401 or DCS7901 chain saws with the letter "N" preceding the serial number on the nameplate and a blue dot on the shipping carton have been repaired and are not involved in the recall. Sold at outdoor power equipment distributors and industrial contractor supply houses nation-wide sold these chain saws from October 2004 through August 2005 for between \$520 and \$730. Manufactured in Germany. Consumers should stop using these recalled chain saws immediately and contact Makita to arrange for a free repair. Known purchasers were sent direct mail notification of this recall. -- Consumer Product Safety Commission.

GAS GRILLS AND PATIO HEATERS, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 9 -- A press report, dated Sep 8, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has announced the following recall in voluntary co-operation with The Coleman Company, Inc., of Wichita, Kan., about 124,000 Coleman grills and about 6,200 heaters. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The regulators on these products can leak propane when the propane cylinder is turned on and the product is not in use. This can pose a fire or explosion hazard. Coleman has received 98 reports of these regulators leaking propane. Coleman has received no reports of injuries or

property damage. The recall includes Coleman Gas Grills with model numbers 5100, 5300, 5400, 5600, 6000 and 7700, and Coleman Patio Heater with model number 5040. Manufactured in China, the products were sold at Lowes, Expo Design Centers and various pool and patio retailers nationwide. The grills were sold from January 2004 through to July 2005 for between \$270 and \$1,260. The patio heaters were sold from June 2004 through to July 2005 for between \$500 and \$600.

GAS GRILLS, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 9 -- A press report, dated Sep 8, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has announced the following recall in voluntary co-operation with Nexgrill Industries Inc., of City of Industry, Calif. of approximately 86,000 Charmglow Gas Grills. The hose connecting the propane tank with the manifold can run up too close to the firebox. The heat from the firebox can damage the hose, causing it to leak gas. The release of gas creates a fire risk that could cause injury and property damage. Nexgrill has received five reports of fires involving hoses leaking gas and more than 45 additional reports of incidents involving possible gas leaks. Manufactured in China, the product was sold at Home Depot stores nationwide from November 2004 through to June 2005 for about \$350.

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated Sep 12, states: The Brinkmann Corp. is recalling about 130,000 Brinkmann and Charmglow brand gas grills for repair. The Dallas-based company says the regulators on the gas grills could leak gas when attached to certain liquid propane tanks, posing a risk of fire and burn injuries. The company has received two reports of a small flame, reportedly due to gas leaking at or near the propane cylinder. No injuries or property damage have been reported. The recall involves Brinkmann-brand and Charmglow-brand gas grills. The regulator is attached to the side of the grills. Only grills that have regulators with the name "GDA" are affected by this recall. The recalled grills were sold home centers, sporting goods and hardware stores nation-wide from January through August for between \$150 and \$900. Consumers should contact Brinkmann to receive a free repair kit or replacement hose regulator assembly.

GOLF CARS, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 9 -- A press report, dated Sep 8, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with E-Z-GO, of Augusta, Ga., today announced voluntary recalls of approximately 60,000 E-Z-GO 2002-2005 gasoline-powered Fleet and Freedom Golf Cars, and Shuttle 2+2 Personnel Carriers. High engine temperatures can permit fuel to get into the air filter box, posing a risk of fire. There have been

12 reports of fire involving these gasoline-powered golf cars. There have been no injuries reported. The recall involves certain model year 2002 through 2005 E-Z-GO Fleet and E-Z-GO Freedom gasoline-powered golf cars and Shuttle 2+2 personnel carriers. The model names for the recalled products are TXT, Freedom and Shuttle 2+2. The model names are printed on the sides of the Freedom and Shuttle 2+2 vehicles, and the E-Z-GO logo is on the front of all three vehicles. The recalled vehicles have nine-horsepower engines and serial numbers ranging from 1451059 through 2341739. E-Z-GO and independent dealers sold the product from January 2002 through to August 2005 with a manufacturer's suggested retail price ranging between \$6,400 and \$8,800.

MERCEDES BENZ MOTOR VEHICLES, CHINA

London, Sep 13 -- China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine said Sep 12 that it had received a report from Mercedes-Benz China Limited Sep 9 for recalling its G55 AMG Kompressor cars made during the period from Apr 2004 to Apr 2005. The recall would involve 50,000 cars of the model in China. According to the administration, the cars to be recalled have defects with the fuel return pipe, for which fuel may leak. Before the recall announcement was made, Mercedes-Benz China Ltd. had not received any report on related accident, injury or compensation claim from customers of the car in China.

PLAYSTATION POWER ADAPTORS, WORLDWIDE

London, Sep 13 -- Sony is recalling 3.5 million faulty power adaptors for its popular PlayStation 2 video game console because they may overheat and cause injury, the Japanese consumer electronics manufacturer said on Tuesday. The adaptors were made between August and December of 2004 for the slimline PlayStation 2, which has a free-standing power adaptor to save space. About 2.3 million of the devices were sold in Europe, with the remainder going to Asia and North America. The recall comes as Sony is aggressively promoting the PlayStation Portable (PSP) and preparing for the launch of the next-generation PlayStation 3 console next year. -- Reuters.

POWER ADAPTORS FOR SONY PLAYSTATION 2, WORLD-WIDE - PRODUCT RECALLS

London, Sep 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Sony is recalling 3.5m faulty power adaptors which were sold with the black PlayStation 2 slimline version between August and December 2004. It said the power adaptor could overheat, causing damage or injury. The free-standing adaptors were sold for the special slimline version of the successful games console. Sony had 40

complaints in the US about them. Sony said it would replace returned adaptors for free. Two-thirds of the affected consoles were sold in Europe. About 960,000 of the units were sold in the US, 210,000 in Asia and 60,000 in Japan, according to Sony. More than 50,000 slimline PlayStation 2s were sold in the UK during its first week on sale in November. Sony said it was taking the precautionary measure of recalling all the affected adaptors in Europe, Middle East, Africa and Australasia. In a statement, the company said that it was likely that some of the adaptors may also have been bought after December 2004. The adaptors were specially designed to be free-standing as a space-saving feature of the slimline models. The specific models in question are SCPH70002, 70003 and 70004. People who think they may have one of the faulty adaptors are urged to go to www.ps2ac.com for more information. Sony said people should not return their faulty adaptors to the place they bought it.

SPINDLE CRIBS, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has announced the following recall in voluntary cooperation with Pottery Barn Kids, of San Francisco, Calif., of about 7,600 spindle cribs. The spindles on the crib's front rail can loosen and detach from the rail. This can allow the child to fall from the crib and poses a risk of entrapment. Pottery Barn Kids has received six reports of incidents involving spindles detaching from the crib. No injuries have been reported. This recall involves the Spindle Crib, model number 4825402. Sold in white, pink and blue, the cribs are made of hardwood and measure 30.5 x 54.5 x 45 inches high. Manufactured in Taiwan, the product was sold at Pottery Barn Kids retail stores, the Pottery Barn Kids catalog and PotteryBarnKids.com nationwide from January 2004 through to July 2005 for between \$300 and \$500.

Port Conditions



INDIA

London, Sep 14 -- A press report, dated Aug 31, states: An unprecedented bunching of Haldia-bound vessels at the Sandheads, the mouth of the Hooghly river, is causing concern to Haldia dock authorities. Till a few days ago, there were as many as 25 vessels, highest in recent times, waiting at the Sandheads. The figure has since dropped and today it was 19. Within the dock, there were 20 vessels. The majority of these vessels are to load iron ore for exports. The dock authorities would attribute the present situation to sudden spurt in exports of iron ore, mainly to China.

The problem has been compounded by the recent closure of some of the west coast ports for a variety of reasons. There is a rush for shipments through east coast ports, particularly Haldia. The jump in the imports of a few other items such as, steam coal for Farakka unit of National Thermal Power Corporation and raw materials for several fertiliser units dotting the region, too is believed to have contributed to the present situation at Haldia. The import of fertiliser raw materials has jumped by nearly 150 per cent so far in the current year as compared with the same period last year. NTPC is understood to have indicated to import around six lakh tonnes of steam coal through Haldia in the current fiscal. Capping it all, the monsoon, when the productivity in general suffers everywhere. While the demand for additional cargo handling facilities at Haldia has increased, the dock authorities find it hard to cope with the increased demand overnight. Worse, one of the berths where two RMQCs are being installed, has not been able to handle vessels. Yet the dock authorities are hopeful of clearing the problem of congestion within a week or so. The optimism is based on several factors. More iron ore vessels are being handled than before. Earlier, in addition to the iron ore berth, at least two to three berths were used to load iron ore. It has now been stepped up to five. Interestingly, the congestion problem at Haldia has hit Paradip also, though in a different way. This is because many of the vessels which are to undertake two-port loading, i.e., completing loading at Paradip after initial loading at Haldia, are now detained at the Sandheads and therefore cannot arrive at Paradip on time. The ETAs at Paradip are getting postponed. Paradip port authorities therefore want an end to two-port loading arrangement such that the vessels requiring deeper draft and with higher capacity to load should be nominated only for Paradip.

ITALY

Genoa, Sep 13 -- Port situation as of Sep 13: Genoa: One bulk carrier waiting for berth. Average number days delay in berthing 12-24 hrs. La Spezia: No vessels waiting for berth. Savona: No vessels waiting for normal berth. One vessel waiting for special berth. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NIGERIA

London, Sep 9 -- OT Africa Line said Thursday (Sep 8) that strict customs policies at the Nigerian port of Lagos has resulted in the average waiting time for a vessel to berth stretching to two weeks. OTAL said vessels that arrived at Lagos Aug 22 are still in a queue awaiting a berth. At the same time, Naples-based Grimaldi Lines said it is amending its additional port surcharge for all southbound cargo calling at Lagos from continental Europe to 380 euros (\$471) per TEU. Exports from the U.K. port of Tilbury will be subject to a revised surcharge

of £260 (\$477) per TEU. The revised surcharge is effective Oct 1.

PANAMA CANAL

Balboa, Sep 10 -- In preparation for the next outages programmed for Gatun locks, as of 0001, Sep 12, until 1800, Sep 18, there will be restricted transits in the EAST lane of the locks, for tow track rehabilitation work. In addition, there will be partial outages, from Sep 11 to Sep 18, all the nights, in the EAST side from 2200 hrs to 0600 hrs. These works have been

planned for the night shifts to minimize impact to traffic. A full outage of the EAST lane is scheduled from 1800, Sep 18, to 1200, Sep 23, to carry out necessary dry chamber maintenance work of lock gates 37 and 38. Finally, there will be restricted transits from Sep 23 to Sep 28 to complete the tow track rehabilitation in this area. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Balboa, Sep 13 -- Lock works commenced at Gatun Locks on the morning of Sep 12 and shall continue through to Sep 28. The latest Advisory

to Shipping, No.A-33-2005 states: Beginning at 1800 hrs Sunday, Sep 18 through to 1200 hrs, Friday, Sep 23, (four days and 18 hours), the East lane of Gatun Locks will be out of service. Relay operations will be conducted on the West lane. The closing of the East lane of Gatun Locks is necessary for the rehabilitation of tow tracks, dry chamber work on Miter Gates 37 and 38, cleaning of conductor slots, diving operations, and other miscellaneous work. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	12-Sep-2005	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 10 vessels due by 8/10; maintenance shutdown scheduled from 07.00 hrs. 3/10 to 07.00 hrs. 8/10; up to 3 days berthing delay expected.
Brisbane	12-Sep-2005	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 4 vessels due by 24/9; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Dalrymple Bay	12-Sep-2005	Coal: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 15 anchored; 42 vessels due by 28/9; 5-25 days berthing delay subject to cargo availability and berth congestion; waiting times vary greatly due to different stem supply issues.
Dampier	12-Sep-2005	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 9 vessels due by 26/9; up to 6 days berthing delay expected; shippers cannot guarantee that vessel will be able to load up to max. sailing draft available; Parker Point 2: 1 vessel berthed; shippers cannot guarantee that vessel will be able to load up to max. sailing draft available; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 10 vessels due by 27/9; up to 6 days 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	12-Sep-2005	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 1 vessel off port; 33 vessels due by 15/10; up to 2 days berthing delay expected subject to port congestion and cargo availability; Barney Point: 6 vessels due by 29/9; up to 3 days delay expected due to port congestion and cargo availability; the stacker will be unavailable due to repairs from 06.00-18.00 hrs. 15/9.
Hay Point	12-Sep-2005	Coal: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 12 vessels due by 20/9; up to 1 day's berthing delay expected; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability.
Newcastle	12-Sep-2005	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessel berthed and loading; 60 vessels due by 4/10; Dykes 4+5: 1 vessel loading; 25 vessels due by 2/10; no unallocated vessels; 1-7 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	12-Sep-2005	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 4 vessels due by 18/9; up to 5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 vessels anchored; 4 vessels due by 18/9; up to 4 days berthing delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 3 vessels due by 19/9; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 7 vessels due by 21/9; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Kembla	12-Sep-2005	Coal: 13 vessels due by 3/10; up to 4 days berthing delay expected due to port congestion
Port Walcott	12-Sep-2005	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 7 anchored; 12 vessels due by 28/9; up to 3 days delay expected; Line-up expected to change at short notice. Cargo grade shortages and stockpile problems may result in vessels berthing out of turn.
Azerbaijan		
Apsheon	12-Sep-2005	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 3 vessels berthed, all empty and completed discharging.
Baku	12-Sep-2005	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; Azerneftiyag terminal: no vessels; AzerTrans terminal - Nobel avenue: 1 vessel berthed, discharging crude oil; 1 vessel due 13/9 to discharge crude oil; Sangachal district: 1 vessel berthed, completed discharging crude oil; Transserve terminal: closed.
Brazil		
Paranagua	13-Sep-2005	Nine vessels berthed of which 1 container discharger, 3 fertiliser dischargers, 2 sugar loaders, 3 other loaders/dischargers; 19 vessels waiting in roads, of which 9 to load (3 reefers, 3 sugar, 2 pellets, 1 soya), 10 to discharge (8 fertiliser, 1 containers, 1 other discharger); 40 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio Grande	13-Sep-2005	Three vessels berthed of which 1 phosphate discharger, 1 potassium chloride discharger, 1 wheat discharger; 10 vessels waiting in roads; 28 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Santos	13-Sep-2005	Eighteen vessels berthed of which 7 sugar loaders, 2 bulk soya loaders, 2 fertiliser dischargers, 3 chemical products dischargers, 1 wheat discharger, 1 full container loader/discharger, 2 other loaders/dischargers; 33 vessels waiting in roads; 36 vessels due over the next 7 days; Private terminals: Terminal 37: 1 full container loader/discharger; Tecondi: no vessels; Termars: no vessels; Rodrimar: no vessels; Cosipa: 1 coal loader, 1 steel products loader; Ultrafertil: 1 sulphur discharger; Cargill: 1 pellets loader; Santos Brasil: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Cutrale: 1 pellets loader; Dow: 1 chemical products discharger.
Sao Sebastiao	13-Sep-2005	Seven vessels berthed, 3 waiting in roads; 5 vessels due over the next 10 days

Port Conditions

Bulgaria

Bourgas	12-Sep-2005	Seven vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading (2 coils, 1 scrap, 1 baryte concentrate, 1 steel sheets), 1 discharging jet fuel, 1 vessel under repairs; 2 vessels in roads, both to discharge, of which 1 coal, 1 billets; 11 vessels due, of which 6 to load (2 steel sheets, 1 sulphur, 1 containers, 1 profiles, 1 copper concentrate), 3 to discharge (1 containers, 1 billets, 1 iron ore), 2 passenger vessels.
Varna	12-Sep-2005	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 5-11 September: Thirty-four vessels in port operating of which 23 loading (6 bulk soda, 1 caustic soda, 3 kaolin, 1 scrap, 1 bulk barley, 2 TSP, 1 cement, 1 silica sand, 1 clinker, 1 wheat, 1 sunflower seeds, 3 equipment, 1 hardboard), 5 discharging (3 coal, 1 equipment, 1 petcoke), 6 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in roads.

Chile

Antofagasta	13-Sep-2005	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 12 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers and general cargo.
Arica	13-Sep-2005	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 14 vessels due this week..
Iquique	13-Sep-2005	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 11 vessels due this week.
Valparaiso	13-Sep-2005	Three vessels berthed, 5 berths vacant; 3 vessels anchored; 10 vessels due this week.

Egypt

Adabiya	12-Sep-2005	Eleven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 2 livestock, 1 tanker, 2 containers.
Alexandria	12-Sep-2005	Thirty-six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 22 general cargo, 6 bulk carriers, 4 tankers, 2 container vessels, 2 military vessels; 18 vessels dry-docked; 14 vessels at inner anchorage, 17 at outer anchorage
Damietta	12-Sep-2005	Sixteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 11 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 3 containers; 4 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.
Dekheila	12-Sep-2005	Seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 6 bulk carriers, 1 container vessel; no vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	12-Sep-2005	Three vessels berthed (loading/discharging), all containers.
Suez	12-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	12-Sep-2005	Twenty-two vessels transiting Northbound, 25 Southbound.

India

Kolkata	12-Sep-2005	2 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel discharging Containers, 1 vessel waiting to load General Cargo; 3 vessels working at midstream of which 2 discharging (Steel, Pulses), 1 vessel waiting to discharge Pulses; 4 vessels under repair; 1 vessel under dry docked; 1 vessel waiting due to non receipt of port clearance from customs; 2 vessels due (Containers, POL).
Haldia	12-Sep-2005	11 vessels operating at berth of which 4 loading Iron Ore, 6 vessels discharging (Crude, Coke, Rock Phosphate, Phosphoric Acid, General Cargo, Steel), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 14 vessels awaiting berth (2 to discharge, 12 to load); 4 vessels waiting at anchorage (3 to discharge, 1 to load); 7 vessels due (POL-2, Crude, Coke, Iron ore, Net Coke, Thermal Coal).
Paradip	12-Sep-2005	11 vessels operating at berth of which 4 loading (Iron Ore-3, Magnesium Ore), 7 vessels discharging (Coking Coal, NC Coal-2, Ammonia, Lam Coke, SKO, RP Coke); 6 vessels awaiting berth (1 to discharge, 5 to load); 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge.
Visakhapatnam	12-Sep-2005	10 vessels operating at berth of which 6 loading (C.P.Coke, Steel Plates, Iron ore, B.F.Slag, Thermal Coal-2), 4 vessels discharging (HSD Oil, Urea, Ammonia Sulphate, S.Coal); 2 vessel awaiting berth to discharge; 3 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load, 1 to load and discharge); 1 vessel under repair (MV Chin Shwe Raw at HSY Jetty which was collide with AMV Uttar Kasi); 44 vessels due (Iron Ore-6, Steel, B.F.Slag, Alumina Bulk Bags-2, C.P.Coke, Soya, S.Ore, Granite Blocks-2, Transshipment Crude, Transshipment Naptha-2, POL Products, Molten Sulphur, Sulphur, Rock Phosphate, MOP-2, Coking Coal-5, Caustic Soda-2, Steam Coal, Steel scrap, Power Generating Equipment, Project Cargo, Met Coke-2, POL Products-3, Crude Oil, Containers-2, Passengers).
Chennai	12-Sep-2005	18 vessels operating at berth of which 5 loading (Granite Block-2, Barytes, HSD, Iron ore), 11 vessels discharging (Raw Sugar-2, Logs, MOP, St.Plate/Debar, Crude Oil, Rock Phosphate, Steam Coal-3, Thermal Coal), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 7 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (4 to discharge, 2 to load, 1 to load and discharge); 3 vessels due (Passenger, Iron ore, Furnace Oil).
Tuticorin	12-Sep-2005	6 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading (General Cargo, Granite), 4 vessels discharging (Copper Concentrate-2, Logs, D.Oil).
Cochin	12-Sep-2005	6 vessels operating at berth of which 4 discharging (MOP, Copra Cake, Soda Ash, Crude), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers.

Port Conditions

New Mangalore	12-Sep-2005	5 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (Iron Ore Fines, Iron ore), 3 vessels discharging (Urea, Timber, POL Crude); 7 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 6 to load); 13 vessels due (POL Product-3, LPG, Iron ore Fines-3, Crude Palm Oil-2, MOP, POL Crude, Containers, Coal).
Mormugao	12-Sep-2005	3 vessels operating at berth and discharging (Phosphoric Acid, MOP, S.Scrap), 2 vessels working at mid stream and loading Iron ore; 6 vessels under repairs/dry docked (Repairs/dry docking is being carried out by the Western India Shipyard Ltd. in their yard); 2 vessels due (Containers, Alumina).
Mumbai	12-Sep-2005	14 vessels operating at berth of which 5 loading (General Cargo, Bagged SBM, Steel Cargo, Steel General, POL), 6 vessels discharging (Steel Cargo-2, Peas in Bulk-2, Steel & General Cargo, POL), 3 vessels loading and discharging (Containers/ Steel/ General Cargo, Wood pulp/ Machinery/Pipes, Steel/General Cargo, Heavy Lifts); 3 vessels awaiting berth (2 to load, 1 to load and discharge); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 16 vessels under repairs/dry docked, 7 vessels under arrest, 20 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 14 vessels due (Containers-3, General Cargo-11).
J.N.P.T.	12-Sep-2005	7 vessels operating at berth loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth to load and discharge; 1 Containers vessel due.
Kandla	12-Sep-2005	16 vessels operating at berth of which 7 discharging (Chemical-2, Naptha, Phosphoric Acid, Timber Logs, Fertilizer, Machinery), 8 vessels loading (Rice-2, Agriculture Product-3, Salt, Cement, Ethanol), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth to load; 3 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 1 to load);
Ennore	12-Sep-2005	1 vessel operating at berth and discharging Thermal Coal; 1 Steam Coal vessels (MV Eternal Star) due.
Israel		
Ashdod	13-Sep-2005	Three general cargo vessels loading at berth, 4 bulkers discharging at berth, 3 vessels loading/discharging at berth (2 containers, 1 tanker); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 1 vessel awaiting orders; 16 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	13-Sep-2005	Four vessels discharging at berth (2 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 10 vessels loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 3 tankers, 2 passenger vessels); 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 5 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (4 general cargo, 1 bulker), 5 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (3 containers, 2 tankers); 2 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 13 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Kazakhstan		
Aktau	12-Sep-2005	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, both loading crude oil; 3 vessels in roads, all to load unknown cargoes; 4 vessels due by 13/9, all to load unknown cargoes.
Nigeria		
Bonny offshore terminal	09-Sep-2005	One vessel loading at berth, 2 anchored, 6 due.
Escravos terminal	09-Sep-2005	No vessels loading at berth, 1 anchored, 1 due.
Qua-Iboe terminal	09-Sep-2005	Production at Oso platform remains low. One vessel loading at berth, 1 anchored, 5 due.
Pakistan		
Karachi	12-Sep-2005	Thirteen vessels discharging at berth (1 chemicals, 1 palm oil, 1 coal, 2 steel coils, 2 DAP, 2 general cargo, 1 TSP, 2 sugar, 1 phosphate), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 2 general cargo, 1 sugar); no vessels bunkering, 1 under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 7 vessels due (2 containers, 1 DAP, 1 rice, 1 palm oil, 1 crude oil, 1 chemicals), with 4-5 days berthing delay expected for general cargo vessels, 1 day for container vessels.
Port Qasim	12-Sep-2005	Four vessels discharging at berth (1 gasoil, 1 rape seed, 1 palm oil, 1 fertiliser); 3 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 wheat, 3 containers, 1 palm oil, 1 other vessel).
Russia		
Novorossiysk	12-Sep-2005	Thirteen vessels in port operating, of which 12 loading (1 WRIC, 1 DRI, 1 scrap, 1 steel billets/WRIC/scrap/tin plates/coils/steel sheets/lumber, 1 pig-iron, 3 wheat, 2 aluminium, 1 coils, 1 carton/cellulose), 1 discharging/loading containers; 3 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 1 scrap, 1 aluminium, 1 coils; 59 vessels due, of which 57 to load (5 steel billets, 2 DRI, 2 bulk fertiliser, 3 coils, 1 cars, 2 UAN solution, 2 scrap, 5 bulk ammonium nitrate, 5 aluminium, 4 copper, 2 bulk NPK, 2 cement, 1 equipment, 1 WRIC, 1 ammonium sulphate, 6 wheat, 1 steel billets/pipes/steel sheets, 1 copper/aluminium, 1 bulk NPK, 1 pipes/scrap, 1 pig-iron, 1 WRIC/steel sheets, 3 slabs, 1 steel sheets/plates, 1 pipes, 1 flowers, 1 diesel oil), 2 to discharge/load containers; Oil terminal: no tankers berthed; 2 tankers in roads, both to load crude oil; 8 tankers due, all to load, of which 6 crude oil, 1 diesel oil, 1 fuel oil.

Port Conditions

Slovenia

Koper	12-Sep-2005	Port working normally. Six vessels berthed of which 1 bulk carrier discharging minerals, 1 bulk carrier loading coal, 3 vessels loading general cargo/sawn timber, 1 vessel discharging/loading containers; 1 bulk carrier waiting at anchorage to discharge iron ore; 16 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 5 to load sawn timber/general cargo, 2 vessels to discharge/load containers, 3 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 1 vessel to load livestock, 2 bulk carriers to discharge minerals/scrap/cement, 1 bulk carrier to load coal, 1 tanker to discharge mineral oils.
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Spain

Bilbao	12-Sep-2005	Twenty-one vessels operating (2 tankers, 19 others), of which 6 loading, 9 discharging, 6 loading/discharging.
Cadiz	13-Sep-2005	Seventeen vessels in port of which 7 operating (3 Ro/Ros, 2 semolina, 1 containers, 1 shipbuilding materials), 10 vessels under repair; no delays.
Sagunto	12-Sep-2005	Sixteen vessels in port operating of which 1 loading bulk fertiliser, 13 discharging (9 steel products, 1 general cargo, 2 timber/logs, 1 anhydrous ammonia), 2 discharging/loading (1 steel products, 1 containers); no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.

Sri Lanka

Colombo	13-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. Thirteen container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 22 vessels discharging at berth (12 containers/feeders, 1 bulk gypsum, 1 bulk palm oil, 1 bagged MOP, 1 bulk clinker, 2 bulk cement, 1 bagged cement, 1 bagged urea, 1 general cargo, 1 essential services); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 container/feeder, 1 project cargo); 4 vessels dry-docked, 1 at new tanker berth; 10 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays expected.
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Turkmenistan

Turkmenbashi	12-Sep-2005	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, 1 waiting to load gasoline, 1 loading gasoil; 4 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 2 gasoil, 2 gasoline; 1 vessel due 12/9 to discharge crude oil.
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Ukraine

Ilichevsk	12-Sep-2005	Nine vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading (3 steel products, 2 grain), 3 discharging steel products, 1 discharging/loading containers; 1 vessel in roads to load oil; 25 vessels due, of which 11 to load (7 steel products, 3 grain, 1 sulphur), 5 to discharge (2 ore, 3 steel products), 9 to discharge/load containers.
Mariupol	12-Sep-2005	Ten vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 6 steel, 1 wheat, 1 fire-clay, 1 coal, 1 ammonium saltpetre; 13 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 11 steel, 1 coke, 1 sulphur; 57 vessels due, of which 52 to load (22 steel, 12 coal, 9 fire-clay, 4 wheat, 1 pitch, 2 coke, 1 kaolin, 1 equipment), 3 to discharge (2 equipment, 1 equipment/pipes), 2 to discharge/load (1 containers, 1 containers/fire-clay).
Odessa	12-Sep-2005	Fifteen vessels in port operating, of which 7 loading (2 scrap, 1 ore, 2 pig-iron, 1 wheat, 1 grain), 4 discharging (2 bananas, 1 luggage, 1 oil/rice), 1 container vessel loading/discharging, 3 passenger vessels; 3 vessels in roads, of which 1 to load wheat, 1 to discharge sugar, 1 to load/discharge containers; 59 vessels due, of which 33 to load (22 metal, 1 scrap, 4 pig-iron, 1 ore, 1 barley/wheat, 1 oil, 1 wood, 1 corn, 1 ferro alloy), 6 to discharge (1 sugar, 1 bananas, 2 citrus, 1 oil, 1 fat), 20 to discharge/load containers.

United States

Beaumont	13-Sep-2005	Louis Dreyfus terminal: 2 days delay.
Galveston	13-Sep-2005	ADM-Farmland terminal: 1 day's delay.
Houston	13-Sep-2005	Cargill terminal: 2 days delay; LDC Dreyfus terminal: 1-2 days delay.
Kalama	13-Sep-2005	Kalama export terminal: 4 days delay; United Harvest terminal: no delays.
Portland, Oreg	13-Sep-2005	Columbia Grain terminal: 2 days delay; CLD Irving terminal: 1 day's delay; CLD, O Dock terminals: 2 days delay.

Port Conditions

New Orleans

13-Sep-2005

Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: no power; Cargill-Westwego: no information available; ADM/Ama: 5-7 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 1-2 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: 5-6 days delay expected. Nine-day forecast for Carrolton Gauge/New Orleans: unavailable at present due to hurricane Katrina. Mississippi River recommended draft restrictions: SW Pass to Pilotown - 45 ft. for all vessels; Pilotown to Nola - 45 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: shallow draft vessels.

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