

September 24 2004

Pirate raiders thwarted by quick-thinking tanker crews

TWO oil tankers were able to frustrate attempted pirate attacks in separate incidents in Indonesian waters last week, the latest piracy round-up from the International Maritime Bureau reports.

But, according to details published by the IMB yesterday, these were just two of the six piracy outrages against merchant shipping worldwide in the last week.

In the first case, three armed pirates boarded an unnamed vessel at Dumai at 0335 LT on Monday, and threatened some of the crew with knives.

Crew members rallied to their defence, causing the assailants to flee empty-handed.

The second case occurred last Saturday, when pirates driving two speedboats attempt to board a product tanker.

According to the IMB, the incident occurred in the Gelasa Straits at around 1030 LT.

The ship's duty officer raised the alarm and took evasive manoeuvres, causing the pirates to abort their plans.

On the same day in Malaysia, a bulk carrier at anchorage off Manis in Sarawak was boarded at around 0330 LT by a single robber armed with a knife, who seems too have climbed up the anchor chain.

Once again the duty officer raised the alarm and the robber escaped empty handed in a waiting boat.

Armed

Two piracy incidents were also recorded in Jamaica. At 0300 LT on Friday last week, six robbers armed with guns, knives and crowbars boarded a vessel at Port Esquivel inner anchorage.

The team managed to break into the forward lockers and steal some of the ship's stores. When the crew were mustered the pirates made of in a motor boat.

In a separate attack five pirates armed with guns boarded a boxship in Kingston last Wednesday.

The attackers broke into the vessel's cargo hold and forward locker and again stole ship's stores.

The crew managed to raise the alarm. But when the master reported the matter to the port

authority and the coast guard, he reportedly received no response.

The final case reported by the IMB took place at Chittagong Roads in Bangladesh on Thursday.

In this incident, nine robbers armed with knives boarded a supply ship which was at the time towing another vessel.

Fought

The crew mustered and fought the robbers using hand flares and axes. None of the crew were injured as a result.

Nevertheless, the criminals succeeded in stealing from the stores before fleeing.

The master informed the port authority, and a naval vessel was sent to investigate.

While the IMB is easily the most detailed source of information on piracy incidents, maritime security sources fear that many more cases are going unreported, and that the weekly round-up is just the tip of the iceberg.

David Osler
Lloyd's List Editorial

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>CHRISTINE</i>	trawler	DNK	—	—	—	—	Sank after being contacted by mv <i>Pioner Belorussii</i> north of Thorup Beach, between Hantsholm and Hirtshals, Sep 11. Three of the 4 crew rescued.
<i>HIGH ENDURANCE</i>	chem/oil carrier	LBR	(AB)	28,300	45,600	2004	In collision with cc <i>Merkur Bridge</i> near Johore Sep 15 Caught fire in engine room, small hole in port quarter. Tug on scene and fire extinguished same day. At anchor off Johore.
<i>LUCKY LADY</i>	crude oil tanker	MLT	LR	51,807	88,272	1981	Touched bottom while approaching Cilacap Sep 10. Underwater damage, some leakage of cargo of oil. Berthed safely at Cilacap same day for diver inspection. Most cargo removed by Sep 16.
<i>MAANAV STAR</i>	general	IND	BV	1,175	2,099	1981	Grounded on beach about 3 miles E of Rye Sep 11. Small amount of water washed into engine-room by high seas. Salvors on scene. Refloating attempt Sep 16 unsuccessful.
<i>MAERSK SAN JUAN</i>	container	ATG	BV	10,546	12,184	1993	Towed from Barranquilla anchorage to Willemstad Sep 7 due main engine trouble.
<i>OCTOPUSSY</i>	general	BEL	—	—	—	—	Ran into two moored inland vessels at Sluiskil quay, Ghent-Terneuzen Canal, Sep 12. Moorings of these vessels broke and they ran into another three vessels, which subsequently contacted some other vessels.
<i>OSTRIA</i>	general	PRK	PR	1,427	1,847	1970	Sank in bad weather in lat 35 07N, long 26 46E, Sep 11. Crew rescued.
<i>P&O NEDLLOYD PALLISER</i>	container	LBR	(GL)	45,803	53,081	2002	Reported to have sustained rudder damage prior to arrival Hamburg Aug 18. Subsequently sailed Haqmburg 09 Sep.
<i>PLEIONE</i>	bulker	BHS	NK	36,559	70,189	1996	Struck by tanker <i>Aegean Trader</i> while anchored at Cristobal inner anchorage Sep 13. Damage to bulbous bow and flooding of forepeak tank.
<i>S. DURVILLE</i>	general	SGP	LR	3,949	6,120	1984	Reported Sep 16 under tow for Brisbane following engine breakdown, ETA Sep 25. Expected to return to service at the beginning of October.
<i>SPEED ONE</i>	ferry	GBR	NV	5,007	415	1997	Reported Sep 9 to have sustained engine trouble in France. Due back in service Sep 14.
<i>SVEAFJELL</i>	general	NOR	NV	1,021	818	1970	Grounded near Valsoya, Bjugn, Sep 15. Coast Guard vessel on scene. Some diesel leaking out. Initial attempts to refloat unsuccessful, tug ordered.
<i>WHITE SANDS</i>	fishing	GBR	BV	262	—	1975	Issued Mayday, Sep 9, in lat 13 58N, long 20 10W, due water ingress through stern area. Taken in tow by hospital ship <i>Esperanza del Mar</i> Sep 10, bound Dakar.

CONTENTS

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

Marine, including Overdue & Missing Vessels	1
Seizures & Arrests	9
Pollution	9
Weather & Navigation	10
Earthquakes	19
Volcanic Activity	20
Political & Civil Unrest	20
Labour Disputes	25
Awards & Settlements	26
Railway Accidents	26
Miscellaneous	29
Fires & Explosions	30
Aviation	32
Space Vehicles	35
Product Recalls	36
Port Conditions	36
Port Conditions charts	37

© Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit 2004
These reports may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photographic, recorded or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher.



The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



A-397 (U.S.A.)

London, Sep 13 — While proceeding up bound in the Detroit River and heading for the Amherstburg Channel, barge A-397 (2928 gt, built 1962) pushed by tug *Karen Andrie* (433 gt, built 1965) struck and demolished Lt.D33 at 0555, Sep 11. Barge sustained a hole in the forepeak tank.

ABRA (Marshall Islands)

London, Sep 13 — Bulk *Abra* arrived San Nicolas(ARG) Sep 6.

AEGEAN TRADER (NIS)

See *Pleione*.

AL FAHAD (Saudi Arabia)

London, Sep 15 — Owners of passenger ro/ro *Al Fahad* advise that the vessel is anchored outside Jeddah, towards Shoaiba, some 35 kms south of Jeddah. The vessel requires major repairs and it is understood that the owners want to sell the vessel "as is", unrepaired.

ALGOFAX (Canada)

London, Sep 14 — Product tanker *Halifax*, ex *Algofax*, arrived Algeciras Aug 28.

ANNTORO (Norway)

Trondheim, Sep 9 — General cargo *Anntoro* (689 gt, built 1971) arrived Kvernhusvik Shipyard, Hitra Jan 21, with General Average. No decision taken yet if the vessel will be repaired or not. — Lloyd's Agents.

ASTRO ALTAIR (Greece)

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: New Orleans ferry service between the west and east banks of the Mississippi River is set to resume on Monday (Sep 13), two weeks after product tanker *Astro Altair* slammed into the ferry's landing. The vessel lost steering Aug 28 and slammed into the Algiers Point ferry landing. There were no injuries and the tanker did not leak any oil into the river. The accident knocked out ferry service between Algiers Point and Canal Street, which is at the entrance to the French Quarter. The collision knocked guide wires, beams and two spans from the shore to the ferry — one for pedestrians and the other for vehicles — into the river. Also, a pontoon barge that is part of the landing was dislodged and cracked. On Monday, service is set to resume although some minor repairs need to still be made, according to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. The loss of ferry service has been inconvenient for many people who live in the Algiers neighbourhood.

ATLANTIC HERO (Panama)

See "Brittany, France" under "Pollution".

BANGA BIRAJ (Bangladesh)

London, Sep 11 — C.c. *Banga Biraj* sailed Chittagong Sep 4 for Singapore.

BANGLAR SHOURABH (Bangladesh)

See "Karnaphuli River, Bangladesh" under "Pollution."

BBC INDIA (Gibraltar)

London, Sep 13 — General cargo *BBC India* arrived Montreal 0451, Sep 8, and sailed 2013, Sep 11.

BLUE OCEAN (Cambodia)

See Typhoon "Songda" under "Weather & Navigation".

BLUE STAR NAXOS (Greece)

London, Sep 15 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Passenger ro/ro *Blue Star Naxos* (10438 gt, built 2002), while moored at the port of Santorini, lost all electrical power at 1545, Sep 15. At the time vessel was on the schedule Santorini-Naxos-Paros-Piraeus with 331 passengers, 115 for Naxos, 58 for Paros, 158 for Piraeus. Efforts were made by the crew to repair the damage.

London, Sep 16 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Passenger ro/ro *Blue Star Naxos* was permitted to continue normal scheduling after repair of the damage by the crew and survey by the marine inspectorate of Santorini, and departed with three passengers for Paros and 72 for Piraeus at 2140, Sep 15.

CAPE BANKS (Germany)

Mersin, Sep 13 — Chemical/oil carrier *Cape Banks*, laden with 28,861 tonnes of gas oil, arrived at Mersin roads at 0418 hrs, Aug 31. Vessel upped anchor at 0600 hrs, Sep 4 and a pilot boarded 24 minutes later. At 1342 hrs, the vessel became stranded. While entering the port to berth, it failed to "take the direction through the channel" and ran aground. Cargo was twice off-loaded onto chemical/oil carrier *Adrasan C.*. The first transfer, of 3,963 tonnes, commenced at 1730 hrs, Sep 10 and was completed at 0410 hrs, Sep 11. The second transfer, of 3,908 tonnes, commenced at 0925 hrs, Sep 12 and was completed later that day at 1930 hrs. After lightening operations, *Cape Banks* refloated and anchored at 1129 hrs, today, at Mersin Port roads. There is still about 20,871 tonnes of cargo on board. An underwater survey commenced at 1230 hrs, today in order to ascertain whether the vessel has been damaged. — Lloyd's Agents.

Mersin, Sep 15 — Chemical/oil carrier *Cape Banks*: Vessels' P&I Club have advised that following the underwater survey, the vessel is certified and permitted to discharge its cargo in Mersin, under the condition that the vessel must attend a shipyard "for control" inside three months. The vessel is currently waiting in the roads to berth, as another vessel is currently

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

occupying the terminal. *Cape Banks* is expected to berth, to discharge, on Friday (Sep 17). — Lloyd's Agents.

CENTURY HOPE (Philippines)

See *Ferry Fukuoka 2*.

CHRISTINE (Denmark)

Gothenburg, Sep 13 — General cargo *Pioner Belorussii* (5370 gt, built 1978) ran into Danish trawler *Christine*, sinking it, north of Thorup Beach between Hansthalm and Hirtshals on the north-west coast of Jutland during the morning of Sep 11. Three out of four crewmen from the *Christine* were picked up from the water and taken on board the *Pioner Belorussii* but the fourth person is still missing. Surface yachts and vessels together with helicopters have been participating in the searches. — Westax Marine Services AB.

CMA CGM MOZART (French Southern Territories)

London, Sep 15 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0540, UTC: C.c. *CMA CGM Mozart* (69022 gt, built 2004) for Hamburg, is not under command in lat 52 12.6N, long 03 13.1E.

London, Sep 15 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0725, UTC: At 0649, UTC, c.c. *CMA CGM Mozart* resumed passage to Hamburg, at 20 knots. Exact nature of the vessels problem was not declared, but it is understood to have related to the main engine.

COMMODORE (Netherlands)

London, Sep 12 — Chem.tank *Commodore* (1600 gt, built 1992), bound for Terneuzen, ran aground at about 0530, local time, Sep 11, near Buoy 75, in the River Scheldt. The inland tanker, loaded with a cargo of 600 tons of octeen, was refloated with the aid of the two tugs, *Union 11* and *Fonda*. When afloat, *Fonda* towed the tanker to Terneuzen and into the Oostbuitenhaven (East Outer Harbour), where the authorities came on board for an investigation. After a diver had been under the vessel to inspect the hull, in which he found the there was damage to the propeller, the vessel was towed to the Dow harbour to discharge the cargo. After discharging, *Commodore* will go to a shipyard for repairs.

London, Sep 14 — Chem.tank *Commodore*, which ran aground Sep 11, near buoy 75 in the River Scheldt, has been discharged of cargo at DOW Chemicals and has been towed to Sluiskil for repairs. The vessel had sustained damage to her propeller and some other minor damages and arrived in tow at Shipyard "De Schroef" BV in Sluiskil where she went into one of the dry-docks yesterday. Repairs will be completed tomorrow, Sep 15 and the vessel will resume her voyage.

CRISTOFORO COLOMBO (Belgium)

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated today, states: One hundred and eighty-nine tons of black oil and diesel fuel spilled from three damaged tanks

of hopper dredger *Cristoforo Colombo* that ran aground Wednesday (Sep 8) during a typhoon. The Sakhalin Energy Company that employed the dredger said today there was a total of 323 tons of black oil and diesel fuel on the vessel. However, the three damaged tanks contained a maximum of 189 tons. All 29 crew remain on board the dredger. The spill is moving from the Sakhalin port of Kholmsk to the north along the western coast of the island. Yesterday it stretched five kilometers along the coast line and continues to expand, Kholmsk Mayor Alexander Gusto told Tass. The "Sakhalin Ecological Alert" organisation said all sea birds abandoned the area of Kholmsk. The work to eliminate the consequences of the spill is under way.

DUMIT (Canada)

London, Sep 15 — Buoy ship *Dumit* (569 gt, built 1979) while approaching a buoy in the Mackenzie River, near mile 5693, struck bottom at 1732, Sep 11. No apparent damage.

EMPRESS OF THE SEAS (Bahamas)

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated Sep 8, states: Seven crew members from passenger *Empress of the Seas* (48563 gt, built 1990) were seriously injured and taken to hospital after a lifeboat plunged 60 feet into the waters off Bermuda's Dockyard yesterday. Police media spokesman Dwayne Caines said last night that one of the seven men involved in the accident had been airlifted out of the Island for treatment of spinal injuries. A second man was in the hospital's intensive care unit after nearly drowning. Last night his condition was described as stable. Three other victims are now recovering on general wards suffering from injuries including a separated shoulder, lacerations to the head and a dislocated and fractured shoulder. Two others involved in the accident were released from hospital last night. Cruise ship officials have released the nationalities of some of the victims: Two Filipinos, one South African, one Ecuadorian, one West Indian, another South American of an unknown country and one crew member of unknown nationality. At 1110 yesterday police received the report of an accident when the stern of a lifeboat dropped suddenly as it was being lowered as part of a safety drill. The boat dropped 60 feet into the waters off King's Wharf in Dockyard where the vessel was berthed. Several of the men were thrown out of the boat when it smashed into the water. According to police reports emergency personnel assisted in pulling the men to safety. "This matter is under investigation by both the Bermuda Police Service and a surveyor from Marine and Ports," said Mr Caines. A witness also told ZMB news that the lifeboat carrying the men was filled with blood. The last man was taken off the vessel just after 1300 hrs was in "critical" condition, according to Jerome Robinson of Dockyard Marine and Ports Department. Representatives of Harbour Radio, Fire, Police and

Ambulances were all at the scene at King's Wharf, Dockyard, yesterday morning. Duncan Currie, Chief Surveyor at the Department of Marine Administration said their investigation was ongoing. "We need to check the remaining lifeboats to see if it is safe for the vessel to continue," Mr. Currie said. He said the process of the investigation was slow as "the main witnesses to the accident were hospitalised, so they did not consider interviewing them at present." Although the investigation had not been completed, Mr. Currie said the accident would seem "potentially to be caused by a maloperation of an on-board release mechanism." He said he was going back to the vessel today to continue his investigation and a representative of the manufacturers of the type of lifeboat used on the *Empress of the Seas* will also be on the vessel. He said the release mechanism is a special thing on the liferaft itself and not on board the vessel. "The release mechanism needs to be operated properly," he said. However, this kind of release mechanism has "a history of problems," he said. "There have been numerous accidents, not only on cruise ships, but on any vessel with these liferafts," he said. The *Empress of the Seas* sailed into Bermuda on Monday (Sep 6) and is due to sail to New Jersey on Friday.

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated Sep 10, states: Three of the injured crewmen from passenger *Empress of the Seas* were in stable condition in hospital in Bermuda last night, while their vessel is due to leave the island today as scheduled. The men were taken to hospital on Tuesday (Sep 7) after a lifeboat evacuation exercise went wrong. One man was airlifted to Boston with spinal injuries. Three men had now been treated and released from hospital, police said. A spokesman from Meyer Shipping yesterday said that the *Empress of the Seas* was leaving Bermuda at 1600 today. However, police said: "The investigation into the incident is continuing in conjunction with the Registry of Shipping, the manufacturer of the lifeboat and the manufacturer of the hoist mechanism."

London, Sep 13 — Passenger *Empress of the Seas* sailed Bermuda Sep 10 and arrived New York Sep 12.

FERRY FUKUOKA 2 (Japan)

Yokohama, Sep 16 — Passenger ro/ro *Ferry Fukuoka 2* (9730 gt, built 2002) dragged anchor and was in collision with bulk *Century Hope* (9978 gt, built 2001) 10,000 metres, 238 deg, from Misaki Lighthouse, Kagawa Prefecture, at 2119, Aug 30. *Ferry Fukuoka 2* sustained denting damage to port stern. *Century Hope* sustained cracking damage to bow. No oil spill or water ingress, or personal injury from either vessel. Both vessels could proceed under their own power as the damages were slight. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Century Hope* sailed Mizushima Sep 2 and subsequently arrived and sailed Yokohama Sep 4.)

FJORD ICE (Malta)

Gothenburg, Sep 16 — Ro/ro *Fjord Ice* (2573 gt, built 1982) grounded at 2306

hrs, Sep 14, at Flintraennan outside of Malmo. Vessel was laden with 2,000 tons of frozen fish, bound for Klaipeda. No leakage was reported, but advised by Inspectors that two tanks and possibly a third, were punctured. There are small stones and pebbles where vessel grounded. The vessel remained aground yesterday in strong south-westerly winds. However, when the winds subsequently shifted towards the west and north-west and decreased slightly, the vessel was able to refloat, assisted by a tug, and cleared ground between 0300 and 0330 hrs, this morning and anchored at 0330 hrs. A pilot went onboard at 0800 hrs and the vessel berthed at Malmo at 1000 hrs. The vessel is currently awaiting a divers inspection to determine whether it can proceed or will be required to discharge/repair. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Malmo, Sep 16 — Ro/ro *Fjord Ice*, bound Klaipeda with a cargo of fish, grounded at Flintraennan outside Malmo harbour, Sweden, at 2300, local time, Sep 14. Vessel was refloat with assistance of one tug at 2300, local time, Sep 15. The Swedish National Maritime, Class and Insurance representative were onboard during the day. No oil leakage has been reported. The vessel has bottom damage forward. No decision has been made as to where repairs will be effected. — Lloyd's Agents.

FRASER TITAN (Canada)

See PT36.

FREITIND (Norway)

Trondheim, Sep 16 — General cargo *Freitind*: Vessel's insurance company inform the vessel will be scrapped. There is, however, some interest in buying the vessel for conversion to a barge. — Lloyd's Agents.

FU KUO HSIN NO.7 (Panama)

London, Sep 15 — Salvage services have been rendered to bulk *Fu Kuo Hsin No.7* under LOF 2000 by Nippon Salvage Co Ltd, Sep 13.

Yokohama, Sep 15 — Bulk *Fu Kuo Hsin No.7* remains aground and it will require further time to be refloat. — Lloyd's Agents.

HAWK ARROW (Bahamas)

London, Sep 6 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRSC, timed 0155, UTC: General cargo *Hawk Arrow*: Exhaust valve has been repaired and vessel is proceeding on voyage.

London, Sep 11 — General cargo *Hawk Arrow*, Antwerp for United Arab Emirates, passed Cape Finisterre Sep 8.

HEBEI COURAGE (Hong Kong)

London, Sep 14 — Bulk/oil *Hebei Courage* (42009 gt, built 1985) reported striking the dock while berthing at Pacific Coast Bulk Terminal, Port Moody, BC, lat 49 17 30N, long 122 52 00W, at 1537, PDST, Sep 11.

HIGH ENDURANCE (Liberia)

London, Sep 15 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0500, UTC: Chemical/oil carrier *High*

Endurance (28300 gt, built 2004) reported a fire on board after it was in collision with an unknown vessel near Johore at about 0030, local time, today. A Singapore rescue tug is on scene and the fire is extinguished. No injuries reported. Vessel is currently at anchor off Johore.

Rotterdam, Sep 15 — Salvage services to chemical/oil carrier *High Endurance* are being rendered by SMIT Salvage BV under LOF 2000. — SMIT Salvage BV.

London, Sep 15 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0805, UTC: The other vessel involved in the collision with chemical/oil carrier *High Endurance* (28300 gt, built 2004) is c.c. *Merkur Bridge* (9597 gt, built 1993). *High Endurance* remains anchored off Johore. No further information on situation of *Merkur Bridge* or damages which may have been sustained by the vessels, is currently known.

London, Sep 15 — Following received from the managers of chemical/oil carrier *High Endurance*, dated today: *High Endurance*, Surabaya for Singapore, in ballast, was in collision with c.c. *Merkur Bridge* about 40 miles east of Singapore, in lat 01 26.7N, long 104 30.1E, at 2350, local time. The *High Endurance* sustained some damage to a bunker tank on the port side containing 46 tonnes of gasoil. A fire immediately broke out in that tank and in the vessel's engine-room. The carbon dioxide fire-fighting system was immediately activated, the engine-room was evacuated and the fire was swiftly extinguished. The vessel is now at anchor and the situation is stable; there was no pollution. There were no injuries and the crew members are safe and still on board the vessel.

Singapore, Sep 16 — At about 0106, Sep 15, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore received a call from the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) that c.c. *Merkur Bridge* and chemical/oil carrier *High Endurance* had collided outside the Singapore Strait, north-east of Horsburgh Lighthouse, within Singapore waters. Preliminary checks indicated that the *Merkur Bridge* was overtaking RSN vessel *Persistence*. When *Merkur Bridge* had closed in next to *Persistence*, it suddenly altered course to avoid oncoming *High Endurance*. In doing so *Merkur Bridge* struck *Persistence* and soon after collided with the *High Endurance* at about 0040. As a result on the incident, the engine-room of *High Endurance* caught fire, which was put out shortly after by vessel's crew. *High Endurance* also sustained a small hole at its port quarter, above the waterline. The extent of damage to the *Merkur Bridge* is yet to be determined, but it is in stable condition. The *Persistence* sustained minor scratches to its port side. There was no report of injuries or pollution from the three vessels. The *High Endurance* and *Merkur Bridge* are currently in stable condition and are anchored just outside the Traffic Separation Scheme, north-east of Horsburgh Lighthouse. Salvage tugs deployed by Semco and Smit International are at the scene. Vessel

traffic along the Singapore Strait remains unaffected. The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore will be investigating the incident. — Maritime Port Authority of Singapore.

HUMBER ARM (Bermuda)

Naples, Sep 10 — General cargo *Humber Arm* arrived at our port, under tow, on Jun 19 and was to carry out repairs due to engine damage. Repairs were not carried out in Naples but, in the meantime, the vessel changed name to *Umber Arm* (new owners/managers not known). On Jul 6, the vessel sailed from our port bound for Pireo. — Lloyd's Agents.

IRAN ARDEBIL (Iran)

London, Sep 14 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: C.c. *Iran Ardebil* has stranded at the shore of Yemeni island of Mion after grounding into heavy colonies of coral reefs on Aug 15. Coming from the Arab Gulf en route to Europe, the vessel was loaded with over 2000 containers at a total cost of \$55 million. The cargo has been unloaded and transferred to Yemeni Aden Container Terminal so that the vessel can be towed, and repaired before resuming its journey. Negotiations are undertaken with Yemeni Ports Authority to rescue the vessel and tow it to a nearby port after the Maritime Affairs Authority checks. Minister of Transportation Omar Al-Amoudi said Yemeni authorities are doing their duty perfectly, in accordance with regulations and laws.

ISLAND BRAVE (Canada)

See PT36.

JACARANDA (Panama)

London, Sep 13 — Bulk *Jacaranda* sailed from Kashima, on Sep 11, bound for the Philippines.

JACKIE MOON (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Sep 10 — General cargo *Jackie Moon* sailed Glasgow Sep 6 for Ymuiden.

JAN MARIA (Germany)

London, Sep 12 — Fishing *Jan Maria* sailed from Bremhaven at 1100 hrs, on Sep 11.

JENS MUNK (DIS)

Wellington, Sep 2 — General cargo *Jens Munk* arrived Wellington Aug 28 from Mossel Bay and sailed Aug 29 for Darwin. — Lloyd's Agents.

KAREN ANDRIE (U.S.A.)

See A-397.

KELVIN (Norway)

Trondheim, Sep 9 — General cargo *Kelvin*: Repairs have been completed and vessel will leave Kvernhusvik Shipyard today. — Lloyd's Agents.

KEN EXPLORER (Liberia)

London, Sep 13 — Following received from the managers of bulk *Ken Explorer*, dated today: *Ken Explorer* is still aground at the present time, situation unchanged.

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

London, Sep 15 — Following received from the managers of bulk *Ken Explorer*, dated today: *Ken Explorer* is still aground in the same position. Salvors have discharged some of the cargo into a barge and are looking for another vessel to discharge the remainder into.

LIMBURG (French Southern Territories)

London, Sep 16 — Terrorists must have gained inside shipping knowledge for their speedboat attack on the crude oil tanker *Limburg* off Yemen in October 2002, a shipmanager who dealt with the aftermath has suggested. Almost two years after the assault, which brought to the fore the terrorism threat to global shipping, the incident, which cost one life and caused \$45m worth of damage, is still yielding fresh lessons to the industry. Dirk Olyslager, marine risk management manager at Antwerp-based Belgibo, highlighted the security riddle in a detailed history of the incident, during a presentation to the International Union of Marine Insurance meeting in Singapore. Mr Olyslager pointed out that the vessel was holed in the one tank that was laden with oil: "Is this coincidence? I doubt it," he said. "We still do not know where the information came from." Between loading in Ras Tanura and arriving at the terminal, the vessel would have exchanged papers between terminals and between agents, and loading plans must have been transmitted, so somewhere some intelligence must have leaked. It would be pure luck to hit the one laden tank out of five." Mr Olyslager said it was fortunate for the vessel that the explosives-laden assault craft struck a frame, rather than piercing the hull between two frames. The damage and resulting fire would have been much more severe. Five supporters of al-Qa'eda are currently appealing against jail sentences imposed by a Yemeni court for their alleged part in the attack. In a comment on the marine insurance market, Mr Olyslager said there was too little pollution cover available in case of war attacks. Although a signatory to the Civil Liability Convention, which allows shipowners to escape liability in the case of an act of war, the government of Yemen insisted there was direct liability under its jurisdiction for any kind of pollution. That government initially demanded a deposit of \$18.5m, to the consternation of owners and underwriters. The demand was dropped after the shipowner agreed to make a \$1m donation to the people of Yemen without admitting any liability. Now, the republic insisted that any vessel going into its territorial waters could not rely on its own war coverage and would have to negotiate with Yemeni underwriters.

LUCKY LADY (Malta)

London, Sep 10 — Following received from the managers of crude oil tanker *Lucky Lady* (51807 gt, built 1981), dated today: *Lucky Lady* touched bottom while approaching discharge

berth at Cilacap this morning. Underwater damage was sustained, resulting in leakage of about 1,000 tonnes of the vessel's cargo of crude oil. The *Lucky Lady* is now berthed safely at Cilacap and divers are due to carry out an underwater inspection. Clean-up operations were placed in hand.

London, Sep 10 — Crude oil tanker *Lucky Lady* is carrying 80,000 tonnes of crude oil from Seria Terminal in Brunei. It ran aground at 0500 today and has spilled about 1,000 cubic metres of oil. Oil has now stopped leaking from the vessel and clean-up operations are under way.

London, Sep 13 — By the afternoon of Sep 10, Eastern Mediterranean operations manager Captain Gabriel Haldezos said that a clean-up was proceeding and that leakage from crude oil tanker *Lucky Lady*, currently alongside the berth, had halted due to hydrostatic balancing. The company put the total cargo to have leaked from the damaged starboard tank at about 1,200 tonnes. Capt Haldezos said the vessel would not discharge the rest of its cargo until an inspection by divers, scheduled for the morning of Sep 11, was able to determine the extent of the damage. According to the East Mediterranean spokesman, the incident took place before a local pilot joined the vessel. An investigation into it is going on, Capt Haldezos said.

London, Sep 13 — Following received from the managers of crude oil tanker *Lucky Lady*, dated today: The diver inspection of the vessel has been carried out. The inspection revealed some underwater damage and it is not known whether the divers on scene will be able to carry out the necessary repair work, therefore, another team of divers has been sent from Greece. An internal transfer of the cargo of oil has commenced, removing oil from the damaged tank so that full removal of cargo can be carried out without any danger of pollution. Various representatives are on scene.

Jakarta, Sep 14 — On Sep 10, 2004 crude oil tanker *Lucky Lady* sustained a leak in her hull, whilst at Cilacap, resulting in 5,000 litres of its cargo of crude oil polluting the waters in the vicinity of Cilacap port. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 15 — A press report, dated Sep 14, states: Indonesia's state-owned oil and gas company Pertamina confirmed today that an oil tanker carrying light crude from Brunei ran aground Friday (Sep 10) morning, causing an oil spill off the coast of Cilacap, Central Java. "We are still trying to prevent the oil spill from spreading further," Dwi Martono, Pertamina's acting spokesman said. The oil spill has reached a three-kilometre radius, he said, but the crude oil tanker *Lucky Lady*, "has already docked." Dwi was unable to specify the quantity of crude oil that leaked, but said the cargo, which he estimates around 608,000 barrels, was bound for Pertamina's Cilacap oil refinery. Another official at Pertamina said the leakage has stopped due to hydrostatic balancing. He added that Pertamina

will conduct an investigation on the accident. (See issue of Sep 15.)

London, Sep 16 — Following received from the managers of crude oil tanker *Lucky Lady*, dated today: All remaining cargo in the vessel's damaged No 1 starboard tank has been removed by portable pumps with the exception of about 25 cubic metres. About 34,600 tonnes of cargo had been discharged ashore up to this morning but discharge was interrupted due to lack of ullage ashore. (See issue of Sep 16.)

MAANAV STAR (India)

London, Sep 12 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRSC, timed 2320, UTC: General cargo *Maanav Star* (1175 gt, built 1981) from Rye, 12 persons on board, ran aground about three miles east of Rye at 2132, UTC, Sep 11. Understand there is about 12 litres of water in its engine-room as a result of high seas and not as a result of the grounding. Tug *Anglian Monarch* is on scene but is unable to assist the vessel as it is high aground on the beach. Salvors are awaiting next high tide.

London, Sep 12 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRSC, timed 0107, UTC: General cargo *Maanav Star* is hard aground in lat 50 55.6N, long 00 15.8E. Sea onshore rough. No pollution. Vessel possibly lying across groynes. Coastguard tug *Anglian Monarch* on scene and *Anglian Earl* due later today. Dungeness lifeboat relaunching at 0800, UTC, today.

London, Sep 13 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRSC, timed 2320, UTC, Sep 12: General cargo *Maanav Star* remains aground. No pollution. All crew members have been removed from the vessel. Understand there is a hole in a ballast tank. A salvage contract has been signed with Klyne Tugs with anchor handling tug/supply vessels *Anglian Monarch* and *Anglian Earl* standing by.

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Coastguards are battling to stop a stricken general cargo *Maanav Star* from being thrown on to a road by high winds. The vessel was leaving the harbour at Rye in East Sussex at 2200, BST, yesterday but got stuck on the beach at nearby Camber. Coastguards and firefighters tried to refloat the Indian-registered vessel today but were unable to do so. And as winds rose, coastguards said they were concerned she may be blown over the sea wall onto the road. A Dover Coastguard spokesman said he was confident the vessel was not a danger to other vessels. The vessel got into difficulties when its anchor dragged after leaving the harbour and she was blown onto the beach by high winds. Her 12 crew members stayed on board and were joined by coastguards from nearby Dungeness to help assess the damage. Coastguards said it is unlikely the vessel would be refloated until Monday. At about 1700, BST, today a coastguard spokesman said the weather had become very windy and a force nine (strong gale) was expected. He said there were fears the *Maanav Star* could be blown over the sea wall and onto the

road at the top of the beach. Firefighters have been pumping water on board the vessel to give her extra weight to prevent the vessel being broken up by the wind. Coastguards said there was nine tons of diesel fuel on board it - which was not carrying any cargo - but they were confident the sea had not been polluted.

London, Sep 13 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0915, UTC: General cargo *Maanav Star* remains aground. Anchor handling tug/supply vessels *Anglian Monarch* and *Anglian Earl* are still standing by. The plan is to wait for "a window in the weather". In the meantime, a tug with a smaller draught has been instructed to proceed and should arrive late this afternoon. The intention is to pull the vessel off (the beach) and tow it to Ramsgate.

London, Sep 14 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1015, UTC: General cargo *Maanav Star* is still aground. Another tug has been ordered and salvage work is expected to re-commence tomorrow following its arrival. Weather on scene is bad at the moment, with winds of force 8 (gale).

London, Sep 14 — Following received from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, dated today: Work is continuing to put the final touches to a towage plan following the grounding of general cargo *Maanav Star*. The vessel is in ballast and carrying 9.2 tonnes of marine gasoil. It remains aground on the high water mark and has been ballasted down to minimise its movement when pounded by waves at high tide. It has sustained a piercing of the bottom shell plate but this hole is less than 25 mm in diameter and will have a patch welded to it. As the vessel is currently without power, a generator has been sourced and is presently en route to the scene to re-establish its services. Attempts to refloat the *Maanav Star* will take place at the end of this week when there is a suitable break in the weather. Insurance and salvage representatives are discussing the salvage of the vessel with Smit-Klyne, the salvage consortium who have been appointed to carry out refloating operations. Tug *Anglian Earl* is sitting off Camber Beach and will be used to tow the *Maanav Star* along with workboat/tug *Grey Test*, which is currently in Felixstowe. The shallow draft of the *Grey Test* will allow lines to be run from the *Anglian Earl* to the *Maanav Star* and its towing capability may also be utilised to steady the vessel during the refloating operation. All the equipment required for the operation is either on the scene or currently in transit. The marine gasoil from the *Maanav Star* will be recovered by a sludge tanker which is expected on scene imminently.

London, Sep 15 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1232, UTC: General cargo *Maanav Star* is still aground. A refloating attempt is scheduled for 1300 hrs, tomorrow.

London, Sep 15 — Following received from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, dated today: Plans are in place to refloat the grounded general cargo *Maanav Star* at Camber Beach

tomorrow. A Salvage Control Unit was established at 1030 today at Rye Harbour Office by the Secretary of States Representative (SOSREP) for Maritime Salvage and Intervention UK working with the MCA. The marine gasoil and bunker fuel has now been removed from the vessel but some fuel has been kept on board to allow the running of electrical generators. The vessel remains ballasted down to minimise its movement from seas at high tide. Deballasting operations will commence at 0600 tomorrow as it is intended to refloat the *Mannav Star* on the subsequent high water at 1300 hrs. Damage to the bottom shell plating has been patched. Bilges in the hold have had additional steel plating welded in place as part of refloating preparations. Tug *Anglian Earl* remains on scene and is preparing for the refloating operation. Tug *Grey Test* has been mobilised and will be on scene later today in readiness to pass tow lines from the *Anglian Earl*. Heavy earth-moving equipment will be mustered at the site tonight. Under supervision of a flood defence engineer, shingle will be cleared to aid the refloating of the vessel. An exclusion zone will be placed around the *Mannav Star* at 0600 tomorrow. This will remain in force until the vessel is refloated. Coastguard teams are maintaining a presence at the vessel's location. The shipowners are investigating a port for inspection and repair of the vessel.

London, Sep 16 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1245, UTC: The attempt to refloat general cargo *Maanav Star* at high tide at 1200, UTC, today was unsuccessful. Further attempts will be made on subsequent high tides, possibly starting tonight.

MAERSK SAN JUAN (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Sep 13 — C.c. *Maersk San Juan* (10546 gt, built 1993), at Barranquilla anchorage with main engine damage, was taken in tow by tug *Oceanos* and arrived at Willemstad Sep 7.

MARIO G. (Canada)

Halifax, Sep 10 — Fishing *Mario G.*: Propeller jam nut went missing, main nut backed off and propeller came loose. The vessel came to the port of North Sydney, NS, and repairs were effected afloat. Vessel returned to sea and resumed fishing. Currently undergoing routine drydocking, haul out, at Arichat, NS, for the next week. — Lloyd's Agents.

MARJA (Netherlands)

Ferrol, Sep 13 — General cargo *Marja* was refloated on Sep 11 after lightering 1,400 tons of cargo to a pontoon. The vessel was finally towed to and berthed at the port of Ribadeo. — Lloyd's Agents.

MECIT KAPTAN (Turkey)

Istanbul, Sep 13 — General cargo *Mecit Kaptan* sailed from off Constantza Sep 11, bound Istanbul. — Lloyd's Agents.

MERCS HENDALA (Sri Lanka)

London, Sep 13 — General cargo *Mercs Hendala* sailed from Chennai on Sep 5, bound for Colombo, where it arrived on Sep 7.

MERKUR BRIDGE (Liberia)

See *High Endurance*.

METHANE ARCTIC (Singapore)

London, Sep 14 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 0900, UTC: Lng *Methane Arctic* (48454 gt, built 1969) had small fire on board caused by lightning at Barcelona at 0400, UTC, today. Fire was extinguished about 0500, UTC. Damage minor.

Barcelona, Sep 15 — Lng *Methane Arctic*: Following information taken from master's preliminary incident report: "Vessel was discharging at Barcelona ENAGAS New Jetty Terminal when lightning struck No 1 mast at 0612, Sep 14, and fire broke out. Pumps were immediately shut down and N2 gas — permanent system — released to the mast as a means to extinguish the fire. At 0615 hrs vessel's Emergency Squad activated and moved to the scene of the fire. Cooling of the mast and surrounding area by seawater using fire pump and hoses to prevent overheating of the mast started. Dry powder injected towards mast using vessel's permanent installation as an additional means of fire extinguishing. At 0623 hrs the fire was extinguished by vessel's own means and discharge was allowed to resume at 0806 hrs." No repairs are required but the Dry Powder System will need to be recharged. The vessel was due to depart at noon today. — Lloyd's Agents.

MILAGROS TRES (Philippines)

Manila, Sep 15 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that the Philippine registered passenger ferry *Milagros Tres* lost its propeller while en route to Puerto Princesa Port in Palawan in western Philippines at about 2330, Tuesday (Sep 14). The domestic ferry which originated from the Port of Iloilo in Negros island in central Philippines was forced to anchor off Lagay island in Palawan. The vessel was carrying 331 passengers and crew when the mishap occurred. There were no reports of deaths or injuries. All passengers were rescued by the Philippine Coast Guard search and rescue vessel *Ilocos Norte* which brought the passengers to Puerto Princesa. The vessel remains anchored off Lagay island. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing boats towed to shore an aging ferry (ferry *Milagros Tres*) with 360 people on board after its propeller broke off while travelling between islands, officials said. The steel-hulled vessel *Milagrosa J3*, with 331 passengers and a crew of 29, was en route to western Palawan when it suddenly stopped in calm waters late Tuesday (Sep 14). Crew members later discovered that the vessel's propeller was missing and radioed for help, officials said. Fishing boats towed the 273-ton vessel to an island where Coast

Guard rescue vessels took the 360 people to mainland Palawan, Coast Guard operations officer Herculano Alinton said. The vessel could have sunk had it stalled in rough seas, he said. The Coast Guard is investigating the incident to determine if the vessel owner could be charged for negligence, Alinton said.

MING ZHOU 28 (China)

London, Sep 11 — Bulk *Ming Zhou 28* arrived Newcastle(AUS) Sep 5 from Hong Kong.

London, Sep 15 — Bulk *Ming Zhou 28* sailed from Newcastle(AUS) on Sep 10.

MONA LISA (Bahamas)

See "Outbreak of Salmonella on Bahamas Flagged Passenger Vessel" under "Miscellaneous".

MSC LAUREN (Panama)

See *Nordbeach*.

MUSASHI MARU (Japan)

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

NANTICOKE (Canada)

Troy, Michigan, Sep 15 — Bulk *Nanticoke* (22706 gt, built 1980) arrived at the North Slip in Sarnia, late last Thursday (Sep 9) for repairs to a damaged crankshaft in its starboard engine. Vessel had travelled at reduced speed from Lake Erie relying on its port engine only. Engine specialists from as far as Miami, Fla., have been doing repairs within the confines of the vessel. The *Nanticoke* is expected to depart Sarnia late tonight or early tomorrow morning to load in Thunder Bay, Ont. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

Troy, Michigan, Sep 16 — Bulk *Nanticoke* left the North Slip late yesterday with the assistance of the tug *Menasha*. *Nanticoke* arrived at the North Slip late last Thursday (Sep 9) for repairs to a damaged crankshaft in its starboard engine. *Nanticoke* is upbound for Thunder Bay. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

NAZEK T. (North Korea)

Bucharest, Sep 14 — General cargo *Nazek T.* remains in the same position. Repairs/scraping decision still awaited. — Lloyd's Agents.

NEULAND (Germany)

London, Sep 13 — General cargo *Neuland* passed through the Kiel Canal on Sep 10, on passage from Husum, Germany, for Rostock.

NEW POLAR (Falkland Islands)

London, Sep 13 — Trawler *New Polar* sailed from Las Palmas on Aug 20, bound for the Falkland Islands.

NICHIRYU MARU (Japan)

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

NORDBEACH (Cyprus)

Durban, Sep 15 — C.c. *Nordbeach* was in contact with c.c. *MSC Lauren* at outer anchorage, Durban, Sep 5. There was some damage to empty containers

on the *MSC Lauren* and to containers and cargo on the *Nordbeach*. Repairs to *MSC Lauren* are nearly complete. The *Nordbeach* commenced repairs Sep 11. — Lloyd's Agents.

NORTH ISLAND PRINCESS (Canada)

London, Sep 14 — While docked at Blubber Bay, Texada Island, lat 49 48N, long 124 36W, ro/ro *North Island Princess* (841 gt, built 1958) reported a small leak in the hull at 1754, PDST, Sep 9.

OCTOPUSSY (Belgium)

London, Sep 12 — Belgian inland vessel *Octopussy*, sailing on the Ghent-Terneuzen canal, ran into two moored inland vessels at the quay at Sluiskil, off the Hydro Agri plant, about 0745, local time, today. The moorings of these two vessels broke and they ran into another three vessels, which also struck more vessels. In total there are at least seven inland vessels involved, with a lot of damage.

London, Sep 13 — General cargo *Octopussy* (975 dwt) bound for Ghent, cargo maize, was proceeding to moor alongside the empty general cargo *Tosca* (1387 dwt) but ran into it. The *Tosca* broke its moorings and collided with some other moored vessels. In total eight vessels were involved, of which the total damage will exceed a million euros according an estimate of the authorities. The *Octopussy* ran so deep into the *Tosca* that salvors had to cut parts away with blowtorches before the two vessels could be separated. Today a further investigation will follow by the River Police.

ONEGO MERCHANT (Netherlands)

London, Sep 13 — General cargo *Onego Merchant* sailed Hamburg 1025, Sep 11, for Kaliningrad.

ONEIDA (Malta)

Montevideo, Sep 9 — Bulk *Oneida* sailed Montevideo Sep 7 for "Ante Port". — Lloyd's Agents.

ORION (Germany)

London, Sep 14 — Product tanker *Orion* was reported arriving at Hamburg at 1121 hrs, Sep 7, and sailing later the same day, at 1510 hrs, with a reported destination of Rendsburg.

OSTRIA (Tonga)

London, Sep 11 — A press report, dated today, states: The 15 crew members of North Korea vessel *Ostria* (? general cargo *Ostria* (1427 gt, built 1970) in trouble amid high winds in the Aegean Sea are safe after a three-hour rescue operation. Three helicopters and two rescue boats were despatched off the southeastern coast of the Greek island of Kasos to aid the cargo vessel, which was carrying marble from Egypt to Albania. The crew were taken to a local health centre for observation, Greeks merchant navy ministry said today. The vessel had been listing at 25 degrees due to the strong winds

blowing across the Aegean. An oil tanker which was in the area was also involved in the rescue.

London, Sep 11 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0110, UTC, today: *Ostria*, HMXM9, is currently sinking off Kasos. Fifteen Pakistani crew members have been safely rescued.

London, Sep 11 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1100, UTC: General cargo *Ostria* sank in lat 35 07N, long 26 46E.

P&O NEDLLOYD PALLISER (Liberia)

Hamburg, Sep 14 — C.c. *P&O Nedlloyd Palliser* (45803 gt, built 2002) underwent repairs at Hamburg in respect of rudder damage. According to the divers who inspected the vessel after arrival at Hamburg the vessel must have had contact with an unidentifiable underwater object whilst en route to Hamburg. When and where the damage/contact actually took place could not be established. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *P&O Nedlloyd Palliser* arrived at Hamburg at 0210, Aug 18, and sailed 0615, Sep 9, and was reported to have been delayed on current voyage, as a result of damage to its rudder.)

PARTNER (Russia)

Rijeka, Sep 10 — General cargo *Partner* (2610 gt, built 1979) sailed from Sibenik on Sep 6 to Cartagena, with a cargo of fertilisers. Later the same day the master reported to the Harbourmaster problems with the main engine. *Partner* returned to Sibenik under own power on Sep 7. Repairs will be carried out at Sibenik and the voyage will be prosecuted, however no prospects of sailing are given at this time. — Lloyd's Agents.

PENG YANG (China)

London, Sep 16 — Following received from Hong Kong VTS, timed 0240, UTC: Bulk *Peng Yang* remains aground in the same position.

PERSISTENCE (Singapore)

See *High Endurance*.

PIONER BELORUSSII (Russia)

See *Christine*.

PLEIONE (Bahamas)

Cristobal, Sep 13 — Bulk *Pleione* remains anchored Cristobal Bay, where temporary repairs continue and understand ETC towards end this month. — Lloyd's Agents.

Cristobal, Sep 15 — Bulk *Pleione* (36559 gt, built 1996), anchored Cristobal inner anchorage carrying out temporary repairs after being struck by bulk *Jacaranda* on Aug 4, was reportedly struck by product tanker Aegean Trader (18654 gt, built 1980) at approximately 1715, local time, Sep 13. *Pleione* sustained damage to bulbous bow and flooding of forepeak tank. *Aegean Trader* proceeded southbound through Canal Sep 14. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Aegean Trader* sailed Rostock Aug 23 for Panama.)

PRESTIGE (Bahamas)

Madrid, Sep 10 — The last few tons of sticky toxic fuel oil have been sucked out of the wreck of the crude oil tanker *Prestige*, Spain said today, almost two years after it went down in the country's worst environmental disaster. "In recent days they have completed the extraction of fuel from the wreck," Deputy Prime Minister Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega told a news conference. "We can say that 13,000 tons have been extracted," she said, adding the government had not yet decided what to do with the fuel. Coming up with a plan to deal with the wreck took months, partly because it lay 3.8 km down on the seabed. Spain considered building a concrete tomb around the wreck but finally opted to suck out the 13,000 tons that remained. The other 64,000 tons have been painstakingly scooped out of the sea and cleaned off Galicia's rocky beaches. Environmental groups complain it could take a decade for the eco-system to recover. De la Vega said scientists would continue to investigate and work on damage to algae and the seabed. — Reuters.

London, Sep 14 — Lawyers acting for Apostolos Mangouras, master of the crude oil tanker *Prestige*, continue their efforts to have his bail conditions eased while he awaits trial. A fresh appeal was filed with a Spanish court this summer, the third such case now in progress in the run-up to the second anniversary of the casualty next November. Several earlier appeals have been knocked back and the master is still required to remain in Spain and report weekly to police, despite having deposited a \$3.6m bail. His treatment has been widely criticised. This is not least because, under Spanish law, people aged 70 or over have strong grounds to avoid prison sentences if ultimately found guilty. Capt Mangouras will celebrate his 70th birthday next January.

PRINCE OF STREAMS (Netherlands Antilles)

Maassluis, Sep 13 — Ref *Prince of Streams* (7533 gt, built 1993), Antwerp for Rotterdam, contacted the inside of the Boudewijn Locks at 1500, local time, today. Vessel will return to Berth 318 for inspection. Damage consists of a crack about five metres long, three metres above the waterline. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

PT36 (Canada)

London, Sep 9 — Barge *PT36*, whilst under tow of tug *Island Brave* (93 gt), made contact with hopper dredger *Fraser Titan* (2976 gt, built 1969) in the Fraser River, BC., in lat 49 07N, long 123 14W at 0410 hrs, Aug 6.

QUINITSA (Canada)

London, Sep 13 — Ro/ro *Quinitsa* (1107 gt, built 1977) reported a hard landing at west dock, in Denman Island, BC, at 1500, PDST, Sep 9.)

RAZZOLI (Italy)

London, Sep 10 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 0830, UTC:

Passenger ro/ro *Razzoli* (4101 gt, built 1988) with 24 passengers and 10 crew on board, grounded near Vulcano Island, Sicily, at 2320, Sep 8. Vessel was refloated with tug assistance at 1300, Sep 9, and is now at Milazzo.

Messina, Sep 10 — Early on Sep 9 passenger ro/ro *Razzoli*, in scheduled service between Milazzo and the Aeolian islands, while sailing out of Vulcano bound for Lipari, ran aground on the rocks in Vulcano. Understand that a large hole has been caused to the hull and that a tug has now refloated the casualty. Twenty-four passengers disembarked and were put up in a hotel in Lipari. Ten crew-members remained on board. Understand also that the master has alleged that the auto-pilot was not working properly. The vessel has been placed under arrest by magistrates, who are carrying out an enquiry. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 14 — Passenger ro/ro *Razzoli* arrived at Genoa on Sep 12.

REPUBBLICA DI GENOVA (Italy)

London, Sep 16 — Passenger ro/ro *Repubblica di Genova* arrived at Antwerp at 1205 hrs, Sep 15, from Falmouth.

RIX CONDOR (U.K.)

London, Sep 13 — Tank barge *Rix Condor* arrived at Delfzijl at 0332, Sep 12, from Falmouth.

S. DURVILLE (Singapore)

Sydney, Sep 16 — General cargo *S. Durville* (3949 gt, built 1984) is being towed to Brisbane for repairs after an engine breakdown proved impossible to repair in situ. The vessel operates a Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Noumea shuttle service. The vessel is expected in Brisbane for five days of repairs on Sep 25, and will be back in service by the end of the month. The vessel will call in Sydney over Oct 3-4 and in Noumea on Oct 8. Pacific Direct Line, which shares slots on the vessel, said that it is now working on scheduling options for the next two voyages. — "Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News."

SAINT NICHOLAS (Greece)

London, Sep 11 — Bulk *Saint Nicholas* passed Skaw Sep 6.

SEA HANA (Malta)

Yokohama, Sep 16 — Vehicle *Sea Hana* (26113 gt, built 1978) dragged anchor, due to heavy weather, 16,000 metres, 184 degrees from Kobe Lighthouse, at 1840, Sep 7. Although vessel let go both anchors it became un navigable. It was recovered at 2030 as the swell was weakening. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Sea Hana* arrived Osaka Sep 7 and sailed Sep 14, subsequently arriving and sailing Nagoya Sep 15.)

SEA TRADER (Malta)

London, Sep 14 — The burnt-out ro/ro *Sea Trader*, which is still lying in Antwerp Docks, will be towed to Ghent for demolition. (See issue of Jul 23.)

London, Sep 14 — Ro/ro *Sea Trader*, currently lying at Quay 22, Antwerp,

will be towed from her berth by tugs to the breakers yard of Van Heyghen in Ghent, on the Ghent-Terneuzen Canal, on Thursday, Sep 16. The tow will start at 0700 hrs, from Antwerp and it is expected that they will arrive in Ghent, during the late afternoon.

SEIHO MARU NO.2 (Japan)

See *Stellar Hope*.

SETIA JAYA (Singapore)

Chittagong, Sep 12 — Chemical/oil carrier *Setia Jaya* arrived at Chittagong on Aug 29 and was beached for scapping on Sep 1. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOUTHERN HARRIER

Cape Town, Sep 15 — Fishing *Southern Harrier* is still lying sunk at Berth 702, Cape Town. — Lloyd's Agents.

SPEED ONE (U.K.)

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Low cost ferry service, SpeedFerries, which operates between Dover and Boulogne, has run into difficulties less than four months after it was launched. The service, which takes just 50 minutes to cross the Channel, has been grounded after its ferry *Speed One* (5007 gt, built 1997) suffered engine trouble in France. Passengers have been told it will not be operating again until Tuesday (Sep 14), leaving some stranded in France. SpeedFerries said it apologised for any inconvenience caused.

STELLAR HOPE (Panama)

Yokohama, Sep 16 — Bulk *Stellar Hope* (77240 gt, built 1996), Australia for Mizushima, and general cargo *Seiho Maru No.2* (199 gt), Sakaide to Kawasaki, were in collision 3.4 nautical miles, 280 deg, from Hinomisaki Lighthouse, Wakayama Prefecture, at 0030, Sep 1. Both vessels sustained denting and scratching damage. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Stellar Hope* sailed Gladstone Aug 19 and arrived Mizushima Sep 2.)

STOLT KITE (Cayman Islands)

London, Sep 13 — Chem.tank *Stolt Kite* sailed from Flushing at 1715, Sep 12, for Rotterdam, arriving 2255 same day.

SUMMIT (Bahamas)

San Francisco, Sep 15 — Passenger *Summit* entered San Francisco dry dock at 2200, local time, Sep 12. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUSIE (Romania)

London, Sep 15 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1450, UTC: Have just been advised that general cargo *Susie* (5988 gt, built 1980), with 16 Romanian crew on board, is aground at Achladi, in lat 38 53 12N, long 22 49 43E. Vessel is part loaded with wheat. Crew safe, no pollution.

Piraeus, Sep 15 — General cargo *Susie*, Psachna, Euboea Is, for Alexandroupolis, partially loaded with a consignment of 2,600 tons of barley, went hard aground 100 meters east of

Agroinvest pier, Achladi, at 1130 today. The extent of the damage has not yet been ascertained while all 16 crew members are reportedly healthy and secure. No pollution occurred. The vessel remains grounded awaiting tug assistance from Volos. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 15 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: General cargo *Susie* grounded in the sea area off Achladi, Stylida, at 1220, Sep 15. Vessel had departed from Psachna, Euboea Is, for Alexandroupolis with a cargo of wheat, in Hold No.3, and 16 crew members on board. There were no injuries sustained, pollution, or ingress of water.

London, Sep 15 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Susie* rammed into a Greek hillside as the master was speaking on his cell phone, authorities said today. No one was hurt when the Romanian-flagged *Susie* ran aground near the town of Stylida. "The master told us he had placed the vessel on automatic pilot and was not paying attention," Yiannis Ftoulis, head of Stylida's port authority, said. "He said he was speaking on the cell phone at the time of the incident," he said. Mr Ftoulis said the Romanian master was not detained and that all his crew of 14 Romanians and one Ukrainian was in good health.

London, Sep 16 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: General cargo *Susie* was refloated with the assistance of tug *Starlet*, of Papadopoulos Tugs, based in Volos, at 2020, Sep 15. An underwater inspection was carried out by divers and no damages were found. Vessel is currently at the roads of Achladi/Stylis and will be inspected by class. Following the incident and refloating there was no pollution caused.

London, Sep 16 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1010, UTC: General cargo *Susie* is still anchored near the grounding site at Achladi.

SVEAFJELL (Norway)

Trondheim, Sep 15 — Local radio/newspaper has reported that general cargo *Sveafjell* (1021 gt, built 1970) grounded at 0120 today near Valsøya, Bjugn (west of the peninsula Fosen, Trondheimsfjord) en route to Aalesund, in a loaded condition. Coast Guard vessel *Titrand* arrived at 0700 hrs and will assist in trying to get the vessel afloat on the high tide, at around 1200 hrs. Some diesel oil is said to be leaking out - oil booms may be used. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 15 — Following received from Sandnes, dated today: At 0120 today general cargo *Sveafjell* grounded outside Valsøya Island near Bjugn. There is some pollution in the area. The Coastguard arrived in the area at 0700 hrs and there will be an attempt to refloat the vessel at high tide, at 1200 hrs.

Trondheim, Sep 16 — Attempts at noon yesterday to refloat general cargo *Sveafjell* were unsuccessful, despite the assistance of two salvage vessels and another vessel belonging to the same Owners. The Owners have now

accepted an LOF and engaged TaubAtkompaniet AS, Trondheim, to refloat the vessel, which has 589 tons of frozen fish and salt fish, scheduled for the Aalesund area, on board. — Lloyd's Agents..

SVITZER BIDSTON (U.K.)

Liverpool, Sep 15 — Tug *Svitzer Bidston* is undergoing repairs in drydock at Liverpool. These are expected to be completed by Sep 22. — Lloyd's Agents.

TOSCA (Belgium)

See *Octopussy*.

TRI ARDHANTO (Indonesia)

See "Typhoon "Songda" under "Weather & Navigation".

TS YOKOHAMA (Marshall Islands)

Yokohama, Sep 16 — C.c. *TS Yokohama* (14308 gt, built 2003) contacted the pier, due to sudden gust of wind, while berthing at Ohi Pier, Tokyo, at 0708, Aug 31. Vessel sailed same day for Kobe via Yokohama and Nagoya. It arrived Kobe Sep 2 and was temporarily repaired. — Lloyd's Agents.

UAL RODACH (Cyprus)

London, Sep 14 — A press report, dated yeystreday, states: The master of general cargo *UAL Rodach* (7111 gt, built 2001) that struck a barge in the Houston Ship Channel as the barge took on a load of liquefied petroleum gas must serve a year's probation for drinking on the job. Piotr Lozinski, a Polish citizen, also is barred from operating a vessel in U.S. waters during his probation and must pay a \$4,000 fine. A federal magistrate judge handed down the sentence last week after Lozinski, 48, pleaded guilty to operating a commercial motor vessel while under the influence of alcohol, Coast Guard Lt. Matt Orendorff said today. Lozinski was the master, of the 417-foot *UAL Rodach* when it struck the barge on Aug 31, Orendorff said. Although liquefied petroleum gas was being pumped into the barge, no explosion resulted. Orendorff said a crewman on the barge saw the vessel coming and turned off valves. The barge also was double-hulled, he said, and the interior hull was not penetrated. A 6-foot gash was opened in the vessel's stern, rupturing a freshwater tank, but no hazardous fluids spilled into the channel, Orendorff said. Tests showed Lozinski's blood alcohol level to be 0.232 percent, Orendorff said, which is more than five times the commercial limit of 0.04. (Note — *UAL Rodach* arrived Houston Aug 30.)

ULLA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Sep 16 — Bureaucracy and legal wrangling sank general cargo *Ulla* loaded with toxic ash, the European Parliament heard this week. "Legal and administrative problems" kept the vessel at anchor off the Turkish port of Iskenderun until it was too late to offload its potentially dangerous cargo, environmental commissioner Margot Wallstrom told the parliament's plenary session in Strasbourg. The vessel,

flagged in St Vincent and the Grenadines and operated by a Turkish company based in Iskenderun, went down early this month after rusting at anchor for four years. More than two years were taken up by legal arguments over responsibility for the cargo, while plans to offload the toxic ash took a further 18 months to put together, the parliament heard. Officials and activists had warned repeatedly that the 2,200 tonnes of power station waste was potentially carcinogenic and posed an environmental risk. The parliament has expressed concern that large stretches of water could be contaminated if the cargo leaks. "Unfortunately, legal and administrative problems delayed a solution until it was too late," Ms Wallstrom told the parliament. The case dates to May 2000, when Spain's Environment Ministry received a complaint from Turkish authorities over the vessels' shipment, which they claimed had been exported from Spain by Lafarge Asland, the Spanish subsidiary of France's Lafarge group, without proper authorisation. Turkey claimed the shipment contravened the Basel Convention on toxic waste and asked Spain to take it back. Spanish investigations established that the cargo had in fact been destined for Algeria, but had been diverted to Iskenderun after the original recipient, Spanish construction group Dragados, had rejected it because of water damage. The ash, which is often used as a building component, had been intended for use by Dragados in the construction of a dam in Algeria. According to the Environment Ministry in Madrid, the shipment had allegedly ended up off Turkey following a "unilateral" decision by the vessel's master. "In July the Turkish authorities informed the Spanish authorities that they could proceed with a plan" to transfer the ashes to another vessel and return them to Spain but before this could be done the vessel sank on September 6," said Mr Wallstrom. Spain was exonerated by the commissioner: "According to the information available Spain was willing to take back the waste and fulfil its legal obligations," she said. Arguments over who was responsible for the cargo between the Spanish authorities and the exporter went on for two and a half years - until the end of 2002. Negotiations between Spain and Turkey for the transfer of the ashes then took another year and a half - until July this year.

UNI-FORWARD (Panama)

London, Sep 15 — General cargo *Uni-Forward* was reported arriving at Hong Kong at 0651 hrs, Sep 14, from Keelung.

URVAAG

Trondheim, Sep 9 — Fishing *Urvaag*: Insurance Company inform owners have now received insurance settlement. Owners report vessel will either be sold to owners abroad or scrapped in Norway. — Lloyd's Agents.

VANGUARD (U.K.)

London, Sep 11 — Following received from Coast Guard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1835, UTC: Pollutants, apart from small quantities of hydraulics and lubricants, have been removed from tug *Vanguard*. The vessel remains boomed off with sorbent boom.

VESTKAPP (Norway)

Trondheim, Sep 9 — Fosen Gjenvinning inform scrapping of fishing *Vestkapp* has not started yet, now scheduled to commence in January, 2005. — Lloyd's Agents.

VIARSA I (Panama)

See under "Miscellaneous."

VIHAN 5 (Vietnam)

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

WHITE SANDS (U.K.)

London, Sep 9 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 2130, UTC: A mayday has been issued by fishing *White Sands* (262 gt, built 1975), GFNY, with 10 persons on board, in position lat 13 58N, long 20 10W. Vessel is experiencing water ingress through stern area, but states "they are currently coping". Current intentions of crew are unknown. A hospital ship, has diverted and is in due on scene in around nine hours. Madrid MRCC are co-ordinating.

London, Sep 10 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1100, UTC: Fishing *White Sands*: Hospital ship *Esperanza del Mar* arrived at casualty's position, in lat 14 19N, long 18 50W, about 0900, UTC, today. There are planning to tow vessel to Dakar.

WINNER I (Panama)

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

ZIEMIA SUWALSKA (Liberia)

London, Sep 15 — Bulk *Ziemia Suwalska* (16696 gt, built 1984) lost main engine power while upbound between Lock 1 and Lock 2 in the Welland Canal at 1220, Sep 5. Bow and stern anchors were dropped. Vessel was secured for engine repairs. (Note — *Ziemia Suwalska* sailed Ymuiden Aug 23 and subsequently arrived Thunder Bay Sep 12.)



Seizures & Arrests

AUKUREN

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Oslo, Sep 7 — Cement *Aukuren* is still in port at Fredrikstad, under arrest.. — Lloyd's Agents.

FILIPPOS (Paraguay)

Rio Grande, Jul 28 — C.c. *Filippos* is still under arrest in Porto Alegre by the judiciary. No prospects are known, for its release. — Lloyd's Agents.

FISHING VESSELS SEIZED BY AUSTRALIA

Fremantle, Sep 14 — Fishing *Volga* is still at Jervoise Bay. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of May 26.)

GEPARD (Cyprus)

Rotterdam, Sep 14 — Tug *Gepard*, last reported under arrest at Flushing Dec 27 2000, is still under arrest at the port. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

JERBA (Tunisia)

Bizerta, Sep 14 — General cargo *Jerba* (2003 gt, built 1978), which arrived at Bizerta on Apr 23, 2003, is still lying at a waiting berth at Ml Bourguiba yard, without an agent. It is reported that she has been abandoned by her crew. Also reported that the vessel is under several arrests from agents and some other claimants. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

KAVO MALEAS (Malta)

Bucharest, Sep 14 — Bulk *Kavo Maleas*, last reported under repair at Constantza on Jul 14 2003, is still in Constantza port. Unconfirmed reports are that there is a dispute between her former owners and the present owners, Petromin SA, Constantza. — Lloyd's Agents.

RESHID BEHBUDOV (Azerbaijan)

Mersin, Sep 13 — General cargo *Reshid Behbudov* (3714 gt, built 1977) is currently under arrest in Mersin Roads. It was arrested after completing discharge operations at 1115, Sep 7. It waited in port for two days, then shifted to the roads Sep 9. According to information received, vessel was arrested by Bakirkoy 6 Court for claims department upon application made by Saka-Korkmaz Pazarlama AS against money owed to them by the Azerbaijani Government. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEA SHUTTLE (Malta)

Naples, Sep 13 — General cargo *Sea Shuttle* is still under arrest in Naples. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEAGREEN (Cyprus)

London, Sep 13 — C.c. *Seagreen* is today reported still at South East Lamma Anchorage, Hong Kong, under arrest.

SHAMROCK

(French Southern Territories)

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Ro/ro *Shamrock*, the vessel that has been detained in Portland Harbour for the last eight weeks, will be put up for auction Nov 12 unless an international legal dispute can be settled first. US District Judge George Singal ruled Monday (Sep 13) that the vessel should be sold to pay debts even before the final resolution of the legal claims against its owner. Fortis Bank of the Netherlands went to court to have the vessel seized in Portland Harbour after the *Shamrock's* owner defaulted on the ship's mortgage. Fortis Bank is demanding that the owner pay \$14 million in principal and interest. The 60-day notice of an auction allows time to advertise the sale and time for the companies to

make final attempts to settle the dispute. If the vessel's owner and mortgage holder can arrange a settlement, Singal will be asked to rescind the order. "We're hoping to do that," said Michael Kaplan, a Portland attorney who is representing the vessel's French owner, Copropriete du Navire Shamrock. "If we can settle the case with Fortis and the other creditors, it'll be back running the way it did before." The *Shamrock* made weekly trips between Portland, Boston and Halifax, shuttling imports and exports packed inside tractor-trailer-size shipping containers. Dozens of Maine companies use the shipping service regularly. Lawyers for Fortis Bank and other creditors, including unpaid crew members, argued for a sale of the vessel. Crew members are owed about \$86,000 in wages that were not paid this summer. The crew has remained on the vessel while it has been anchored in Portland Harbour, and has been paid by a custodial agent since the ship was seized on Jul 20. Kaplan argued for more time to work out a settlement before the *Shamrock* is sold. He also said that the dispute is a complex legal matter that should be decided in a French court, and that *Shamrock's* owner may countersue Fortis Bank for repossessing the vessel too soon. As hopes for a settlement appear to fade, cargo carriers are seeking other vessels that can carry goods in and out of Portland Harbour. A barge made a few trips between Portland and New York, but most cargo is now being trucked, at higher costs, between Maine and Boston or New York.

SKANDI PMS 2 (Cayman Islands)

London, Sep 14 — Tug/supply *Skandi PMS 2* was reported arriving at Port Said on Aug 11 and sailing the following day. Vessel was next reported arriving back at Port Said on Aug 29, sailing on Aug 30.

TVILLINGER

Trieste, Sep 9 — General cargo *Tvillinger* is still under arrest in Trieste. Situation unchanged. — Lloyd's Agents.

VOLGA

See "Fishing Vessels Seized by Australia."



Pollution

BRITTANY, FRANCE

London, Sep 14 — Crude oil tanker *Atlantic Hero* (51984 gt, built 1992) was last night in detention at the French port of Le Havre pending settlement of an expected 300,000 Euros bail payment, for alleged pollution offences off the coast of Brittany. It is thought that the vessel was en route for Le Havre from Novorossiysk on Friday (Sep 10) when it was spotted by a French navy patrol aircraft 260 km off

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

the western tip of the Brittany peninsula. The crew of the aircraft reported seeing an 11 km-long pollution slick in the wake of the *Atlantic Hero*, which was carrying 80,000 tonnes of crude oil. It was accompanied into the port of Le Havre, where it arrived on Saturday evening, by a maritime gendarmerie patrol boat. Investigations to determine the cause of the pollution were continuing aboard the vessel in the port of Le Havre yesterday. The office of the prosecutor in Brest indicated that, if the pollution was found to have been deliberate, the master of the *Atlantic Hero* would be summoned to appear before the Brest high court at a later date. A Brest-based environmental protection organisation called yesterday for bail to be set on the basis of current oil prices, estimating the value of the cargo of the *Atlantic Hero* at \$20m. Mor Glaz, an organisation led by local seafarers' trade union leader, Jean-Paul Hellequin, claimed that recent penalties imposed by French courts for waste dumping at sea were not sufficiently dissuasive. It said it would take civil action on its account against the owners and operators of the *Atlantic Hero*, adding: "The association Mor Glaz recalls that a well maintained ship with a good owner and a good crew does not pollute." (Note — *Atlantic Hero* passed Cape Finisterre north Sep 9, Novorossiysk for Le Havre.)

London, Sep — A Mitsui OSK Lines-controlled oil tanker, detained at the weekend after French coast guard officials said it had left an 11-km long oil slick off the Brittany coast, has been allowed to resume its journey after paying a 300,000-euro (\$367,035) fine, the firm said today. The coast guard officials said earlier that the Panamanian-owned and flagged crude oil tanker *Atlantic Hero* had been held in the French port of Le Havre pending the settlement of the sum. They said the tanker, carrying some 80,000 tonnes of Urals crude oil from the Black Sea port of Novorossiysk, was spotted by marine patrol aircraft on Friday (Sep 10) off the western tip off Brittany with the slick in its wake. The company denied the oil tanker was responsible for the slick and said the crew acted within the law. It said it would contest the fine at a court hearing in February. "The company has co-operated fully with authorities and is confident that no pollution took place," said a spokesman for Mitsui OSK Lines. He said the slick was caused by the discharge of "waste water from the lower end of the ship containing oil up to the legal limit". At the same time, he said the tanker was flushing its ballast tanks with water containing mud, which, appearing discoloured, could have looked like oil to patrol aircraft. — Reuters.

London, Sep 16 — Following received from the operators of crude oil tanker *Atlantic Hero*, dated Sep 15: *Atlantic Hero* departed Le Havre Sep 14 following the completion of investigations into an allegation that it was involved in an operational pollution incident in the Bay of Biscay Sep 10.

French ship inspectors visited the vessel Sep 11 and 13. MOL Tankships, operators of the vessel, are sure that they will confirm that the vessel's oily water separator was fully functional and the Oil Record Book and associated documents were free of deficiency. The reports of pollution were made by a French patrol aircraft. The vessel subsequently reported that, at the time of the overflight, it was engaged in the legal, routine discharge of bilge water, controlled by the oily water separator later found, during the inspection on Sep 11, to be working correctly. It is thought that the pollution report arose as the vessel was simultaneously discharging water from segregated ballast tanks, producing some discoloration (mud) in the vessel's wake. This did not breach MARPOL and other regulations. On arrival at Le Havre Sep 11, *Atlantic Hero* discharged its cargo of crude oil, loaded at Novorossiysk, as planned. The vessel was cleared for departure following inspection and the deposit of a Euro 300,000 bond. The company envisages that the matter will be concluded when a hearing takes place at Brest in February 2005, to consider submissions by the company and master, together with the findings of the ship inspector.

CILACAP, INDONESIA

See *Lucky Lady* under "Marine."

DURBAN AREA, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated Sep 9, states: At least five tons of crude oil leaked into the sea off the Reunion coast between Isipingo and the Bluff south of Durban yesterday. According to South Africa's largest crude oil refinery, SAPREF, it occurred at the single buoy mooring where tankers usually discharged crude oil into pipelines for transport to storage facilities. SAPREF spokesperson Laura Rossler said the spill happened about two-and-a-half kilometres out at sea. Rossler said some of the oil had polluted the beach north of the Umlazi canal on Wednesday evening. "Our standby emergency crew will start clean up activities at first light tomorrow morning. First indications are that the cause was a damaged gasket in a flange on one of the hoses that connect to the ship." Meanwhile the South Durban Community Environmental Alliance condemned the spill, saying Shell and BP had failed to honour their commitment to improving conditions in the area.

KARNAPHULI RIVER, BANGLADESH

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated Sep 11, states: The Department of Environment (DOE) has submitted its inquiry report on the disposal of fuel from crude oil tanker *Banglar Shourabh* into the Karnaphuli River. The report said such disposal of fuel has caused pollution of water in the river and it recommended realisation of compensation from the BSC. The committee, led by Md Mostafizur Rahman, Senior Chemist of the DOE, Chittagong, handed over the report to

the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA), sources said. The report also said the committee procured fuel-mixed water from eight points of the river and after the chemical test of the samples of water it was found that the fuel-mixed water was harmful for the flora and fauna. The report further said that, due to heavy disposal of fuel, it has created an adverse effect on trees and bushes in the adjoining areas of the river.

Weather & Navigation



BANGLADESH

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Heavy rains accompanied by strong winds have begun lashing Bangladesh, killing at least eight people and prompting warnings to fishermen to stay close to shore, officials said today. The rains, caused by the formation of a low-pressure system in the Bay of Bengal, began Saturday and were expected to last for two or three days, weather officials said. Two women and three babies were killed in a pre-dawn landslide yesterday triggered by incessant rainfall in the southeastern port city of Chittagong, police and fire brigade officials said. In the northwestern town Sirajgonj, three people died and about 30 were missing when a boat sank in a swollen Jamuna river.

London, Sep 14 — A press report, dated today, states: A departing monsoon has brought unusually heavy rain across Bangladesh, threatening fresh flooding in areas that have just resurfaced from the country's worst deluge in 15 years, meteorology officials said yesterday. In the capital, Dhaka, officials recorded 272 mm of rainfall since Sunday (Sep 12) morning, with most roads flooded. Shops, schools and many offices were closed. Strong winds and rain flattened or swept away nearly 300 wood and tin houses on the outskirts Chittagong yesterday, injuring about 20 people, locals said. Unusually heavy showers have swept the country for the past four days. An official said the rain was likely to continue for a few more days, and could drive some rivers back above danger levels. Farmers who had hurriedly planted rice and other crops in the wake of floods two months ago now see them in turn being damaged. Government officials estimated that the floods had cost the impoverished country around \$7 billion (BD2.65bn) in losses to agriculture, industry and infrastructure. The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank were making a final assessment of the damage, they said. Torrential rains have also hampered a search for about 20 people missing after a ferry sank on Sunday in the Jamuna river, near Sirajganj, in which at least seven people died. A landslide killed five members of a family in Chittagong, also on Sunday. Energy officials said

yesterday stormy weather had prevented engineers from reaching an offshore gas field in the Bay of Bengal to plug a hydraulic leak that has halved gas production.

London, Sep 15 — A press report, dated today, states: The heaviest rain to sweep Bangladesh in at least five years flooded most of the capital yesterday, bringing more misery to a country still recovering from the worst floods in 15 years. City officials and witnesses said many of Dhaka's streets were under water up to thigh-deep, forcing most residents to stay home and government offices to remain shut. The Dhaka weather office said nearly 350mm of rain was recorded in the capital since Sunday (Sep 12). A similar amount had fallen across many other parts of the country. The rain was expected to continue for a few more days. Airport officials said at least 25 domestic and international flights had been delayed or cancelled since Monday. Ferry and train services were also disrupted. Schools, shops and many offices were closed. Six people were reported to have died in the capital from electrocution and a wall collapse on Monday. Hundreds of families in Dhaka rushed to store drinking water and buy emergency supplies after floodwaters inundated water pumps. "The situation is much worse now than was during the recent floods," Mohammad Akhtar, maintenance supervisor at a Dhaka multi-storey housing complex, said yesterday. Some rivers have already burst their banks while water levels in other rivers were rising fast, Dhaka's flood warning centre said. The latest rains have inundated many areas flooded in July. Farmers who had hurriedly planted rice and other crops in the wake of floods two months ago now see them being damaged. All schools, government, semi-government and autonomous offices in Dhaka would remain closed yesterday, a government statement said. (See issue of Sep 15.)

Dhaka, Sep 16 — A rain-swollen river in Bangladesh has burst its banks, sending torrents of water through more than 100 villages southeast of the capital and leaving thousands of people homeless, officials said today. They said the sudden collapse of about 100 m of the Gumti river embankment late yesterday inundated thousands of houses. No deaths or injuries had been reported, said an official in nearby Comilla town, 150 km from Dhaka. The heaviest rainfall in more than half a century over the past week, has put large parts of the country, including the capital Dhaka, under three to four feet of water. The rain eased yesterday but weather officials said there could be intermittent showers over the next two days. Local authorities called in the army to plug the breach on the embankment in Devidwar area of Comilla district, but officials said there was little they could do. Haradhan Shil, Comilla district relief officer said: "The (army) engineers will try to repair the breach once the flows start easing," adding the soldiers would try to rescue marooned people by using motorised rafts. Devidwar police officer Abdul

Kalam Azad said the rise in the Gumti river had affected about 400,000 villagers, but warned that the breach was widening and the number was likely to rise. A senior Dhaka weather official said rough weather conditions would prevail for at least two more days. This week's deluge also forced thousands of families to flee their homes in a middle class Dhaka suburb known as the DND embankment area, home to more than one million people. Officials said at least 17,000 people took shelter on an embankment and in high-rise buildings. — Reuters.

CANADA

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated Sep 14, states: Torrential rains across Quebec in the recent months will cost the provincial government more than \$14 million this year. Since Apr 1, the government has spent \$4 million on emergency relief for flood victims. A further \$10 million in claims is expected to be processed.

CHINA

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Residents in south-west China have started mopping up and rebuilding after some of the worst storms devastated the region, killing at least 189 people. Downstream from the worst-hit communities, a further disaster was averted when the massive Three Gorges Dam project survived intact when the largest flood peak of the year passed without incident. More than 20 sluice gates were opened to release water at the dam when it climbed above warning levels. The China News Service says the water level is now falling in most regions and the dam can be re-opened for navigation today. Upstream in Sichuan province and Chongqing municipality, clean-up efforts are underway after almost a week of torrential rains left a trail of destruction. Official media says more than 11 million people have been affected and economic losses are expected to exceed \$US470 million.

FRANCE

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A severe storm ripped through the Marseille regatta village yesterday severely damaging the Emirates Team New Zealand yacht NZL82. The yacht and cradle were knocked over by the wind. The boat landed along the top edge of a 12m shipping container, causing severe impact damage to the port side, Team New Zealand said in a statement. The team will not compete in the Valencia regatta next month. Alinghi and BMW Oracle were also knocked off their cradles in the storm and significantly damaged. The other three yachts in an America's Cup warm-up regatta in Marseille, southern France, were safe. NZL82 will be righted and the full extent of the damage assessed. Alinghi and Oracle each have two yachts in Europe and will probably compete in the next regatta. Team New Zealand managing director Grant Dalton said the damage could be repaired, but not in time for the next regatta. "We will

ship it back to New Zealand for repairs," he said. "We are fortunate to have NZL81 and GER68 nearing completion in Auckland so we can still have a full testing programme over the New Zealand summer."

HURRICANE "FRANCES"

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The U.S. Coast Guard has given approval for vessels to return to the basin at Port Canaveral (following the passage of hurricane "Frances"). However, boat ramps remain closed. In addition, the channel remains closed to all vessels, with no marine transit allowed east of the basin into or from the ocean. Navigational aids are being checked and bottom surveys continue to determine when Port Canaveral can safely re-open to cruise and cargo ships. Canaveral Harbor was evacuated last Friday (Sep 3) in advance of Hurricane Frances. As a result of the storm, sand in the channel and other navigational hazards forced Port Canaveral to close to all vessel traffic.

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated Sep 9, states: The remnants of hurricane "Frances" washed out water lines or sanitation systems in several mountain towns, leaving tens of thousands of people without drinking water early today. Flooding throughout the Appalachian Mountains contributed to two deaths in Ohio. As it lurched northward since striking Florida over the weekend (Sep 4-5), the storm brought heavy rainfall across much of the East, including up to 16.6 inches of rain in western North Carolina. More than 200 roads throughout the region were still impassable today because of floods, debris or rock slides. Among them was the Blue Ridge Parkway, a scenic highway that links Smoky Mountains and Shenandoah national parks. The flooding was the worst Buncombe County has seen for many decades, said Jerry VeHaun, emergency services director for the county that includes Asheville. The regional water authority counties lost all transmission lines from one treatment facility because of flooding. Asheville officials expected water service to not be restored until this afternoon at the earliest. Other mountain communities reported flood damage to homes and businesses, and evacuations of low-lying areas. More than 200 people were rescued from high water by swift-water rescue teams, but no deaths or serious injuries were reported anywhere in North Carolina. In Ohio, which reported rainfall of up to seven inches, a nine-year-old girl drowned yesterday when she was swept off a footbridge crossing a rain-swollen stream, and a 65-year-old man died from an apparent heart attack while trying to pump water out of a basement. In western Maryland, the storm brought mudslides, road closures and power outages, and in Virginia, tornadoes associated with "Frances" damaged homes. Rainfall totalled five inches or more in parts of West Virginia, but problems were minimal, in part because an extended dry spell meant streams were low, officials said.

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated today, states: As hurricane “Frances” moved across South Florida, its winds knocked over trees and waterlogged plants at nurseries throughout the area. Nursery owners were still assessing damage yesterday. Some owners say they’ve lost their entire inventories; others are hoping to have power restored so they can save remaining plants and trees with much-needed water. The Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association estimates crop and structural damage to the industry from “Frances” could be as high as \$400 million. When combined with the \$100 million to \$200 million estimate from hurricane “Charley” three weeks earlier, Florida’s nursery and landscape industry has taken a \$450 million to \$600 million hit, according to the group.

London, Sep 12 — Following Hurricane “Frances’s” trail of destruction through Florida, the US Coast Guard reported yesterday that the ports of Jacksonville and Fernandina, as well as the intracoastal waterway, were again open to vessel traffic but Port Canaveral remained closed because of out-of-position aids to navigation and shoaling in the channel. The ports had been closed to shipping to minimize the chances of damage to port infrastructure and the marine environment and to allow for the quickest return to normal operations as safely possible. According to the USCG, ordering of vessels and barges over 500 gross tons out of port and to sea prevented the potential for millions of dollars of damage and the possibility of a large environmental disaster and waterway obstructions. Along the shoreline, waterfront terminals prepared by taking precautions to prevent cargo and containers from washing into the waterway. The decision to reopen the port was made in concert with port officials and the maritime community and after a general assessment of the condition of the ports. Detailed evaluations of the port’s shipping channel will continue and guidelines for ships’ transits will adjust accordingly as repairs are made to the aids to navigation. “I am convinced that the prevention steps taken were worthwhile,” said Capt. David Lersch, Captain of the Port of Jacksonville. “The maritime industry and harbor safety committees’ assistance was invaluable to the safe closing and timely re-opening of the ports.”

Freeport, Bahamas, Sep 13 — Crude oil tanker *Nysa* was manoeuvred back to her berth when the hurricane was over. Understand that she may have sustained some hull damages during the incident. — Lloyd’s Agents.

HURRICANE “IVAN”

Kingston, Jamaica, Sep 9 — Jamaicans were scrambling for supplies and fortifying their homes today as hurricane “Ivan” moved nearer with 150 mph winds after killing at least 20 people on the island of Grenada. Tourists fled the Florida Keys and residents of the 100-mile island chain

prepared for an evacuation tomorrow as Florida braced for a third hurricane strike in a month. Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Cuba and the Cayman Islands were also readying for a possible Category 5 storm. Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson urged Jamaica’s 2.7 million people to get ready. “Ivan” weakened slightly today from a Category 5 storm to Category 4, but forecasters said it could regain strength. Some gas stations in the capital ran out of fuel and lines formed at food stores. The government ordered schools closed today and tomorrow and three universities shut their doors. Emergency managers in the Florida Keys ordered evacuation for visitors, a measure taken well in advance because thousands of tourists need time to move recreational vehicles and boats up the only road linking the island chain. The 80,000 residents of the Keys were to begin evacuating tomorrow morning. The Cayman Islands issued a hurricane warning for its 43,000 people today, telling them hurricane conditions were possible within 24 hours. “Ivan” slammed into Grenada on Tuesday (Sep 7), flattening or badly damaging homes and cutting power. A US State Department official said the storm killed 20 people. Grenada’s capital, St. George’s, was devastated. Caribbean emergency managers said the island had no electricity or water and was in dire need of communications equipment, food, tents, tarpaulins and building materials. “Ivan” was also blamed for the death of a woman in Trinidad and Tobago and a swimmer in Venezuela. At 1700, EDT (2100, UTC), the hurricane’s centre was about 350 miles south-east of Kingston, the US National Hurricane centre said. It was moving west-north-west at 15 mph. The centre’s long-range forecast, which is subject to change, had “Ivan” reaching Cuba by Sunday, and Florida on Monday. — Reuters.

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Extremely dangerous hurricane “Ivan” is moving west-northwestward toward Jamaica. A hurricane warning remains in effect for Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. A hurricane watch and a tropical storm warning remain in effect for the entire south-west Peninsula of Haiti to the border of the Dominican Republic westward, including Port Au Prince. A hurricane watch and a tropical storm warning are in effect for the Dominican Republic from Barahona to Perdenales. A tropical storm watch remains in effect for the south-western coast of the Dominican Republic from Palenque westward to Barahona. A hurricane watch is in effect for central and eastern Cuba from Matanzas eastward. Tropical storm warnings may be required for portions of southeastern Cuba this morning. At 0600, UTC, the centre of hurricane “Ivan” was located near lat 15.7N, long 73.8W, or about 250 miles south-east of Kingston, Jamaica. “Ivan” is moving toward the west-north-west near 13mph and this general motion is expected to continue for the next 24 hours. On this track the hurricane will be nearing Jamaica

tonight. Maximum sustained winds have decreased a little to near 145mph with higher gusts. “Ivan” is an extremely dangerous Category 4 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale. Some fluctuations in intensity are likely during the next 24 hours, and “Ivan” could regain Category 5 status as it approaches Jamaica. Hurricane force winds extend outward up to 50 miles from the centre, and tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 175 miles. The latest estimated minimum central pressure recently measured by reconnaissance aircraft is 930 mb, 27.47 inches. Storm surge flooding of five to eight feet above normal tide levels, along with large and dangerous battering waves, can be expected near the centre of “Ivan” in the hurricane warning area. Rainfall amounts of six to 10 inches, possibly causing life-threatening flash floods and mud slides, can be expected along the path of “Ivan”.

London, Sep 10 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of hurricane “Ivan” was located near lat 15.9N, long 74.2W. The position is accurate to within 10 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the west-north-west or 300 degs, at 11knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 930 mb. The eye diameter is 20 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds are 125 knots with gusts to 155 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 45 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants, 35 nautical miles in the south-east quadrant and 30 nautical miles in the south-west quadrant. At 0600, UTC, Sep 11, the centre is predicted to be near lat 18.0N, long 77.4W, with maximum winds of 130 knots and gusts to 160 knots.

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated Sep 9, states: Valero Energy Corp. today said the company’s refinery in Aruba was not damaged by the high winds caused by Hurricane Ivan yesterday. Valero shut down its 275,000-barrel-per-day refinery and evacuated all 775 employees from the storm. Officials with the San Antonio-based oil refining and marketing company already have begun re-starting the facility and expects the plant to be operating back to normal levels within the next 48 hours.

Kingston, Jamaica, Sep 11 — Deadly hurricane “Ivan” battered Jamaica with powerful winds and torrential rains today but spared the island the worst of its wrath as the eye skirted the shore and headed for the Cayman Islands and Cuba. The storm felled large trees and poles, flooded streets, swept away houses and left the island in the dark. Sporadic shooting broke out on the deserted streets of the capital when looters went on the rampage. “Ivan,” which has already killed 27 people and left a trail of devastation across the Caribbean, veered west just as it approached Jamaica and skirted the southern shore instead of plowing through the island. At 0500, EDT, the hurricane’s winds had weakened slightly to 150 mph but remained a

powerful and deadly Category 4 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale of 1-5. The eye was about 70 miles south of Montego Bay, Jamaica, in lat 17.5N, long 78W, the US National Hurricane Centre said. The storm was moving west-north-west or north-west at about 8 mph and, at this rate, "Ivan" was expected to reach the Cayman Islands in 24 hours before heading for Cuba tomorrow and then to Florida on Monday (Sep 13). Forecasters warned that within the next 24 hours "Ivan" could become a stronger and rare Category 5 hurricane capable of causing catastrophic damage. The evacuation of the Florida Keys' 80,000 residents was already under way and was the third big evacuation in Florida in a month. "Ivan" has already devastated the island of Grenada, where it killed 17 people and damaged 90% of homes. The island remained without power or water and was under a dusk-to-dawn curfew after widespread looting. Residents on foot or in battered cars scoured the island in search of water, food and gasoline. "Ivan" also killed at least one person in Jamaica, four in Venezuela, four in the Dominican Republic and one in Tobago. In the Cayman Islands, a major offshore financial centre, most schools and businesses, including banks, were boarded up. Some apartment complexes ordered residents to evacuate. — Reuters.

London, Sep 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Ivan" lashed Jamaica with monstrous waves, driving rain and winds nearing 155 mph today, killing at least five people as it washed away homes and tore roofs off houses and trees from the ground, but unexpectedly spared the island from a direct hit. In the storm's wake, authorities in Grenada found another eight bodies, raising the toll on the island to 34 dead and the toll across the Caribbean to 50. In the Jamaican capital, Kingston, sporadic looting and gunfire erupted overnight and continued this morning. Looters carried boxes of groceries from a smashed storefront. A 10-year-old girl drowned in Old Harbor, just east of Kingston, and a woman was killed in the capital by a tree that struck her home. Police said three other people, a man, a woman and a baby, drowned in Clarendon parish, just west of Kingston. Jamaica was saved the full brunt of "Ivan" by an unexpected wobble and lurch to the west overnight. Forecasters warned it could still move back to its predicted course and hit Florida. At 1400, EDT, today, the eye of "Ivan" was about 40 miles west-south-west of Jamaica's western tip and sustained winds were at 145 mph. After drifting west for the past few hours, it was expected to resume a west-north-west track at around eight miles per hour. Meteorologist expected it move near or over the Cayman Islands tomorrow.

Kingston, Jamaica, Sep 12 — Hurricane "Ivan," one of the most powerful storms to batter the Caribbean, gutted homes, washed away roads and killed at least 16 people in Jamaica yesterday but appeared to

have spared the island the utter devastation wrought on Grenada. "Ivan," blamed for the deaths of at least 44 people in the Caribbean, became a rare, top-intensity Category 5 hurricane with catastrophic winds of 165 mph as it blasted past Jamaica and headed towards the Cayman Islands, Cuba and possibly Florida. The hurricane was the sixth-strongest recorded in the Atlantic basin, according to the US National Hurricane Centre. "It's definitely one of the most powerful hurricanes to have occurred in the Atlantic Ocean," said hurricane centre meteorologist Gene Hafele. "Ivan" ripped off roofs across Jamaica and torrential rains triggered mudslides, washing out roads. The storm brought trees and poles crashing down in the capital, Kingston, where ravines overflowed and flooded streets. Near Kingston airport at Harbour View, a giant storm surge gutted a row of beachfront homes and dumped beach sand on roads. Aid agencies and officials said they were still trying to find out what had happened in the south-eastern parish of St. Thomas, one of the hardest-hit areas, and St. Elizabeth in the south-west. Jamaica's death toll rose to 16 and included people whose houses collapsed when trees fell on them and others who drowned when flashfloods washed through their homes. However, the hurricane gave Jamaica's 2.7 million people a slight, last-minute reprieve by veering westward, keeping the worst winds off the south coast and away from Kingston, where tens of thousands of people live in flimsy shanties. Jamaican police made 28 arrests as they battled looting that erupted during the storm. Two men were shot dead by police in gunfights when officers tried to retrieve stolen goods. Robbers held up emergency workers at gunpoint, shooting and injuring one doctor as she slowed her car in rising water. The Category 5 storm, capable of destroying buildings, remained on course to hit the Cayman Islands and Cuba. It also threatened Florida with its third big hurricane strike in a month, after "Charley" and "Frances," which together caused an estimated \$9.4 billion to \$11.4 billion in insured damages. Evacuations were almost complete in the Florida Keys, where officials ordered tourists and 80,000 residents out of the 100-mile-long island chain. Mexico began evacuating some 2,250 people from a small island off the Yucatan. In the Cayman Islands, authorities told coastal dwellers to flee battering waves and a 15-foot storm surge as the hurricane's wobbly track put Grand Cayman, the largest of the territory's three islands, in greatest danger. "We are looking at potentially catastrophic conditions," said James Ryan, chairman of the Caymans hurricane committee. Most of the residents of the smallest island, Little Cayman, had been brought over to shelters on Grand Cayman, said committee spokeswoman Joan Scott-Campbell. Public storm shelters rapidly filled up as winds of up to 50 mph began to hit Grand Cayman

last night and the authorities declared a state of emergency. Hurricane force winds were expected to begin being felt early in the morning. At 2300 yesterday the centre of "Ivan" was about 105 miles south-east of Grand Cayman in lat 18.3N, long 80W, the national hurricane centre said. It was expected to drift west-north-west at about 8 mph. "Ivan" was forecast to hit Cuba by tomorrow and approach Florida's west coast by Tuesday (Sep 14). Cuba began evacuating 200,000 people in the western half of the island. It appeared the storm would hit key tobacco-growing areas west of Havana and not the capital itself, where residents jammed shops to buy food and water and candles. So far, the worst-hit Caribbean island appeared to be Grenada. The Red Cross estimated 60,000 of Grenada's 90,000 people were left homeless. The island has been without power or water and under a nighttime curfew since "Ivan" struck last Tuesday. The State Department sent charter flights yesterday to evacuate 1,400 stranded Americans, many of them medical students. In addition to 19 confirmed deaths in Grenada and 16 in Jamaica, four people died in Venezuela, four in the Dominican Republic and one in Tobago. — Reuters.

London, Sep 12 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Hurricane "Ivan", situation at 0900, UTC: A hurricane warning remains in effect for the Cayman Islands. A hurricane warning remains in effect for Cuba from Pinar del Rio to Ciego de Avila, including the Isle of Youth. A hurricane warning means that hurricane conditions are expected within the warning area within the next 24 hours. Preparations to protect life and property should be rushed to completion. A hurricane watch remains in effect for the rest of Cuba. A hurricane watch means that hurricane conditions are possible within the watch area, generally within 36 hours. A tropical storm warning remains in effect for Jamaica but is likely to be lowered later this morning. Interests in the north-western Caribbean Sea, as well as in the eastern Gulf of Mexico should closely monitor the progress of this extremely dangerous hurricane. Hurricane centre located near lat 18.6N, long 80.8W, at 0900, UTC. Position accurate within 10 nautical miles. Present movement towards the west-north-west, or 290 deg, at eight knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 918 mb. Eye diameter 15 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 135 knots with gusts to 165 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 80 miles north-east, 45 miles south-east, 25 miles south-west and 55 miles north-west. Radius of 50-knot winds 100 miles north-east, 70 miles south-east, 70 miles south-west and 95 miles north-west. Radius of 34-knot winds 150 miles north-east, 100 miles south-east, 100 miles south-west and 150 miles north-west. Radius of 12-ft seas 360 miles north-east, 180 miles south-east, 180 miles south-west and 200 miles north-west. The centre is forecast to be in lat

20.6N, long 83W, at 0600, UTC, Sep 13. Maximum winds 145 knots with gusts to 175 knots.

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Ivan" is battering the Cayman Islands en route to Cuba, after moving on from Jamaica, where it killed at least 14 people. It is ripping up homes and causing extensive flooding. One of the worst hurricanes ever seen in the Caribbean, "Ivan" has weakened to a category-four level, but is expected to strengthen again. A massive clean-up operation is under way in Jamaica after "Ivan" and intense rain afterwards, wrecked the island. In the Caymans, some 45,000 residents were hiding in homes and shelters as the hurricane unleashed ferocious winds, rain and waves of up to 20 feet (six metres), while cutting off power lines, uprooting trees and scattering debris. "We are now experiencing the full intensity of the storms and conditions are about as bad as they will get," a spokesman for the Grand Cayman-based Hurricane Hotline said. "We are getting reports of homes being damaged, tiles missing and roofs lifting up. So far nobody has been injured but there is lots of flooding from rising tides. A state of emergency has been declared." Water supplies have been turned off for fear of contamination during the storm. Most residents on the smaller islands of Little Cayman and Cayman Brac were evacuated to the main island of Grand Cayman. Yesterday, hundreds boarded charter flights off the low-lying islands. At 1200 GMT, the eye of the hurricane, which is described as "extremely dangerous", was about 35 miles (55km) south-east of Grand Cayman island, the Miami-based National Hurricane Center (NHC) said. The NHC added "Ivan" was likely to regain a category-five intensity later in the next 24 hours. "Ivan" was moving at a speed of nearly 9mph (15km/h) with maximum sustained wind speeds decreasing to 250km/h (155mph), with higher gusts. Its centre is expected to move over or very near the island of Grand Cayman within the next few hours. It is moving towards the west-north-west and a turn towards the north-west is expected during the next 24 hours, the NHC said. Hurricane toll: Grenada: At least 17 dead. Venezuela: Five killed. Jamaica: 14 killed. Dominican Republic: 4 killed. Tobago: One killed. With the intense driving rain that followed it, flooding is continuing to be the main problem in Jamaica and many parts remain cut off from the rest of the island. Homes and roads were swept away in flooding caused by heavy rain and huge waves up to 23-feet (seven metres) high. Of the half a million people in the exposed eastern shores who had been urged to move into shelters, many ignored the advice fearing their homes might be looted. In Kingston, there had been reports of looting, but police were primarily concerned with rescue work. There is no electricity and many places are without water. The country's two international airports are not scheduled to re-open until tomorrow.

George Town, Cayman Islands, Sep 13 — Hurricane "Ivan" moved toward Cuba today after pummeling the Cayman Islands, Jamaica and Grenada on a track that eventually will bring it to the U.S. coast. "Ivan", has sustained winds near 160 mph and has killed at least 47 people. Forecasters said the rare and deadly Category 5 hurricane was expected to pass near or over extreme western Cuba this evening. They warned of a 20-to-25-foot storm surge of seawater to the east of where the center makes landfall in Cuba. On Grand Cayman, the largest of the three Cayman Islands, homes and businesses were flooded, an airport runway was submerged and roofs were torn off, witnesses said. There were no immediate reports of casualties in the Caymans. "Ivan" was headed for tobacco-growing regions of western Cuba or Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula today and then toward the United States, where it could inflict a third hurricane strike on Florida within a month or curve west toward New Orleans. The hurricane's path was unclear, and the most powerful winds around its eyewall could end up closer to the Yucatan than to Cuba as it sweeps into the Gulf of Mexico and makes an expected northerly turn. At least 12,000 Jamaicans spent last night in shelters after huge waves, flash floods or fierce winds wrecked their homes. Looting, which erupted as the storm hit, appeared under control, as heavily armed police patrolled. Cuba evacuated 1.3 million people — more than a tenth of its population — and prepared for 12 inches of rain. Mexico's Yucatan peninsula also braced for possible high winds, and began evacuating 12,000 residents and tourists from Isla Mujeres, a resort island eight miles from Cancun. "Ivan" was downgraded to Category 4 on the five-step Saffir-Simpson storm scale as it hit the Caymans but strengthened again to a rare Category 5 last night. It was unlikely to reach U.S. shores as a Category 5, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. "Ivan"'s center was about 160 miles south-east of the western tip of Cuba, in lat 19.9N, long 83.5W and moving west-north-west near nine mph at 0200 hrs, (0600, UTC), the U.S. National Hurricane Center reported. — Reuters.

London, Sep 13 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Ivan": A hurricane warning remains in effect for Cuba from Pinar del Rio to Ciego de Avila including the Isle of Youth. A hurricane watch remains in effect for the rest of Cuba. At 0900, UTC, today the government of Mexico issued a hurricane warning for the north-eastern Yucatan peninsula from Tulum to Progreso. A hurricane warning remains in effect for the Cayman Islands, but will likely be lowered later today. A tropical storm watch remains in effect for the Florida Keys from the Seven Mile bridge westward to the Dry Tortugas. This watch could be lowered later today. At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of "Ivan" was located near lat 19.9N, long 83.5W. The position is

accurate to within 15 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the west-north-west or 300 degs at eight knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 920 mb. The eye diameter is 35 nautical miles. The maximum sustained winds are 140 knots with gusts to 170 knots. The radius of 64 knot winds: 90 nautical miles in the north-east quadrant, 75 nautical miles in the south-east quadrant, 40 nautical miles in the south-west quadrant and 50 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. At 0600, UTC, Sep 14, the centre is predicted to be near lat 26.0N, long 87.5W, with maximum sustained winds of 120 knots and gusts to 145 knots.

London, Sep 14 — Crude oil futures rose on news of anticipated disruption of shipments in the Gulf of Mexico, source of a quarter of US oil and gas output. Having killed 60 across the Caribbean, "Ivan" was heading toward Cuba yesterday on a track that will bring it ashore in Florida or Alabama sometime Thursday (Sep 16). Hurricanes "Charley" and "Frances" caused billions of dollars in property damage in Florida. Cuba, still recovering from "Charley", expected hurricane conditions within 24 hours in the western portion of the nation. Crude oil futures rose as much as 1.9% in New York on concern Hurricane "Ivan" may disrupt output in the Gulf of Mexico. In Florida, Governor Jeb Bush declared a state of emergency. The Louisiana Offshore Oil Port, the biggest US crude-oil import terminal, reported it would stop offloading tankers yesterday. Royal Dutch/Shell Group, BP, Exxon Mobil Corp and Kerr-McGee Corp began evacuating non-essential workers from platforms yesterday. "Ivan" is forecast to make landfall in Alabama, closer to rigs than previous storms "Charley" and "Frances". Output may still be unaffected. Crude oil for October delivery jumped 74 cents, or 1.7%, to 43.55 a barrel at 1402, London time on the New York Mercantile Exchange, Bloomberg reported. It has gained 34% this year. Brent crude for October settlement rose 60 cents to \$40.80 a barrel on London's International Petroleum Exchange.

Pinar del Rio, Cuba, Sep 14 — Hurricane "Ivan" churned northward into the Gulf of Mexico today on a track for the U.S. coast after ripping off roofs and downing trees and power lines as it brushed past western Cuba. There were no reported casualties on the island from the giant storm, the most powerful to hit Cuba in living memory. After a Caribbean rampage that killed at least 68 people and left behind vast damage, "Ivan" was expected to make landfall in the United States as early as tomorrow night, prompting forecasters to post a hurricane watch from the Florida Panhandle to west of New Orleans in Louisiana. The powerful core of "Ivan", a rare Category 5 hurricane with winds near 160 mph, passed over Guanahacabibes peninsula, a sparsely populated national park in western Cuba. Vicious winds and pounding seas further from "Ivan"'s center pummeled the tobacco-growing province of Pinar

del Rio. The sea surged 600 yards inland at some points and the beach and diving centre of Maria la Gorda was hit by an 11-foot surge, officials said. At 0200 hrs, (0600, UTC), the eye of "Ivan" was about 55 miles northwest of the western tip of Cuba at lat 22.4N, long 85.6W and moving north-west near nine mph, the U.S. hurricane center said. Cuban authorities had evacuated 1.3 million of the country's 11 million people before "Ivan" took a more westerly path than first predicted. There were no reported deaths or even injuries. However, "Ivan"'s death toll rose to 68 as Haiti reported three storm-related deaths and the Pan American Health Organization said 37 people had died in Grenada. Nineteen were killed in Jamaica, four in Venezuela, four in the Dominican Republic and one in Tobago. Meanwhile, in the Mexican beach resort Cancun on the Yucatan peninsula thousands of residents and visitors were evacuated as heavy rains and choppy seas pounded the coast. Flights to Cancun had been cancelled amid fears of major damage, and tourists were warned to stay in their hotels. The small Caribbean island of Cozumel, one of the world's leading diving centres, was cut off from the mainland. But Cancun airport remained open, as did Mexico's main oil exporting ports. "Ivan"'s track was expected to take it to the U.S. Gulf coast between the Mississippi Delta and Florida Panhandle by tomorrow. If it does not curve west, the storm could inflict a third hurricane strike on Florida within a month. Authorities in the Florida Keys allowed evacuated residents to return to the island chain. But officials warned that at least 1.7 million people in fragile mobile homes or low-lying areas were at risk along Florida's Gulf Coast. — Reuters.

London, Sep 14 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Ivan": A hurricane warning remains in effect for the Cuban provinces of Pinar del Rio, Havana, including the city of Havana and the Isle of Youth. A hurricane warning remains in effect for the north-eastern Yucatan peninsula from Tulum to Progreso but will likely be discontinued later today. A tropical storm watch remains in effect for the Florida Keys from the Seven Mile Bridge westward, including the Dry Tortugas. A hurricane watch remains in effect for the northern Gulf of Mexico coast from Morgan City, Louisiana, eastward to St. Marks, Florida, including greater New Orleans, Louisiana. At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of "Ivan" was located near 22.6N, long 86.0W. The position is accurate to within 15 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the north-west, or 320 degs, at eight knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 924 mb and the eye diameter is 20 nautical miles. The maximum sustained winds are 140 knots, with gusts to 170 knots. The radius of 64 knot winds is 85 nautical miles in the north-east and south-east quadrants, 50 nautical miles in the south-west quadrant and 75 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. At 0600, UTC, Sep 15, the

centre is predicted to be near lat 26.0N, long 87.7W, with maximum winds of 135 knots and gusts to 165 knots.

London, Sep 15 — Gulf of Mexico oil and gas producers are bracing themselves for Hurricane "Ivan", shutting down production platforms and evacuating staff. Around 20 oil majors and independents have evacuated platforms and drilling rigs operating in the eastern and central parts of the region and more are expected to close today as the hurricane sweeps in towards the Gulf Coast after skirting Cuba. Shell Oil has closed 270,000 barrels per day of oil output from its tension-leg platforms, while US majors ChevronTexaco and ExxonMobil have closed facilities. ChevronTexaco has shut one of the region's largest refineries, the 355,000 bpd Pascagoula plant, while ExxonMobil is expected to close the Chalmette refinery. Dallas-based Pioneer Natural Resources has shut down its Devil's Tower spar and the deepwater Canyon Express gas project. Murphy Oil has shut down operations on the Medusa and Front Runner spars, a spokeswoman confirmed. Its partner, Spinnaker, is expecting these facilities to be closed for up to ten days depending on the track of the hurricane. Newfield Exploration has shut down a quarter of its gas producing assets in the region and suspended drilling on two rigs. Remington Oil has shut down almost all of its offshore facilities. When Hurricane "Charley" crashed through the region in August, over 40 companies shut down 154 platforms and 32 rigs, closing off output of 480,000 barrels of oil and 1.1bn cu ft of gas per day, said the Minerals Management Service. The Gulf of Mexico's daily production is around 1.7m barrels of oil and 12.3bn cu ft of gas per day, said the MMS.

Miami, Sep 15 — Authorities urged millions of people from New Orleans to northwest Florida to flee as hurricane "Ivan" churned through the Gulf of Mexico on a track that could bring it onto the U.S. coast by tonight. As thousands of coastal residents of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana choked roads to higher ground, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that more than 6.1 million people may be affected by the large and extremely dangerous storm. Anxiety ran especially high in New Orleans. Mayor Ray Nagin said "Ivan" could flood New Orleans with up to 18 feet of water and urged people to leave. "Ivan"'s top sustained winds were near 140 mph at 0200 hrs (0600, UTC). Forecasters said water levels were already running up to one foot above normal along the north Gulf Coast. Authorities placed a long stretch of coast from Grand Isle, Louisiana, to Apalachicola, Florida, under a hurricane warning. Oil companies plucked thousands of workers from offshore platforms and shut down some refineries and rigs in the Gulf, home of about a quarter of the U.S. oil and gas output. "Ivan"'s menacing presence helped push up world oil prices by more than 50 cents a barrel. U.S. grain exports via the Gulf were shut down,

and traders said shipments could be halted for five days. Florida authorities, preparing for a possible third hurricane strike in just over a month, told about 543,000 people to evacuate mobile homes and flood-prone coastal areas in at least 10 western counties. "Ivan" was forecast to roar ashore late today or early tomorrow, on or near the border between Mississippi and Alabama. The nearest cities include Biloxi and Pascagoula, Mississippi and Mobile, Alabama. "Ivan" had weakened slightly as it moved north but was still a dangerous Category 4 storm on the five-step hurricane intensity scale, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said, but by the time it reach shore it was expected to have dropped to a Category 3 strength. "Ivan"'s hurricane-force winds extended 105 miles. At 0200 hrs (0600, UTC), Ivan's eye was about 265 miles south-south-east of the mouth of the Mississippi River at lat 25.6N, long 87.4W. It was moving north-north-west at about 12 mph, the hurricane center said. — Reuters.

London, Sep 15 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Ivan": A hurricane warning is in effect from Grand Isle, Louisiana to Apalachicola, Florida, including the greater New Orleans area and Lake Pontchartrain. A hurricane watch remains in effect from Morgan City, Louisiana to west of Grand Isle. A tropical storm warning is in effect from Intracoastal City, Louisiana to west of Grand Isle and from east of Apalachicola to Yankeetown, Florida. At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of hurricane "Ivan" was located near lat 26.1N, long 87.8W. The position is accurate to within 15 nautical miles. Present movement is toward the north-north-west or 340 degs at 10 knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 938 mb. Eye diameter is 25 nautical miles. The maximum sustained winds are 120 knots with gusts to 145 knots. The radius of 64 knot winds: 90 nautical miles in the north-east and south-east quadrants, 60 nautical miles in the south-west quadrant and 75 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. At 0600, UTC, Sep 16, the centre is predicted to be near lat 29.6N, long 88.2W, with maximum sustained winds of 120 knots and gusts to 145 knots.

Grand Cayman, Sep 15 — State of emergency exists in the Cayman Islands due hurricane "Ivan." A curfew is in force from 1800 to 0600 hrs. Much destruction on roads, coast and property. No casualties reported. Airport was reopened yesterday. Power still out, however, hopefully to restore some power today. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 16 — Five ports and over half of the Gulf of Mexico's production platforms are closed ahead of Hurricane "Ivan", which is due to hit the region this morning. The US Coast Guard has closed the ports of Houston, Texas, Mobile in Alabama, Panama City and Pensacola in Florida, plus Gulfport and Pascagoula in Mississippi state as a safety precaution ahead of the storm. It has also restricted river traffic along the Mississippi in Louisiana. The US government has declared a state of

emergency in Louisiana, Alabama and Florida, while residents from the Gulf coast are fleeing. According to the US Minerals Management Service 382 platforms and 60 drilling rigs working in the eastern and central areas of the Gulf of Mexico have been forced to close due to the hurricane. This has meant the region, which produces around 1.7m barrels of oil per day, will be pumping out 1m bpd less until the beginning of next week. This is equivalent to nearly a fifth of the US's total oil production and could mean more demand for short-term imports. Key refineries are also shut down and gas output from the Gulf will be down by a third.

Mobile, Ala., Sep 16 — Hurricane "Ivan" slammed into the U.S. Gulf Coast today with destructive winds and pounding waves that ripped away beachfront homes, flooded deep inland and spawned tornadoes that killed at least two people. Even before the eye of the enormous storm hit shore, "Ivan"'s wrath was felt over a 400-mile stretch of the coast from New Orleans to the Florida Panhandle as vicious winds and heavy rain flattened trees and cut power to tens of thousands. The centre of the Category 4 storm was roaring over barrier islands near the Mississippi-Alabama border well before dawn. Towering waves, torrential rainfall and winds capable of splintering mobile homes were not the only danger. At least two people died in northwest Florida when around five tornadoes touched down and damaged or destroyed up to 70 buildings, including a fire station, police said. Tens of thousands of people had evacuated in long streams of bumper-to-bumper traffic. Ivan was expected to submerge downtown areas of Mobile, but not everybody heeded the appeals to evacuate. In New Orleans, officials remained nervous that "Ivan"'s storm surge and rains could breach levees, overwhelm pumps and flood streets with a toxic brew of sewage, chemicals and water from the Mississippi River. Experts said Ivan could cause up to \$10 billion in insured losses in the United States on top of the \$1 billion to \$2 billion in losses in the Caribbean. The insured losses do not reflect lost revenues for Florida's and the Gulf Coast's tourism industries. Nor do they include the economic costs of closing down oil rigs and refineries along the Gulf Coast, source of a quarter of U.S. oil and natural gas production. At 0100 hrs, (0500, UTC), Ivan's eye was about 40 miles south of the Alabama coast at lat 29.7N, long 87.9W, and moving north at about 12 mph, forecasters said. "Ivan"'s top sustained winds were about 135 mph, making it a Category 4 hurricane. — Reuters.

London, Sep 16 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Ivan": At 0400 hrs, (0900, UTC) the hurricane warning for the city of New Orleans and Lake Pontchartrain and all watches and warnings from west of Grand Isle to Morgan City have been discontinued. Also, the hurricane warning from the mouth of the Pearl River to Grand Isle has been downgraded to a tropical

storm warning. A hurricane warning remains in effect from the mouth of the Pearl River to Apalachicola, Florida. A tropical storm warning remains in effect from east of Apalachicola to Yankeetown, Florida and for the mouth of the Pearl River to Grand Isle. At 0900, UTC, today, the hurricane centre was located near lat 30.9N, long 87.7W. The position is accurate to within 15 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the north or 10 degs at 12 knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 947 mb and the eye diameter is 35 nautical miles. The maximum sustained winds are 100 knots, with gusts to 120 knots. The radius of 64 knot winds: 90 nautical miles in the north-east and south-east quadrants, 75 nautical miles in the south-west quadrant and 50 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. At 0600, UTC, the centre is predicted to be near lat 34.7N, long 86.2W, with (inland) maximum sustained winds of 35 knots and gusts to 45 knots.

HURRICANE "JAVIER"

London, Sep 12 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Javier": Tropical storm centre located near lat 12.3N, long 102W, at 0900, UTC, Sep 12. Position accurate to within 30 nautical miles. Present movement towards the west-north-west, or 285 deg, at eight knots. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots with gusts to 65 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 20 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds and 12-ft seas 60 nautical miles. At 0600, UTC, Sep 13, the centre is forecast to be at lat 13.7N, long 104.4W. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots with gusts to 90 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 20 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 35 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 80 nautical miles.

London, Sep 13 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of hurricane "Javier" was predicted to be near lat 14.1N, 104.8W. The position is accurate to within 30 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the north-west or 315 degrees at eight knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 970 mb. The maximum sustained winds: 90 knots with gusts to 110 knots. The radius of 64 knot winds is 30 nautical miles in all four quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Sep 14, the centre is predicted to be near lat 16.1N, long 107.1W, with maximum sustained winds of 105 knots and gusts to 130 knots.

London, Sep 16 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Javier": There is a tropical storm watch in effect for the southern portion of Baja California from Bahia Magdalena, including San Carlos to La Paz. At 0600, UTC, today, the centre was located near lat 19.5N, long 110.0W. The position is accurate within 20 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the north-north-west or 330 degs at seven knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 960 mb. The maximum sustained winds are 100 knots with gusts to 120 knots. The radius of 64 knot winds: 50 nautical

miles in all four quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Sep 17, the centre is predicted to be near lat 21.8N, long 111.6W, with maximum sustained winds of 80 knots and gusts to 100 knots.

IRAQ

London, Sep 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Basrah Oil Terminal has restarted loading with total flow rate 71,000 bbls/hr. Berthing of vessels at the terminal had been suspended on Sunday (Sep 12), due to rough weather.

ROMANIA

Bucharest, Sep 10 — The Sulina Channel was closed at 0715 hrs, today, due to bad weather. Winds: north-northeast, force seven. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOUTH KOREA

London, Sep 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Up to 415 millimetres of rain fell on Cheju island over the weekend (Sep 11-12), flooding 638 houses and stores and 7,425 hectares of farmland. Property damages were estimated at more than 1.2 billion won. The Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) on Sunday said that Tosanni in southern Cheju recorded 415 mm of rain, and Songdang in the northern part recorded 373 mm, a record precipitation in 50 years. About 100 mm of rain per hour fell on Saturday on Cheju island, flooding 589 houses and 49 stores. The flooding also forced 10 schools to close temporarily. Torrential rain also flooded 7,417 hectares of farmland and washed away eight hectares, killing more than 75,000 livestock. With a high wave warning issued, 58 passenger vessels on 44 sea routes were tied to their docks for two days and nine flights departing from Cheju were cancelled. About 3,800 rescuers have been mobilized to supply daily necessities to displaced people in the region. According to the Korea Airports Corporation, 34 flights bound from southern regions, including 18 flights from Kimpo to Pohang, 14 flights to Yosu and two flights to Mokpo, were also cancelled due to heavy rain as of 1700, Sunday. South Cholla provinces also reported a large amount of precipitation with more than 120 mm of rain over the weekend. Posong received 165 mm of rain, Kangjin 157.7 mm and Naju 145 mm in the region as of 1400, Sunday. About 22,000 boats were also evacuated to seek safety in the provincial regions. A meteorologist said that Changhung recorded 254 mm of rain, Cheju City 234 mm, Kohung 138 mm, Kwangju 132 mm, Mokpo 121 mm and Seoul 58 mm, as of 1300, Sunday.

THAILAND

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Flash floods have killed two people in northern Thailand, leaving thousands either stranded or forced to abandon their homes, media reported today, as the capital braced for potential flooding. Torrential rain in north-eastern Chiang Rai province claimed the lives of a 45-year old policeman and 78-year-old farmer

yesterday, and forced more than a dozen villages to be evacuated and some schools closed, the Nation newspaper said. The daily said flooding had also forced the evacuation of homes in Chiang Mai and Ubon Ratchathani provinces, and Bangkok officials have set up a flood operations centre amid concern that parts of the nation's capital could also be submerged by the deluge. Forecasters have predicted some of the heaviest rainfall for Thailand in recorded history with flooding already having affected more than half a million people in the past few months.

TROPICAL STORM "HAIMA"

Taipei, Sep 11 — Torrential rain lashed Taiwan today, flooding northern parts of the island including the capital Taipei and threatening landslides in mountain areas. Officials predicted that the rain would continue for some days. Flood waters swamped streets in downtown Taipei, where it rose to waist level in some areas, submerging cars and motorscooters and cutting power to thousands of homes. "In the past few days we have had rain all across the country, but it was heaviest last night and early this morning especially in Taipei and will continue until at least Monday," said an official at the Central Weather Bureau by phone. The Taipei suburb of Nankang was worst hit, chalking up rainfall of 570 mm since midnight. Rainfall was also heavy in neighbouring Taoyuan and Keelung City, weather officials said. Television footage showed fire and rescue personnel ferrying residents from their homes in inflatable boats up streets awash with muddy waters. No deaths or injuries have yet been reported in the latest emergency, officials said. More than 14,500 households across Taipei, Taoyuan and Hsinchuang were without power as waters flooded distribution substations, said a state-run Taiwan Power Company official. Some rail services in the north were halted due to flooding, local media said. The weather bureau said the rains were brought by a low pressure system formed in the wake of Typhoon "Songda" that dodged Taiwan, but killed up to 30 people in Japan this week. "The heavy rain warnings that we first issued on Tuesday for all of Taiwan will stay in place today and tomorrow," the Weather Bureau official said. — Reuters.

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The latest tropical storm swirled over northern Taiwan today, threatening more precipitation to the flood-hit region, meteorologists said. Tropical storm "Haima" was located 60km north-east of the capital of Taipei, moving north-west towards China, the Central Weather Bureau said. Fringes of "Haima" - the Chinese name for sea horse - could bring heavy rains to northern Taiwan throughout today, it said. The storm packed winds of 65kmh, moving at a speed of 14kmh. Thousands of homes in northern Taiwan were flooded yesterday.

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated today, states: At least six people

have died and a seventh is feared dead in northern Taiwan after the latest tropical storm swirled over the island, triggering mudslides. Tropical storm "Haima" has brought heavy rain, compounding the flood that has already inundated much of the north. Taipei's Nankang district, where some 800mm of rain fell over the past two days, was hardest hit by Haima. A 65-year-old man drowned in his residence basement in the capital, while a 62-year-old man was found dead in an underground passage in northern Taoyuan city, said the authorities. Rescuers also found the body of a junior high school boy, who was washed away by flash floods in southern Tainan county on Saturday (Sep 11). In northern Hsinchu county, rescuers pulled out three bodies from a house submerged by massive mudslides in the mountainous Chienshih township. Five days of continuous downpour in the county have loosened rock and earth, triggering mudslides which swept away several houses. 'The rescue work has to be stopped as the night falls,' said a county government official. He added that he feared a fourth person remained buried under the mudslides. 'We have already found three bodies, including an elderly couple and their son,' said a spokesman for the Hsinchu fire department. As Haima was expected to bring more rain through to tomorrow, hundreds of residents have been ordered to evacuate from remote villages. The Soil and Water Conservation Bureau has placed 46 towns in northern Taiwan on full alert, asking residents there to heighten vigilance against possible mudslides. Haima also pounded the low-lying town of Shichih, north of Taipei. Water reached the first floor of many homes and forced residents to retreat to higher ground earlier in the weekend. Rescue workers braved downpours to evacuate people in inflatable boats, but police said some 1,000 people were feared trapped in Shichih. The authorities said heavy rain could cause further flooding from the swollen Keelung River, north of Taipei. In Taipei, people rushed to pile up sandbags around the entrances of underground rail stations and pedestrian passages. At least 7,000 homes around the capital have lost power, and water levels reached 1m deep in some parts. The Central Weather Bureau said "Haima" was not expected to make landfall in Taiwan. It is moving at 14kmh north-west towards China.

London, Sep 13 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical depression "Haima" was located near lat 28.0N, long 120.9E. The movement over the past six hours: 320 degs at nine knots. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 30 knots, with gusts to 40 knots. At 0600, UTC, Sep 14, the centre is predicted to be near lat 32.1N, long 119.6E, with maximum sustained winds of 25 knots

and gusts to 35 knots and dissipating as a significant tropical cyclone over land.

London, Sep 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Haima", the 21st of its kind this year, hit eastern Zhejiang Province at Wenzhou City around midday yesterday, the local meteorological observatory said. The eye of "Haima" caused fresh gales and is moving in the northwestward direction at a speed of 20 kilometres per hour, said the observatory. Under its impact, 15 weather stations across the province monitored rainfall of 50 millimetres each, three of which even had 100 mm of showers, between 0800, Sunday and 0800, yesterday. As the eye of the storm passes, there will be strong gale to hurricane winds in offshore areas along the provincial coast while gale and torrential rains are likely in eastern and southern Zhejiang today, the observatory said, adding that the storm will be reduced to a low tropical pressure upon landing and will sweep through areas, including Wenzhou, Taizhou, Jinhua, Shaoxing, Hangzhou, and Huzhou. Local government organizations throughout the province are on high alert. (See issue of Sep 14.)

London, Sep 15 — A press report, dated Sep 14, states: Taiwan estimated that tropical storm "Haima" caused 92 million New Taiwan dollars (US\$2.71 million) in agricultural damage as it dumped heavy rain on the island and triggered mudslides last weekend, officials said today. Thousands of homes in northern Taiwan were flooded Saturday (Sep 11) as the storm soaked the island with torrential rain. A landslide buried four people in the northern county of Hsinchu on Sunday (Sep 12), and two people were missing in flooding outside the capital, Taipei. The damage included NT\$43.63 million (US\$1.28 million) to agricultural produce, especially watermelons and other fruit, the Council of Agriculture said. The damage amounted to 244 hectares being destroyed, the council said. Livestock farmers suffered NT\$710,000 (US\$21,000) in damages.

TROPICAL STORM "ISIS"

London, Sep 10 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Isis" was located near lat 17.5N, long 115.0W, approximately 240 nautical miles west-south-west of Cocorro Island and has tracked west-northwestward or 285 degs, at eight knots, over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 50 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. The radius of 34 knot winds: 75 nautical miles in the north-east and south-east quadrants and 120 nautical miles in the south-west and north-west quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 13 feet. At 0600, UTC, the centre is predicted to be near lat 18.5N, long 119.0W, with maximum sustained winds of 45 knots and gusts to 55 knots.

London, Sep 12 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Isis" was located near lat 17.4N, long 123W, approximately 490 nautical miles west of Clarion Island, and had tracked west, or 270 deg, at ten knots over the past six hours. Position accurate to within 50 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 60 nautical miles. At 0600, UTC, Sep 13, the centre is predicted to be at lat 17.4N, long 127W, with maximum sustained winds of 55 knots and gusts to 70 knots.

London, Sep 13 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Isis" was located near lat 17.4N, long 125.7W. The position is accurate to within 50 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the west or 270 degs at nine knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 1000 mb. The maximum sustained winds: 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. The radius of 34 knot winds: zero nautical miles in the north-east quadrant, 40 nautical miles in the remaining three quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Sep 14, the centre is predicted to be near lat 17.4N, long 129.3W, with maximum winds of 50 knots and gusts to 60 knots.

London, Sep 14 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Isis" was located near lat 16.5N, long 129.3W, 1,050 nautical miles west of Socorro Island and has tracked west, 270 degs, at two knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds of 45 knots, with gusts to 55 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 40 nautical miles in all four quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 15 feet. At 0600, Sep 15, the centre is predicted to be near lat 16.5N, long 130.5W, with maximum sustained winds of 45 knots and gusts to 55 knots.

London, Sep 15 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0000, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Isis" was located near lat 17.2N, long 130.9. Movement over the past six hours: 300 degs at four knots. The position is accurate to within 30 nautical miles and based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds of 55 knots, with gusts to 70 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 50 nautical miles in all four quadrants. At 0000, UTC, Sep 16, the centre is predicted to be near lat 17.6N, long 132.1W, with maximum sustained winds of 60 knots and gusts to 75 knots.

London, Sep 16 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Isis" was located near lat 18.7N, long 132.2W. The position is accurate within 20 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the west or 270 degs at two knots. The estimated

minimum central pressure is 992 mb. The maximum sustained winds are 55 knots with gusts to 65 knots. The radius of 50 knot winds: 25 nautical miles in all four quadrants. At 0600, Sep 17, the centre is predicted to be near lat 18.7N, long 133.3W, with maximum sustained winds of 45 knots and gusts to 55 knots.

TROPICAL STORM "JEANNE"

London, Sep 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm "Jeanne" strengthened today, prompting a plea from Puerto Rico's governor for islanders to evacuate from flood-prone areas and causing a panic among residents who flocked to supermarkets for supplies. The storm's eye was expected to hit Puerto Rico's south-west coast by tomorrow afternoon, prompting a hurricane warning in the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico where lines formed at supermarkets and islanders raced to put up hurricane shutters. "It's going to be a close call for Puerto Rico," said Chris Hennon, a meteorologist with the US National Hurricane Centre in Miami. "Jeanne will probably become a hurricane Wednesday." At 0700, AEST, today, "Jeanne's" centre was 140 kilometres south-east of St Croix in the US Virgin Islands. Maximum sustained winds were at 96km/h, just 24km/h short of becoming a Category 1 hurricane, the weakest on a scale of five. The Dominican Republic issued a hurricane watch and tropical storm warning for the northern and southern coasts. A tropical storm warning remained for the British Virgin Islands and St Kitts and Nevis. Storm warnings were discontinued for Saba, St Eustatius and St Maarten. "Jeanne" was moving toward the west-north-west near 19km/h. Passenger ferry service was temporarily suspended between Puerto Rico's east-coast town of Fajardo and the outlying tourist islands of Vieques and Culebra today, authorities said. Between 10 and 25 centimetres of rainfall was expected in Puerto Rico. Tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 64 kilometres. A private campground with cabins and tent sites was evacuated in St John in the US Virgin Islands and 60 guests and employees were moved to hotels in St Thomas and St John, said Maggie Day, the general manager of Mahoe Bay Campground. The inter-island ferries were still operating in the US Virgin Islands and airports remained open.

London, Sep 15 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Jeanne": A hurricane warning is in effect for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. A hurricane watch and a tropical storm warning is in effect for portions of the northern and southern coasts of the Dominican Republic from Cabrera southward to Santo Domingo. A tropical storm warning remains in effect for the British Virgin Islands and St. Kitts and Nevis. Tropical storm conditions could also affect the remainder of the northern Leeward Islands. At 0600, UTC, the centre of "Jeanne" was located near lat 17.2N, long 64.8W. The position is accurate within 20 nautical miles.

The present movement is toward the west-north-west or 295 degs, at seven knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 994 mb. The maximum sustained winds are 55 knots with gusts to 65 knots. The radius of 50 knot winds: 15 nautical miles in all four quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Sep 16, the centre is predicted to be near lat 19.1N, long 68.2W, with maximum sustained winds of 65 knots and gusts to 80 knots.

London, Sep 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm "Jeanne", nearing hurricane strength, lashed Puerto Rico today as rivers rose, roads flowed with torrents of water and frantic residents evacuated low-lying areas. Drenching rain from the storm's outer bands, and accompanying wind gusts reached the US territory of 4 million people this morning. The eye of the storm was expected to hit Puerto Rico's south-west coast by afternoon, and a hurricane warning was issued for the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The storm's projected path had it potentially reaching hurricane-weary Florida, Georgia and South Carolina either Sunday (Sep 18) or Monday. All Puerto Rican ports were closed, Gov. Sila Calderon announced today, when she banned alcohol sales and urged people to stay indoors. The largest mall in the Caribbean, Plaza las Americas, also was shut. Calderon said Jeanne had cut water service to some 30,000 people in the north-east and knocked out electricity in about 1,000 homes just outside San Juan. More than 700 people evacuated their homes for shelters, authorities said. The storm passed St. Croix, the southernmost of the U.S. Virgin Islands, overnight, dumping about 7 inches of rain and leaving about 50,000 people without power, officials said. At 1100, EDT, "Jeanne's" centre was 45 miles south-south-east of San Juan. Maximum sustained wind was near 70 mph, just 4 mph below hurricane status. Winds extended 60 miles. The biggest concerns for Puerto Rico were flash flooding and mudslides, said National Hurricane Centre meteorologist Hector Guerrero. The Dominican Republic issued a hurricane watch and tropical storm warning for portions of its north and south coasts. A tropical storm warning covered the British Virgin Islands and St. Kitts and Nevis. American Airlines cancelled 17 flights leaving San Juan and six to the city today. Government offices, schools and courts and banks were closed today, and casinos would likely remain idle. Mail would not be delivered. Eight to 12 inches of rainfall were expected in Puerto Rico.

London, Sep 16 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Jeanne": A hurricane warning is now in effect for the eastern and northern coasts of the Dominican Republic from La Plata southward to Isla Saona. A tropical storm warning and a hurricane watch are in effect along the northern coast of the Dominican Republic from west of Puerto Plata westward to Monte Cristo and along the southern coast of the Dominican Republic from Isla Saona westward to Santo Domingo. A

hurricane watch remains in effect for the southeastern Bahamas, including the Acklins, Crooked Island, the Inaguas, Mayaguana and the Ragged Islands as well as for the Turks and Caicos Islands. At 0500 hrs, today, the tropical storm warning for Puerto Rico, including the islands of Culebra and Vieques was discontinued. At 0600, UTC, today, the centre was located near lat 18.6N, long 67.8W. The position is accurate to within 15 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the north-west or 305 degs at eight knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 992 mb. The maximum sustained winds are 60 knots with gusts to 75 knots. The radius of 50 knot winds: 15 nautical miles in the north-east and orth-west quadrants, zero nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Sep 17, the centre is predicted to be near lat 20.4N, long 70.9W, with maximum sustained winds of 65 knots and gusts to 80 knots.

TYPHOON "CHABA"

Moji, Sep 15 — General cargo *Vihan 5*: Three crew members are still missing. Understand that oil remaining on board has been removed but owners have not as yet made a decision to salve the vessel or declare a CTL. — Lloyd's Agents.

Yokohama, Sep 16 — Three crew members from general cargo *Vihan 5*, which ran aground on rocks off Yura Island on Aug 30, are still missing. — Lloyd's Agents.

Yokohama, Sep 16 — General cargo *Winner I* (2593 gt, built 1981) was ready for departure from Shikama, when it drifted, due to typhoon winds, at 2155, Aug 30. Vessel was towed to No.6 pier by two tugs at 0200, Aug 31. — Lloyd's Agents.

Yokohama, Sep 16 — Vehicle *Nichiryu Maru* (10329 gt, built 2001) drifted due to typhoon winds and was in collision with ro/ro *Musashi Maru* (13927 gt, built 2003), 1.12 nautical miles, 266 deg, from Tohoku Breakwater East Lighthouse, at Yokosuka, at 1140, Aug 31. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Musashi Maru* arrived Yokohama Sep 1 and sailed Sep 6 for Yokosuka.)

TYPHOON "SONGDA"

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The Japan Coast Guard today arrested the 56-year-old Russian captain of a Cambodian-registered vessel over the deaths of three crew members after the ship capsized earlier this week in strong winds from Typhoon "Songda". The captain, Vladimir Melentyev, is suspected of professional negligence resulting in death, according to the Hiroshima Coast Guard Office. Investigations showed that Melentyev allegedly did not heed the advisory of the ship's agent Tuesday (Sep 7) morning for the ship to anchor offshore in preparation for the approaching powerful typhoon. As a result, *Blue Ocean* clashed onto the quay numerous times due to the typhoon-induced strong winds and around 1450 hrs, that day, tilted and sank, leading to the deaths of the three crew members, according to

the investigations. Three of the 18 Russians aboard were found dead, while 14 were rescued. One sailor remains missing. *Blue Ocean* arrived at the port in Hatsukaichi, Hiroshima Prefecture, on Monday (Sep 6) from Nakhodka, Russia.

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Songda," which came to the Kurile Islands two days ago, has sunk two vessels near Kunashir Island, cast ashore one and broken another at moorage. It is updated information of the regional administration. A fishing vessel with 10 crew members on board gathered sea kale near the Lovtsov cape in the north of Kunashir where it was caught in the storm. The vessel capsized and sank. Seven people have survived, one died, and two are missing. A fishing boat sank near the moorage in the settlement of Golovnino. Waves cast ashore a schooner and broke a fishing vessel at moorage.

Moji, Sep 13 — General cargo *Tri Ardhianto*: Nine additional bodies were discovered but two crew members were still missing as of Sep 11 — Lloyd's Agents.

Moji, Sep 13 — General cargo *Blue Ocean*: The final body was discovered. Sep 11. — Lloyd's Agents.

UNITED STATES

London, Sep 11 — A press report, dated today, states: The tornado that swept through this town Wednesday inflicted nearly \$2.1 million in damage, according to newly revised figures released by Caroline County officials yesterday. The twister damaged 67 homes, destroying four of those and leaving another 22 with major damage, said Mark Garnett, the county's deputy emergency services director. Officials initially listed about two dozen homes as damaged, but building inspectors and residents identified more problems as the town tried to recover this week, he said. The tornado also hit six businesses, destroying two of them, Garnett said. The tornado was one of nine reported in Virginia as the remnants of Hurricane "Frances" moved through the state Wednesday (Sep 8).

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Emergency workers in boats rescued people from cars and homes left stranded by rising water yesterday as heavy rain doused southern Minnesota and caused flash flooding. The storm was blamed for at least one death. Schools and roads were closed, a nursing home was evacuated and fields were flooded. Rain began Tuesday and ended by late yesterday morning. In Austin, 90 miles south of Minneapolis, the Cedar River overflowed its banks, forcing the city to close some streets and forcing nearby residents to flee. Gov. Tim Pawlenty, who surveyed the damage by helicopter, said he was "somewhat taken aback by the magnitude of it." He said flooding severely damaged crops, schools and homes. The weather service said Austin received 3.87 inches of rain; Albert Lea, in nearby Freeborn County, got a little over 7 inches over 36 hours. An estimated 10 or more inches fell in some

areas. Mudslides slowed traffic on parts of U.S. 61 but crews were able to clear the road before dawn. Portions of Wisconsin, Iowa, and Kansas also got rain early yesterday. A flash flood warning was issued in northern Iowa, where as much as 8 inches of rain had fallen since Tuesday, the National Weather Service said. In the northern Iowa town of Armstrong, some residents were sandbagging as streets were flooded by rising creeks.

VIETNAM

Hanoi, Sep 15 — Landslides triggered by torrential rains buried 21 people in northern Vietnam, killing at least 11, an official said today. The landslides buried the victims, who belong to four Dao ethnic minority families, on Monday night (Sep 13) in Bat Xat district of Lao Cai province, chairman Ly Xeo Din of the district People's Committee said. "We have found 11 bodies as of late Tuesday and hope to retrieve about 10 more," he said. Bat Xat is on the border with China and is 236 miles north-west of Hanoi. — Reuters.

Earthquakes



CAYMAN ISLANDS

London, Sep 10 — A report, dated Sep 9, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 1633, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.0 event has been located in the Cayman Islands region in lat 17.708N, long 81.590W. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 30 km.

INDONESIA

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A powerful earthquake rocked Indonesia's premier tourist island of Bali yesterday, killing one person and injuring at least two, hospital officials and local radio said. The Meteorological and Geophysics Agency in Jakarta said the earthquake measured 5.5 on the Richter scale. Officials said the epicentre was near Denpasar, the island's capital.

JAPAN

London, Sep 10 — A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0205, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.6 event has been located near the south coast of western Honshu, Japan, in lat 33.048N, long 136.523E, depth 10 km.

KURIL ISLANDS

London, Sep 13 — A report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 0300, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.1 event has been located east of the Kuril Islands in lat 43.95N, long 151.36E. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 32 km.

MID-INDIAN RIDGE

London, Sep 13 — A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake

occurred at 0239, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.6 event has been located near the Mid-Indian Ridge in lat 16.23S, long 67.10E, depth 10 km.

PHILIPPINES

London, Sep 15 — A report, dated Sep 14, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 2015, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.5 event has been located in the Philippine Islands region in lat 07.918N, long 127.507E, depth 140 km.

London, Sep 15 — A press report, dated Sep 16, states: An earthquake shook metropolitan Manila and parts of the main Philippine island of Luzon early this morning, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) said. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damages to property. The quake, which occurred at 0310, and measured 6.2 on the Richter scale at the epicentre recorded at the Manila trench near Balanga, Bataan, was felt strongly across the metropolis and nearby provinces, PHIVOLCS said.

SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS

London, Sep 13 — A report, dated Sep 11, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 2152, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.1 event has been located in the South Sandwich Islands region in lat 57.93S, long 25.34W. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 48 km.

TONGA

London, Sep 15 — A report, dated Sep 13, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 2229, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.6 event has been located in the Tonga region in lat 22.708S, long 175.231W, depth 10 km.



MAUNA LOA, HAWAII

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Reports from Hawaii suggest the world's largest volcano is getting ready to erupt for the first time in 20 years. Scientists have detected more frequent earthquakes deep beneath Mauna Loa. The Hawaiian Volcano Observatory says this indicates the volcano is moving towards an eruption. Mauna Loa erupted for three weeks in 1984, sending a 26-kilometre lava flow toward Hilo. Since then, the US Geological Survey estimates that more than \$US2.3 billion has been invested in new construction on its slopes. The observatory says since July, more than 350 earthquakes have been recorded far beneath the mountain.

MOUNT ASAMA, JAPAN

London, Sep 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Mount Asama, one of Japan's largest and most active volcanoes, erupted in central Japan today for the second time in two weeks,

sending smoke about 300 metres into the sky and spewing ash over nearby towns, the Meteorological Agency said. The eruption, which the agency said was "small" grey smoke billowing out of the crater for about 10 minutes before dawn. Mount Asama last erupted on Sep 1 when a medium-sized eruption sent smoke and ash thousands of metres into the air. The Meteorological Agency maintained its activity rating for Mount Asama at 3, meaning that a small- to medium-sized eruption has occurred.

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Mount Asama has experienced a series of small volcanic eruptions since early this morning with more than 500 tremors registered, marking the third consecutive day of eruption activity, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. "At this moment, there are no signs of a large-scale eruption coming but small or medium-scale eruptions can be observed repeatedly," the agency said.

MOUNT ETNA, ITALY

London, Sep 11 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Lava was seen flowing today from a new crack on Mount Etna, on the Italian island of Sicily, which had been virtually dormant since early last year. A spokesman for the institute of vulcanology in the island's capital Catania, 30km south of the 3350m mountain, said a vent had opened in the past two days at a height of about 2700m. Lava was flowing into the uninhabited Bove Valley on Etna's southeastern flank and for the present was no threat to villages lower down, spokesman Giannicola Piccola said. "We have sent some experts to the area and others are expected to fly over it," he added. Etna last erupted on June 22, 2001, throwing molten rock 400 metres into the sky and spewing lava down its sides. There were rumblings and small earthquakes in January last year, but since then the volcano had shown few signs of life until Tuesday (Sep 7), when small amounts of lava flowed from below the lip of its south-eastern crater at a height of 2950 metres.

MOUNT MAYON, PHILIPPINES

London, Sep 14 — A press report, dated today, states: The historic Mayon volcano south of the Philippine capital spewed out fragments amid signs that magma was rising in its crater, a state monitoring official said today. Ed Villacorte of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said that volcanic material was emitted by Mayon late yesterday, possibly due to rising gas pressure. The volcanic material set fire to the grass on the volcano's slopes, he added. Monitoring instruments also indicated that the volcano, located in Albay province 340km south-east of Manila, had magma rising towards its crater, intensifying the glow in the crater so that it was visible to the naked eye, Villacorte said. But he minimised the danger, saying "there is magma going up but the volume is not yet big enough to create a volcanic explosion." Phivolcs

resident volcanologist Eduardo Laguerta said that Mayon still remains on alert level two, meaning that the volcano is undergoing abnormal activity but an eruption is not yet imminent. He emphasised that people should stay out of the 6km danger zone around the volcano in case of any sudden eruption.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

Herat, Sep 13 — The western Afghan city of Herat was calm today following bloody clashes between supporters of the powerful ousted governor and U.S. and Afghan forces sent to keep the peace. Roadblocks set up by authorities yesterday after Ismail Khan's supporters torched buildings in a U.N. compound were removed and the skies were clear of U.S. combat helicopters for the first time since Saturday (Sep 11) afternoon. Medics and witnesses reported seven people killed and up to 50 injured in weekend violence which erupted when President Hamid Karzai — favorite to win Afghanistan's first ever direct presidential election on Oct 9 — fired Khan and appointed a replacement as part of his campaign pledge to rein in warlords. The U.S. military said 15 of its soldiers had been injured in the clashes, with three of them evacuated for treatment, along with three Afghan national army servicemen. Spokesman Major Scott Nelson said he had no figures for civilian casualties, but praised Afghan and U.S. forces for showing "remarkable restraint" against what he said was a small group of protesters brought in from outside to stir up trouble. Nick Downie, of the Afghanistan Non-Governmental Organization Security Office (ANSO), said around 30 NGO staff had been relocated this morning from Herat as a security precaution. Yesterday night, Ismail Khan called on his supporters to exercise restraint and the army announced on Herat TV that further violence would be met with military force. Authorities also imposed a night curfew and U.S. spokesman Nelson said it would be in force again today from 2100 hrs. Shops were open and traffic flowing normally today, but troops from the national army, national police and U.S.-led forces were seen on patrol. — Reuters.

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated today, states: US forces have killed 22 suspected Taleban and al-Qaeda militants in a gun battle in southern Afghanistan, the US military says. US troops and helicopters fought the insurgents in the Shinkay district of Zabul province, late yesterday. "Twenty-two anti-coalition militias were killed - three of them were Arabs," US military spokesman Major Scott Nelson said in Kabul. Major Nelson said three more suspected militants, including another Arab, had been captured in the latest

fighting. He said about 40 militants armed with AK-47s and rocket-propelled grenades attacked American troops on patrol. "Our soldiers were out doing a cordon search when they were engaged by a large force of anti-coalition militias," Major Nelson said. "Skirmishes continued throughout the night." He said there were no US casualties.

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A rocket landed near a school in south-eastern Afghanistan where President Hamid Karzai was about to land in a helicopter, officials said. The rocket struck about a kilometre from the school in Gardez province as President Karzai was to land at a nearby airbase. Mr Karzai, the leading candidate in October's presidential election, was due to speak at the school. The President has cut short his visit and returned to the capital, Kabul.

ALGERIA

Algiers, Sep 14 — Algeria's armed forces have killed six suspected Islamic rebels in the west of the country, state radio said today, in a drive to wipe out hundreds of rebels still fighting authorities for a purist Islamic state. State radio, citing security sources, said automatic weapons were confiscated in the army sweep late yesterday near the city of Relizane, 300 km west of the capital Algiers. — Reuters.

COLOMBIA

Bogota, Sep 8 — Colombian Marxist guerrillas freed two Indian community leaders today, bowing to pressure from hundreds of protesters who had demanded their release, indigenous groups said. About 400 Paez Indians, armed only with decorated sticks, marched into the jungles of Caqueta, in southwestern Colombia, demanding that the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia free Arquimedes Vitonas, mayor of the mountain town of Toribio, and ex-mayor Gilberto Munoz. The pair had been kidnapped by the guerrilla group, known by its Spanish initials FARC, while on their way to an indigenous conference on Aug 22 near the town of San Vicente del Caguan. — Reuters.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Kinshasa, Sep 13 — Militia loyal to the Congolese government captured the main base used by rebels waging an uprising in the east of the country after a week-long offensive by government troops, a militia commander said today. But rebels loyal to General Laurent Nkunda, a dissident army officer who launched the rebellion in May, denied that the pro-government militia had driven them out of their headquarters in the lakeside town of Minova. Government troops have been advancing north from the city of Bukavu for the past week, aiming to crush the rebellion. The commander of the pro-government militia force — known as Mai Mai — in the area said they had taken Minova, which lies about 120 km north of Bukavu,

yesterday, although there was no way to immediately verify the report. "Yesterday we chased out the insurgents and are now in control of Minova," Colonel Solomon Tokolonga, the Mai Mai militia commander, said. "We have captured two insurgents, but the rest have taken to the lake or gone into the hills. They are all heading north toward North Kivu — that is where their support is," he said, referring to a large swathe of territory north of Minova which is Nkunda's home province. However, an aide to Nkunda denied that Minova, which has served as the rebels' headquarters for the past few months, had fallen. "Minova has not fallen to the government forces. We are still in control there," the aide told Reuters. The commander of government troops involved in the offensive, General Felix Mbuza Mabe, said there had not been any fighting over the weekend, appearing to suggest that the Mai Mai may have taken the town unopposed. "I have heard that the Mai Mai have taken Minova, but my troops are not yet there. There have not been any clashes over the weekend," Mabe told Reuters. Mabe has said that he launched the offensive to retake positions held by the rebels and establish the government's authority over the region. — Reuters.

IRAQ

Dubai, Sep 9 — Iraq has captured four important figures from Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda group who had entered the country from abroad, Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said in televised comments today. "Four important suspects from al Qaeda who came from abroad (were captured), and hopefully you will catch more soon," Allawi said in footage aired on Al Arabiya television. — Reuters.

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated today, states: US-led forces spearheaded assaults on Iraq's northern trouble spot of Tall Afar and the notorious insurgent bastion of Fallujah, leaving at least 57 people dead, the US military said. The Italian Government meanwhile escalated diplomatic efforts to save two kidnapped women aid workers snatched from Italy's Baghdad office in broad daylight, two weeks after Islamic captors killed an Italian journalist. As helicopters and planes flew overhead, the US army sealed off Tall Afar after 13 hours of pounding and fierce fighting that the local hospital chief said had left 45 people dead and more than 80 wounded. The bombing, which began at 0200, yesterday, ended at 1100, as helicopters and warplanes flew overhead. Fighting pitted US soldiers and insurgents in the Hassan Koi and Serra districts of the town, 450km north of Baghdad. Fawzi Ahmed, director of the town's hospital, said late yesterday, "We have received 45 bodies of people hit in various parts of their bodies, and more than 80 people are hospitalized." Health ministry officials had earlier said at least 28 were dead and more than 70 wounded. Although the town's police chief said 13 policemen were killed and wounded, the US military reported no coalition

casualties, and it was unclear if that number was included in the toll given by the Iraqis. The US military said up to 57 "terrorists" had been killed in the clashes against insurgents. The deputy mayor of the town, Mohammed Amin, was also admitted to hospital with injuries during the air strikes, said a doctor. US troops announced through loudspeakers that for five days, residents would not be allowed to enter the town, which they charge is infested with fighters who infiltrated from Syria. Coalition forces were attacked by insurgents using Al-Huda mosque as cover, to which they responded with "precise and accurate fire". In Fallujah, the greatest symbol of resistance to US occupation in Iraq, jets pounded the city in a relentless series of raids before dawn yesterday, killing 12 Iraqis, including five children and two women, a doctor said. The military has classified Fallujah as a den of foreign terror networks and said the latest raid was a "precision strike" on a hideout used by militants loyal to Iraq's most wanted man, alleged Al-Qaeda operative Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who has a 25-million-dollar price on his head. The Fallujah and Tall Afar raids are part of a string of operations carried out by US-backed Iraqi national guardsmen to crack down on rebel strongholds. But UN Secretary General Kofi Annan suggested that a political approach might be successful and in a report urged a "commitment to stop relying solely or mainly on the threats or actual use of armed force." On the hostage crisis, Italy's junior foreign minister Margherita Boniver was to arrive in Jordan today on the first leg of a regional tour aimed at winning the release of two aid workers kidnapped on Tuesday (Sep 7). As the Italian Government swung into crisis mode, Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi was to hold talks today with Iraqi President Ghazi al-Yawar, who is on a European tour to muster support for his war-torn country.

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A pipeline linking an oilfield in this northern Iraqi city with the Havana refinery was sabotaged by gunmen, an executive of the North Oil Co. said. "The 35.5 centimetre pipeline was sabotaged at 1515 hrs by unknown attackers who opened fire with automatic weapons, causing an important breach," said the executive, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "The flow was stopped and sand dikes built to stop the crude from spreading," he added. The Havana refinery is located 60 kilometres from Kirkuk. Separately, three NOC security guards were wounded, one of them seriously, when attackers opened fire on them near the village of Hatin, 30 kilometres north of Kirkuk at 0330 hrs, today, a police officer said. Captain Awad Abdullah al-Hamadani said the security men returned fire and may have hit one of their attackers.

Baghdad, Sep 12 — Strong explosions shook central Baghdad at dawn today and heavy fighting erupted in a street notorious as a rebel stronghold, in violence that killed at least eight Iraqis,

the US army and witnesses said. The clashes flared as the US military pressed on with new offensives aimed at retaking control of guerrilla-held areas ahead of national elections due to be held in January. In one of the heaviest barrages in the capital for months, insurgents fired more than a dozen mortars or rockets around the Green Zone compound housing the US and other embassies and Iraq's interim government, sending plumes of black smoke into the sky. The US military said some rounds landed inside the Green Zone, but there were no reports of casualties. The mortar or rocket fire started about 0500 hrs and continued into the morning. In a separate attack, a car bomb killed a senior Iraqi police officer, another policeman and a 12-year-old boy on a highway in western Baghdad. The crackle of gunfire echoed for several hours across Haifa Street in central Baghdad. Witnesses and Health Ministry officials said at least five Iraqis were killed as US helicopters attacked targets in the area. Four soldiers were lightly wounded after a Bradley fighting vehicle was set ablaze, the US army said. US tanks were seen moving into the area as residents ran for cover. Iraqi Minister of State Kassim Daoud told a news conference yesterday that the government had launched "military operations against the terrorists in different parts of Iraq." "Our aim of all these activities is to enter the gates of democracy, which we are expecting in January 2005," he said. The US military said its offensive in Tal Afar, west of Mosul, was still under way today. Thousands of residents have fled the town since fighting erupted. "Multi-National Forces and Iraqi security forces have secured the main road around the city over the last two days and are now moving into Tal Afar to eliminate the presence of the terrorists who have taken control from legitimate Iraqi leaders," a US army statement said. It said the military was also working to get humanitarian aid to the victims of the fighting. US forces launched an air strike overnight against rebel positions in the Baghdad slum of Sadr city, a stronghold of rebel Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr. — Reuters.

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Militants pounded central Baghdad, today, with one of their most intense mortar barrages ever, targeting the Green Zone and destroying a U.S. vehicle on a major street. At least 25 people were killed and more than 100 were wounded, some of them when a U.S. helicopter fired at crowds around the burning vehicle. Elsewhere, a suicide attacker detonated an explosives-packed vehicle at the gates of Abu Ghraib prison, killing himself but causing no other casualties, the U.S. military said. American guards fired at the vehicle before the driver could reach the gate, the military said. Tawhid and Jihad, a militant group linked to al-Qaida and led by Jordanian terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, said it carried out today's coordinated campaign of violence. Rockets and mortars began raining

down before dawn on the Green Zone, which houses Iraqi and U.S. offices, and other parts of central Baghdad. As the shelling continued after sunrise, U.S. troops backed by armored vehicles moved into the streets searching for the attackers. A Bradley fighting vehicle, rushing down Haifa Street to assist a U.S. patrol, was disabled by a car bomb about 0650 hrs, the U.S. military said. The four U.S. crewmen escaped with minor injuries, but came under small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire and called for air support, U.S. officials said. Jubilant fighters and young boys swarmed around the burning vehicle, dancing, cheering and hurling firebombs. Several young men placed a black banner of Tawhid and Jihad in the barrel of the Bradley's main gun. Suddenly, a U.S. Kiowa helicopter fired on the Bradley, trying to destroy it to prevent insurgents from looting weapons and ammunition on board, the military said. Witnesses said several people milling around the Bradley, including a correspondent for the Arabic language Al-Arabiya television station, were killed. An Iraqi cameraman working for the Reuters news agency and a freelance photographer for Getty Images were also wounded. Health Ministry official Saad al-Amili said 13 people were killed and 61 wounded on Haifa street, though it was not clear how many were killed in the helicopter strike. Another 12 people died and 41 were injured, today, in other violence across the city, al-Amili said. In other violence, three Polish soldiers were killed after being attacked with grenades and machine-gun fire, today, outside the city of Hillah, south of Baghdad, raising the Polish death toll in Iraq to 13, a Polish military spokesman said. Three other Poles were injured. Also near Hillah, two powerful bombs exploded simultaneously on a road, killing at least three Iraqi National Guard members and seriously wounding three others, a Polish military spokesman said. The police chief in the west Baghdad district of Yarmouk was killed, today, in a bomb attack, while on patrol in the district, the Interior Ministry said. Col. Alaa Bashir and another officer died on the spot, said ministry spokesman Col. Adnan Abdul-Rahman. Clashes occurred in the Sunni insurgent stronghold of Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad, killing two people and wounding 20 others, hospital officials said. A U.S. Humvee was ablaze, parts of it scattered across the street, witnesses said. A bomb also exploded along a road just west of Ramadi as a U.S. military convoy was passing by, witnesses said. They said U.S. troops opened fire after the attack, wounding several people in the area. It was not immediately clear whether there were any American casualties. Gunmen attacked a group of policemen in the northern city of Mosul, killing one and wounding seven, police said. Gunmen attacked security forces guarding oilfields in two separate incidents in northern Iraq, injuring five officers, officials said. Three officers were wounded when attackers opened

fire as they stood guard near the Dibis oilfields north-east of the city of Kirkuk, while two others were injured in a drive-by-shooting west of Kirkuk, said Maj. Gen. Anwar Mohammed Amin of the Iraqi National Guard.

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 15 people have been killed in a joint US-Iraqi attack on militant positions in the restive Iraqi city of Falluja, according to hospital sources. US artillery bombarded several districts, before circling warplanes opened fire, witnesses said. The US military said it had "accurately targeted" militants from a group linked to al-Qaeda. It comes a day after 70 people were killed in some of the heaviest fighting across Iraq for weeks. "Intelligence sources reported the presence of several key [Abu Musab] Zarqawi operatives who have been responsible for numerous terrorist attacks against Iraqi civilians, Iraqi Security Forces and multinational forces," a US military statement said. It said, "Iraqi Security Forces and multinational forces effectively and accurately targeted these terrorists while protecting the lives of innocent civilians", without saying where the strike took place. Witnesses described black columns of smoke above Falluja and said hundreds of families had begun to leave town, Reuters reported. Troops have set up checkpoints at the northern, western and southern entrances to Falluja, the agency reported.

Kirkuk, Sep 14 — An attack that blew up an oil pipeline southwest of Kirkuk has halted oil exports from the north of Iraq to Turkey, an official in the North Oil Company told Reuters. "Exports have stopped totally," the official said. The main export pipeline to Turkey had already been shut down by sabotage but before today's attack around 300,000 barrels per day were being pumped through a substitute export pipeline. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Sep 14 — A huge blast tore through a crowded Baghdad market close to a police station today and Reuters witnesses said at least 35 people were killed. The U.S. military and Iraqi the Interior Ministry said the blast was a car bomb attack on a police station in Haifa Street, a Baghdad area notorious as a haven for guerrillas and criminals, but some witnesses and police at the scene gave a different account, saying two mortar rounds had landed in the area. A huge crater had been punched into the road and at least nine cars were destroyed. "Initial reports are that a car bomb detonated at the north end of Haifa Street. It seems there are some Iraqi civilian casualties, possibly some killed," a spokesman for the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division said. Elsewhere, gunmen have shot dead three Iraqi men accused of collaborating with U.S.-led forces south of Baghdad, a hospital director said today. Razzaq Jabbar said the gunmen had shot the men while they were in a car and then set fire to the vehicle late yesterday in Alexandria, a small town near Hilla, south of Baghdad. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Sep 14 — A huge explosion tore through a crowded market close to the west Baghdad police headquarters today, killing at least 47 people in the deadliest single attack in the capital in six months. The US army and Iraqi Interior Ministry said the blast was a car bomb attack on the police building in Haifa Street, a Baghdad area known as a haven for guerrillas and criminals. The Health Ministry said 47 people had been killed and 114 wounded. The Interior Ministry and witnesses said there may have been at least two simultaneous car bomb blasts. Witnesses said mortars may also have been fired at the same time. In a separate attack in Baquba, north-east of Baghdad, 12 policemen were killed and two wounded when gunmen opened fire on their minibus, a source at the town's main hospital said. — Reuters.

London, Sep 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Saboteurs blew up a junction where multiple oil pipelines cross the Tigris River in northern Iraq today, sending plumes of smoke leaping into the sky, officials said. Firefighters struggled to put out the blaze after the attack near Beiji, 250km north of Baghdad. US military officials surveying the blast estimated it could take up to three days to put out the fire. Crude oil cascaded down the hillside into the river. Fire burned atop the water, fuelled by the gushing oil. Beiji is the point where several oil pipelines converge, Lieutenant-Colonel Lee Morrison of the US Army Corps of Engineers said. "Beiji is the chokepoint," he said. "It's so easy to hit." Earlier, North Oil Company officials had said that only a domestic line had been targeted. It was not immediately clear if the two incidents were connected. The 0300 hrs attack came soon after engineers had completed a two-month project to install two critical valves that had damaged after an earlier attack.

London, Sep 16 — A press report dated Sep 15, states: A Turkish man kidnapped in Iraq and held for 50 days was freed today by his captors, a Turkish official said. The freed hostage, Ayatullah Gezmen, 43, arrived at the Turkish Embassy Wednesday morning after his kidnappers put him into a taxi, according to Ethem Tokdemir, chief of the Turkish mission in Baghdad. Gezmen, who was kidnapped in Falluja by armed men, did not know which group had kidnapped him, just that they were Iraqis and called themselves "Mujahedeen." Gezmen was a translator for the Turkish company Bilimtur, which had previously announced that it was withdrawing from Iraq following the initial kidnapping of its employees. Meanwhile, the bodies of three headless men were discovered this morning on a highway near Balad, north of Baghdad, according to a spokesman for the U.S. Army's 1st Infantry Division. The bodies were dressed in Western style clothing: two were in jeans and T-shirts and the other in sweat pants and a T-shirt, the spokesman said. They were initially identified by the 1st ID spokesman as Iraqi civilians, but

investigators at the moment don't know their identities and are trying to determine their names and nationalities. Col. Adnan Abdul Rahman of the Interior Ministry told CNN the victims were all men and heads were found near the bodies. Fighting continued today between U.S. forces and insurgents in Ramadi, where 11 Iraqis were killed and seven were wounded, an Iraqi Health Ministry spokesman said. Also in Ramadi, Khamees Saad, the director general of the Anbar Health Department, escaped an assassination attempt today. Saad's deputy was wounded in the attack and a bodyguard was killed. In other developments an Iraqi National Guard soldier and a civilian were killed today — and ten other people were wounded — in a car bombing at a checkpoint in Suwayra, said Col. Rahman of the Interior Ministry. Suwayra is 40 miles southeast of Baghdad. A Marine was killed in combat yesterday in Iraq's Al Anbar province, the U.S. military said today. The Marine was assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. The death brings the total number of U.S. troop fatalities in the Iraq war to 1,017, including 768 killed by hostile activities and 249 non-hostile deaths, according to the U.S. military. An Islamist Web site posted claims of responsibility for attacks yesterday at a Baghdad police station — where 47 people died — and on a minibus in Baquba, where 12 police were killed. The attacks were claimed by Unification and Jihad — a group affiliated with Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Three foreign nationals have been abducted in Baghdad, according to the Iraqi interior ministry. A spokesman said that gunmen seized the men - reported to be two Americans and a Briton - at dawn from a house in Baghdad's Mansour neighbourhood. The Reuters news agency said the three kidnapped people were believed to be civilians. It added that there was no fighting as they were taken. The British embassy has said it is urgently investigating the reports. Correspondents say the Mansour district is a wealthy residential area on the river Tigris, where many multinational companies have their headquarters. Many foreign businessmen and contractors live there if they are not staying in the heavily defended Green Zone. This latest kidnapping brings the number currently of people kidnapped and being held to 20.

ISRAEL

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated today, states: At least seven Palestinians have been killed and 25 others injured as Israeli forces pushed into the Jabaliya refugee camp in Gaza and two West Bank areas. Scores of militants clashed with a column of tanks and armoured vehicles entering Jabaliya camp, after troops had surrounded it before dawn. Five people were killed in the northern Gaza camp, including a 10-year-old boy. Israeli troops deployed near Jabaliya yesterday

to stop militants firing rockets at Israel, the army said. Israeli military officials said its forces had penetrated the first row of houses in eastern Jabaliya - a heavily populated area with narrow alleys that leave soldiers vulnerable to ambushes. Troops also entered the West Bank town of Jericho, where they killed a member of the Palestinian militant group the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades. Later in the Amari refugee camp in Ramallah, a 15-year-old boy was knocked over and killed by an Israeli army jeep as it was pulling away from stone-throwers. An eighth Palestinian was killed near Israeli settlements in southern Gaza. The army said the unarmed man had walked into the no-go area near the Gush Katif bloc and that soldiers had shot him.

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated today, states: An Israeli helicopter gunship fired a missile into the Jabaliya refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip wounding three Palestinians, reports say. The attack comes on the third day of an Israeli incursion into northern Gaza. At least seven Palestinians were killed yesterday and 25 injured as Israeli forces pushed into the Jabaliya refugee camp in Gaza and two West Bank areas. Israeli troops deployed near Jabaliya yesterday to stop militants firing rockets at Israel, the army said.

Nablus, West Bank, Sep 15 — Israel killed five Palestinian militants in a West Bank raid today, keeping up pressure on armed factions as Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan for a partial pullout from occupied lands moved forward. Sharon received a boost against rightist adversaries yesterday when his security cabinet voted to budget \$200,000 to \$500,000 per settler family and permit advance downpayments as part of accelerated preparations for the withdrawal. Sharon is counting on downpayments, expected to amount to a third of the total compensation packages, to coax most Jewish settlers to leave voluntarily, avoiding clashes with soldiers. The Israeli daily Haaretz said around 100 settler families had already inquired about the relocation packages. Parliament is due on Nov 3 to vote on the total budget for uprooting the settlers, estimated at \$550 million to \$670 million. An Israeli newspaper poll found that 58 percent of Israelis support Sharon's plan to evacuate all 21 settlements in the Gaza Strip and four of 120 in the West Bank by the end of 2005. But opposition has mounted in parallel with police probing threats on Sharon's life attributed to Israeli ultra-rightists. In the West Bank city of Nablus, Israeli troops killed four gunmen of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, part of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, and a militant of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, witnesses said. Israeli military sources confirmed that five "senior terrorists" had been targeted in the predawn Nablus operation. In Gaza, armoured Israeli forces thrust into the Palestinian village of Mughraq near a Jewish

settlement and demolished seven houses before withdrawing at dawn, residents said. — Reuters.

NEPAL

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Nine people were injured in the latest bomb blast to shake Nepal's capital today while suspected Maoist guerrillas freed 20 prisoners, all believed to be rebels, in a daring jailbreak. The crude device, found on the main road to Kathmandu's airport before the return of Nepal's prime minister from a visit to India, went off as security forces tried to defuse it. Three security officials and a TV journalist filming the scene were among those injured by the rigged liquefied petroleum gas cylinder placed on a bridge, a police spokesman said, adding "Maoist rebels" were suspected in the attack. In a separate incident, Maoists bombed a jail and freed 20 inmates, all thought to be rebels, a prison official said today. The bomb caused a large hole in the wall of the prison in the town of Mahendra Nagar, allowing 20 inmates of one cell to escape, a Department of Central Prison Management official told AFP. "There were 140 inmates in the jail but the prisoners of only one cell could escape," the official said, adding an inquiry was under way. "The 20 missing inmates are believed to be Maoist activists and it seems it was the rebels' plan to break into jail to free them," the official said. Indian forces were alerted in the border region of Champawat after the jailbreak.

Kathmandu, Sep 16 — Nepal's top firms re-opened for business today, some for the first time in more than a month, after a trade union linked to Maoist rebels withdrew threats against them. The All Nepal Federation of Trade Unions had demanded that 12 of the country's leading firms close down last month, accusing them of unfair labour practices, a threat that was extended to another 35 firms last week. The trade union withdrew the threat against the firms late yesterday after the government agreed to free two of its jailed leaders and provide information about 22 others it says are missing, a mediator said. "The union, the government and the firms gave their commitments in writing through us that led to the withdrawal of the closure," human rights activist and mediator Malla K. Sundar told Reuters. Industry officials say the closure of the 47 businesses, which contributed more than \$100 million in revenue to the cash-strapped government every year, had affected thousands of workers in the desperately poor Himalayan kingdom. Analysts said the union was under pressure from other labour groups, businesses and opposition parties to withdraw the threat. Some unions had already threatened to return to work tomorrow even if the strike was not called off. Mediator Malla said the firms would discuss the union's demands for better wages and working conditions separately. There was no comment from the government or the union on the deal. — Reuters.

NIGERIA

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated Sep 9, states: Nigerian troops battled militia forces today in the creeks and mangrove swamps of Africa's leading oil region, the Niger Delta, pressing an offensive that has forced thousands of villagers to flee their homes for this petroleum hub. Burned houses and twisted corrugated iron roofs bore witness today to the ferocity of militia attacks on one slum district in Port Harcourt, a city of three million and Nigeria's most important oil centre. The crackdown — with soldiers sealing off river approaches to Port Harcourt and helicopter gunships patrolling overhead — is the latest in year-long clashes between Nigeria's military and criminal gangs and ethnic militias for control of oil wealth from the Niger Delta. Violence in the Niger Delta over the past year has killed more than 1,000 people and at times shut down up to 40% of oil production in Nigeria, the world's No. 7 oil-producing country. One US oil company alone, ChevronTexaco, is estimated to have lost at least \$1.75 billion in production losses and sabotaged equipment since March, 2003. The army and navy launched their latest offensive last week in response to deadly militia raids in August into Port Harcourt. Militia leaders and Nigeria's military said fighting continued today outside the city. The military is aiming to keep the waterways around Port Harcourt safe and open and to "stop the fighters from coming into the city," said a military official. Authorities have given no casualty figures in the current military offensive. Asari Dokubo, a militia leader whose movement is the main target of the crackdown in the districts outside Port Harcourt, said he expected civilian casualties to be light since many villagers in targeted areas had already fled. Thousands of villagers have abandoned their homes since last week, streaming into Port Harcourt to take shelter with relatives and friends. President Olusegun Obasanjo's government accused Dokubo's group, the Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force, of involvement in a series of attacks on Port Harcourt in the past month that have killed at least 50 people. The attacks were aimed at members of a rival militia group that Dokubo said is supported by the government. The government denies the charge. Troops have been called in to maintain a 24-hour patrol in Port Harcourt, a base for international oil companies, which pump Nigeria's 2.5 million barrels of normal daily exports. About 5% of production is now off-line because of the violence. About 40% was off-line in March, 2003.

PAKISTAN

Quetta, Sep 9 — Two people were killed and one was injured today when a bomb exploded in a remote coastal town in Pakistan's southwestern Baluchistan province, officials said. The explosion in Somyani, 650 km south of the Baluchistan provincial capital of Quetta, killed employees of the state-run Pakistan Space & Upper

Atmosphere Research Commission, the officials said without giving further details. No group has claimed responsibility, but in the past police have blamed nationalist militants for targeting security forces and government installations in Baluchistan. — Reuters.

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 50 people were killed when Pakistani jets bombed a training camp believed to have been used by foreign militants, the military says. Air force bombers and helicopter gunships reportedly attacked the compound in a village in South Waziristan, near the Afghan border. The military says most of the dead were Chechen, Uzbek and Arab militants with suspected al-Qaeda and Taleban links. Witnesses say Pakistani tribesmen are also among those killed. It is one of the biggest attacks since Pakistani forces intensified operations in the area six months ago. Army spokesman Maj Gen Shaukat Sultan confirmed that more than 50 people had been killed in the raid on the camp near Dila Khula, a village about 25km north-east of South Waziristan's main town of Wana. Other reports say the death toll is more than 70. (See issue of Sep 10.)

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Pakistani security forces and militants clashed, today, in fighting that killed at least nine people in the mountains near the Afghan border, where al-Qaida-linked fighters are believed to be hiding, military officials said. Between six and eight militants were killed during the fighting in Kani Guram, a mountainous area about 30 miles north-east of Wana, the main town in South Waziristan, said Army spokesman Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan. Army officials in Wana, Islamabad, said three soldiers died in the clashes. Military officials said mortar, rocket and small arms fire continued throughout the day. One of the officials said bodies of some militants had been spotted on mountainsides, but could not be retrieved because of the fighting. Residents reported hearing heavy gunfire starting at dawn today. Helicopter gunships bombed Asman Manza, a nearby mountain peak. Residents also reported seeing at least four military pickup trucks carrying injured people, although it wasn't clear who the injured were. The latest operation began on Thursday (Sep 9) when the army said fighter jets and helicopter gunships smashed an alleged al-Qaida-linked terrorist training facility north-east of Wana, killing 50 militants. Ten other suspected militants were killed elsewhere the same day. The army said many of the dead fighters were Uzbeks, Chechens and Arabs.

SOMALIA

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Somalia's new parliament has elected a speaker, bringing the war-torn nation a step closer to establishing its first central government in 13 years. Businessman Shariff Hassan Sheikh Adan was

elected to the post with 161 votes, ahead of his nearest rival's 105 votes. In all, 267 MPs voted during a six-hour session in neighbouring Kenya's capital looked on by observers and mediators. The election of a speaker clears the way for MPs to vote for a president, due on Sep 22. The president will have the task of forming an interim government with a view to holding elections in five years' time. However, the challenges facing the new government are tough. The capital, Mogadishu, is controlled by opposing armed groups, there are disputes over private properties and farms looted during the civil war, as well as the complication of the breakaway Republic of Somaliland.

SUDAN

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Sudan has categorically rejected a statement by US Secretary of State Colin Powell in which he described the killings in Darfur as genocide. The US is seeking a new UN resolution that threatens Sudan with sanctions. The resolution also calls for more African Union monitors to go to the western region. In comments reported by Reuters news agency, Mustafa Osman Ismail said the US was "isolated" in its use of such strong language, which he said was aimed at winning African-American votes in November's election. Washington says Khartoum is failing to prevent atrocities against civilians by the pro-government Janjaweed Arab militia. Its call for more monitors won widespread support at yesterday's meeting of the UN Security Council, but China, Pakistan and Algeria expressed reservations about the need for sanctions. Mr Powell based his verdict that genocide was occurring in Darfur on interviews with more than 1,800 refugees who had fled Darfur into neighbouring Chad. He told the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee: "We concluded that genocide has been committed in Darfur, and that the government of Sudan and the Janjaweed bear responsibility and genocide may still be occurring." The testimonies, collected by US State Department investigators, showed a pattern of violence which was co-ordinated, not random, Mr Powell said. The US would like the Security Council to vote on its new draft resolution next week. The proposed resolution says Sudan has failed to fully comply with a previous UN resolution which was passed in July. It gives the government a new 30-day deadline. If Khartoum does still not comply, sanctions may be introduced "including with regard to the petroleum sector". Sudan currently produces about 320,000 barrels of oil per day. The resolution also calls for: the expansion of the number and mandate of the current 300 African Union troops in the country. International overflights in Darfur to monitor what is happening, and an end to Sudanese military flights there and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to assess whether acts of genocide have been carried out and identify the perpetrators.

London, Sep 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Talks to try to resolve the Darfur crisis are due to resume today, amid warnings the world is not giving enough financial aid to the refugees. The UN says \$200m is needed to save the lives of more than 1m people displaced by conflict in Sudan's western region. Some 10,000 people in Darfur are dying from violence and disease each month, says the World Health Organisation. The African-Union sponsored talks, held in Nigeria, have made little progress since they began three weeks ago. The talks between the Sudanese government and the rebels - the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) - have been held up by differences over security and disarmament. Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo is expected to meet both sides to try to break the impasse. Yesterday, the European Union urged the UN to investigate claims that genocide is taking place in Darfur. Last week, Sudan categorically rejected a statement by US Secretary of State Colin Powell in which he described the killings in Darfur as genocide. The United Nations emergency relief co-ordinator Jan Egeland, said it was mind-boggling that what has been described as the world's worst humanitarian crisis was not attracting enough financial aid from the international community. He called for another \$200m in aid to save the lives of refugees now living in camps in Darfur and across the border in Chad. His comments came after the WHO said that among those dying each month from violence and disease in Darfur were thousands of children under the age of five. The WHO said the interview-based survey in West and North Darfur - carried out together with the Sudanese government - pointed to a monthly death toll of 6,000-10,000 people among the internally displaced population of about 1.2 million. "Thousands, including thousands of children under five are dying every month from diseases which can be easily prevented and treated," WHO Director-General, Lee Jong-Wook said, urging an increase in emergency aid. The survey also showed said many people did not have enough clean water and lived in crowded makeshift settlements.

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated Sep 15, states: One of two rebel movements engaged in peace talks with Sudan's government mediated by the African Union (AU) said the negotiations had collapsed and could be suspended for weeks. Mohammed Ahmed Tugod, the chief negotiator for the Justice and Equality Movement, said today that "the negotiations have collapsed already because there are differences, strong differences between us and the Sudanese government." The AU-mediated talks in the Nigerian capital Abuja are a bid to end a conflict which erupted in February 2003 and has become what the United States last week called a "genocide", claiming up to 50,000 lives and displacing almost a million and a half people. "The AU is

now suggesting to suspend the talks for four weeks, and for us it as if the talks have collapsed," Tugod said. The United Nations, which has put the death toll between 30,000 and 50,000, has described the food and refugee problem created by the conflict the world's worst current humanitarian crisis.

TURKEY

London, Sep 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Five carriages of a train were destroyed by a bomb explosion in eastern Turkey, the semi-official Anatolia News Agency reported yesterday. Sources were quoted as saying that the bomb, planted under the railway between Kurt and Kale stations near the city of Mus, blew up a passing freight and passenger train. It was not clear yet who planted the bomb and investigations were underway, said the sources. The Turkish government often blames the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) for most bombings in the country.

Labour Disputes



BOTSWANA

London, Sep 15 — A press report, dated Sep 14, states: Botswana diamond miner Debswana has settled wage talks in the wake of an illegal strike that disrupted some of the world's biggest gem mines. But 318 workers who had been fired for taking part in the strike will not be reinstated, Debswana said. The firm's offer of a 10% wage rise and a one-off bonus equal to 10% of annual salary has been accepted by the Botswana Mine Workers' Union. Debswana said the strike would not affect production targets. The strike involved about 2,400 of Debswana's work force of 5,600. Debswana said a total of 451 workers had been sacked for taking part in the strike, which was the longest in Debswana's history, but 133 have since been re-employed. The rest are awaiting a Court of Appeal hearing on Sep 24, when unions hope to overturn the original court ruling that the strike was illegal. "If it is ruled that the strike was legal, we will reinstate all the workers," said Debswana group human resources manager Paul Gahagan.

BRAZIL

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Bank workers in Brazil's biggest cities are set to strike today after rejecting a wage increase proposal, banking unions said. Banks in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, the capital Brasilia and the southern city of Florianopolis plan to strike after unions in the "great majority" of cities, the National Bank Workers Confederation said in a statement on its Web site. Unions, which are pressing for a 25 percent wage increase, rejected an offer of as much as 12.8 percent, the group

said. "The great majority of bank workers rejected the proposal," said Carlos Cordeiro, general secretary of the bank workers' confederation, in the statement. The confederation, which says it represents 90 percent of the country's 390,000 bank workers, "directs the unions to decide on a strike to cause strong paralysis in all the banks," he said. Bank workers are trying to win back some of the spending power they lost in recent years to inflation and take a greater share in the record profits being posted by such banks as Banco Itau Holding Financeira SA, said Luiz Claudio Marcolino, the president of the Sao Paulo union, in an interview last week. It's the first time since 1996 that bank workers in both government and private banks have joined a strike, his union said.

KENYA

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Striking Kenya Railways Corporation workers have paralysed transportation of wagons from the Mombasa port. This has created a major cargo clearance crisis. Clearing and forwarding agents who expected to load their containers to wagons were the hardest-hit, as the pile-up of containers reached 1,259 by yesterday afternoon. A KPA public relations officer confirmed that the situation was getting out of hand. Out of the 1,259 containers, 728 were destined for Kampala, 255 for Nairobi, 209 for Kisumu, 54 for Malaba and 13 for Mombasa. "We are worried about these developments, because after 15 days we will be forced to introduce demurrage charges, even though this is not our clients' mistake," he said. More than 300 railway workers in Mombasa said they would only resume work after the managing director, Mr Andrew Wanyande, was sacked. On Tuesday nine trains each with 30 wagons failed to leave the port as the strike started. Each wagon carries two twenty-foot containers. The vice chairman of Kenya International Freight and Warehousing Association, Mr Peter Mambembe, supported the workers' demands.

NEW ZEALAND

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Two hundred port workers are back on the job in Auckland following four days of industrial action. The Maritime Union watersiders have been striking since Wednesday (Sep 8) over the way casual workers are employed at the Ports of Auckland and on Friday met with mediator Colleen Hicks. Talks have resumed, but the union will be holding a stop-work meeting tomorrow to discuss the possibility of further strike action. Maritime Union Auckland president Denis Carlisle said the movement they achieved at the meeting would be taken back to a stopwork meeting on Monday morning. "We got some movement from the company. We are not quite there yet but we are on the way," Mr Carlisle told NZPA. The four-day strike ended at

0659, today. Four vessels had been prevented from unloading. Two have gone to Wellington, one to Tauranga and the fourth deleted Auckland from its New Zealand voyage. The ports company said the strike would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Mr Carlisle said the union members would have to decide on Monday if the movement was enough to prevent further strike action which had been talked of in the last two or three days. However, he said the movement was encouraging. "It was movement in the right direction and I think the company is slowly starting to realise they have to do something to fix it rather than just let it drift," Mr Carlisle said. The wharfies are looking for a better deal for casual workers with better advancement possibilities from casual to permanent staff.

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A four-day strike at Ports of Auckland that ended yesterday has cost the company hundreds of thousands of dollars. The company missed processing 3500 containers off four vessels due to the strike by 250 workers at its two container terminals, a spokeswoman said. The strike ended at 0700 hrs. Workers are meeting this morning before further mediation with the company tomorrow. They want a promotion formula that allows workers to progress from casual to permanent part-time and permanent full-time employment. Maritime Union Auckland president Denis Carlisle said some progress was made in a mediation session on Friday (Sep 10) but it was up to workers to decide whether to take further strike action after discussions today.

SOUTH AFRICA

London, Sep 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Public servants are going ahead with their strike planned for tomorrow despite last-minute government moves to avert such action, union leaders said. "The strike is on," labour union spokesperson Fikile Hugo said this morning. He disputed the accuracy of reports that the government and labour service unions had agreed on setting up a technical committee to continue negotiations. "The technical committee is only a proposal by (Public Service and Administration) Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi," Hugo said. "The unions still have to decide whether or not to join this committee. We will meet today to consider the matter." The proposal for such a committee emerged from last-ditch talks between the government and unions that continued into the early hours of today. The unions would also consider whether or not strike action by about 700 000 public servants should continue beyond tomorrow, Hugo said. According to Fraser-Moleketi's department the unions had agreed in principle to join the technical committee. "We are just waiting to hear from the unions on the number of members who will be participating," departmental spokesperson Madoda Mxake said today. The proposal to form a technical committee came after labour

representatives rejected a "deadlock-breaking offer" by government, the department said. The technical committee would develop three proposals: A single-year agreement; a multi-term agreement focusing on salary adjustment over three years and setting aside funds for "career-pathing" in identified sectors; and a multi-term agreement providing for salary adjustment over three years with limited macro-benefits.

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of South African public sector workers started a one-day strike today in the latest stage of a wage dispute with the government. The strike is expected to be the biggest seen since 1999, when 400,000 workers went on strike. Unions have rejected a three-year government wage and benefits package. Striking workers are due to march on parliament in Cape Town and to Pretoria's Union Buildings, which house President Thabo Mbeki. Essential workers are banned from going on strike, but unions say that about one-quarter of key workers will remain at work. Teachers, nurses, prison warders and police officers are among those on strike. An estimated 300,000 of the country's 360,000 teachers are expected to take part in the strike, with most teachers' unions taking part. Teachers have not had a pay review since 1996. South Africa has about 1.1 million public servants, of which 990,000 are unionised, and there are fears the strike could cost the country as much as \$30m (£16.8m). Today's strike follows union rejection of a 28bn-rand (\$4.29bn; £2.41bn) pay package and is the latest stage in a dispute which began in April this year. The row began with the government's offer of a 4.4% wage rise for 2004, far lower than the union's 12% demand. Both sides altered their positions in June, with the government raising its offer to 5.5% and unions lowering their demand to 7%. Mass protests earlier this month in central Johannesburg prompted the government to offer a new three-year deal. Under this new deal, the government has offered a 6% increase for 2004, plus a 1% performance-related pay rise. Workers would get a pay rise in line with inflation for 2005 and 2006. Unions have refused this latest deal, wanting a 7% rise this year and the right to negotiate above-inflation rises for the following two years. Public Service and Administration Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi said the government simply did not have any more money to offer.

Awards & Settlements



IRRESPONSIBLE SALE OF FIRE-ARMS, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Victims of the

Washington, D.C.-area sniper shootings and their families have settled claims against the maker of the gun used in the spree and its dealer for \$2.5 million, an agreement the plaintiffs' lawyer said would change practices in the firearms industry. Lawyers for the families call the settlements "landmark." The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, which has filed a number of gun suits, said this is the first time a gun manufacturer has agreed to pay a settlement to victims. Bushmaster Firearms of Maine will pay \$550,000, all of which is covered by its insurance policy. Bull's Eye Shooter Supply in Tacoma, Wash., will pay \$2 million, the largest settlement of its kind by a gun dealer, the Brady Center said. "This settlement sends a loud message to all gun manufacturers that they can't look the other way when their guns are being irresponsibly sold or secured at the retail level," said Jon Lowy, a lawyer with the Brady Centre. In a statement, Bushmaster did not admit any wrongdoing, but said the money "will go to the victims' families for their grief." The lawsuit, filed in January 2003 in Pierce County, Wash., also named convicted snipers Lee Boyd Malvo and John Allen Muhammad, although there is unlikely to be any recovery from them.

OVERTIME PAYMENTS, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated Sep 15, states: Houston's Mayor Bill White announced today that the city will pay \$72 million to settle an overtime lawsuit filed by paramedics, reversing course from July when he said the city would appeal unfavorable rulings in the nine-year-old case. White said he changed his mind because the city could have been ordered to pay as much as \$116 million if it lost future appeals. The 2,600 paramedics who are plaintiffs in the class-action suit will be awarded sums ranging from as little as \$500 to tens of thousands of dollars, depending on how much overtime they worked without proper compensation, said their lawyer, Troy Blakeney. He said he will recommend to his clients to accept the proposed settlement, and a final decision should be made in about a month. He said it has not yet been determined how much of the \$72 million would go to legal fees, but said it likely will be between one-fourth to one-third of the amount. White said the money would be paid within two years. The city would issue \$50 million in judgment obligation bonds, and the remaining money would come from either insurance settlements related to Tropical Storm "Allison" or real estate sales. He said if those two sources don't generate enough revenue, the city may have to postpone some capital improvement projects. The city already reduced this year's capital improvement plan, which was passed by City Council today, by \$50 million to accommodate the settlement, White said. In July, U.S. District Judge Lynn Hughes dealt a major blow to the city when he said the city must pay

"liquidated damages" equal to actual damages in the case to compensate for the delay in making payments. Often, plaintiffs who win civil lawsuits are granted additional money in interest if the lawsuit has lingered for years. Hughes said federal law does not permit plaintiffs to receive interest in these types of overtime cases, but it does allow liquidated damages to be assessed. The city had already agreed that the actual damages in the case were \$48 million. White said Wednesday that in addition to the \$96 million the city might have had to pay for actual and liquidated damages, it could have been ordered to pay \$20 million to the paramedics' pensions. Blakeney said the settlement is the largest payout for overtime violations to a fire department in the country's history. Houston, like other cities that lost similar suits, claimed that paramedics should earn overtime on the same basis as firefighters, which meant they were not entitled to overtime unless they worked more than 46.7 hours per week. The federal government attempted to protect cities by changing overtime laws in 1999 to require paramedics to work the same hours as firefighters before they could collect overtime, Blakeney has said. The Houston lawsuit, filed in 1995, spans overtime claims from 1986 to 1999. Hughes initially agreed with the city's position, and in March 2000 he threw out the paramedics' claims. But the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans ruled that Houston paramedics were entitled to overtime if they worked more than 40 hours a week, and sent the case back to Hughes' court to determine what the paramedics were owed. Craig Smyser, a private attorney representing the city, said the U.S. Supreme Court never ruled on whether paramedics should have been classified as firefighters for overtime pay, even though different federal appellate courts had reached conflicting rulings. He said the 1999 federal law has made it unlikely that the high court would consider the matter. Smyser said there would have been little point for the city to appeal the case because it could have been ordered to pay liquidated damages even if appellate courts found it acted in good faith in defending the lawsuit rather than immediately paying the overtime.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Restaurant chain Cracker Barrel Old Country Store announced yesterday it will pay \$8.7 million to settle multiple lawsuits involving both racial discrimination allegations against customers and employees, and accusations of wage violations. The settlement, which has not been approved by the courts yet, would close the door on most of the racial bias lawsuits that have dogged Cracker Barrel for the last several years. The National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, which had worked with the lead lawyers in

both the discrimination and wages cases, said in a statement it was pleased with the outcome. Cracker Barrel released a statement saying it also was pleased, but neither group would comment further. The settlement announced yesterday involved lawsuits charging that black employees were denied promotions, pay and training offered to whites and that black patrons were segregated, sometimes in the smoking section, and ignored. Those racial charges involved 118 plaintiffs in multiple states. One of them was a white Mt. Juliet couple, the Hargroves, with an adopted African-American son who complained they were seated in the smoking section against their will and waited 45 minutes with no service despite the fact no one else was in the restaurant. A spokeswoman for Cracker Barrel previously said that the company had investigated many of the accusations and found them to be untrue. In the case of the Mt. Juliet couple, Cracker Barrel has said the delay in serving was because of a shift change, not discrimination. In other complaints about wage violations, 10,000 hourly workers for Cracker Barrel opted into a 1999 Georgia lawsuit, saying they were made to work extended time without pay. Employees said they were made to work after clocking out in the evenings and servers were forced to do non-server duties without pay, according to the lawsuit. The Lebanon-based CBRL Group, the parent company of Cracker Barrel, still has a lawsuit pending brought by the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, alleging harassment and discrimination. Reid Estes, an employment attorney with Stewart Estes & Donnell in Nashville, said Cracker Barrel came out ahead yesterday, given the settlement amount. Some 10,118 plaintiffs will have to share the amount, after paying attorneys fees.

ROAD ACCIDENT, AUSTRALIA

London, Sep 11 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A NSW man has been awarded almost A\$7 million in damages after he became a quadriplegic in a car accident when not wearing a seatbelt. Peter Allen, now 24, became a quadriplegic after the ute in which he was a passenger left a dirt road and overturned in Jugiong, in the state's south-west, on February 6, 1999. Mr Allen sued the driver of the car, his friend Shannon King, for negligence claiming he was driving too fast and not keeping a proper lookout. He said the ute overturned shortly after they had driven over a cattle grid and rounded a bend. It was his case that the accident occurred because Mr King went around the bend too quickly and lost control of the ute. Justice Timothy Studdert agreed, saying Mr King did not exercise enough care with his driving and awarded Mr Allen \$6,946,536. "That the defendant did not appreciate before he reached the grid that there was a bend in the road beyond it, reflects that he failed to keep a proper lookout," Justice

Studdert said. In his defence, Mr King said Mr Allen did not take enough care of his own safety because he was not wearing a seatbelt. But Justice Studdert said Mr King's lawyers did not adequately prove that Mr Allen would not have become a quadriplegic if he had worn a seatbelt.

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated Sep 9, states: The New Hampshire state Supreme Court yesterday refused to reduce a jury's \$1.2 million award to a woman injured when the motorcycle she was a passenger on was struck by a recreational vehicle. The court did not agree with the New Hampshire International Speedway, one of the defendants in the case, that the high award was "manifestly exorbitant and conclusively against the evidence." But whether Mary Carignan, who suffered knee and ankle injuries and a broken hip, will get all of the \$1.2 million is not certain. She will get \$300,000, or the 25 percent share of the award the jury concluded the Speedway was responsible for because its employee was directing traffic when the accident occurred. Dennis Carignan, with his wife as passenger, was driving south on Route 106 in Loudon on Aug. 23, 1998, and passing an RV towing a pickup truck when the RV turned into the International Speedway. The jury concluded Dennis Carignan was not liable. The high court, however, sent the case back to Belknap County Superior Court yesterday because the trial judge did not allow the jury to consider a police officer's report on the accident that concluded "the driver of the motorcycle made a wrong decision in his attempt to pass the RV." The Supreme Court ruled that Judge Peter Smith must hold a hearing to determine whether the officer's report is "trustworthy" and should be admitted. If the accident report should have been presented as evidence, a new trial will have to be held. Attorney Matthew Lahey, who represented Mrs. Carignan, said he would expect one side or the other to appeal whatever Judge Smith decides. Lahey said the high court will look at the judge's reasons for allowing or not allowing the report into the trial and "decide if the reasons were sufficient." Attorney Kenneth Bouchard said the court's decision was "helpful" to his client, Leslie Wheeler, the RV driver who was found 75 percent responsible for the accident. That meant he was liable for \$900,000 of the \$1.2 million award. Bouchard said if Judge Smith concludes the officer's accident report is "untrustworthy" it would be an "extreme finding." "It pretty much means we'll be going back for a new trial for all of the issues against Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Carignan," he said. The \$1.2 million award was the second-highest by a Belknap County Superior Court jury. At the time, Bouchard called the verdict "shocking" and said such an amount might be expected in a wrongful death case, but not in a personal injury case.

Railway Accidents



FALLS TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated Sep 15, states: Investigators are trying to figure out why a freight train derailed early today in Bucks County. According to police, the incident occurred in Falls Township just before 0730 when a CSX train jumped the tracks. No injuries were reported and that the material inside the freight car was not hazardous.

KRISTIANSTAD AREA, SWEDEN

Gothenburg, Sep 11 — Two people died and 47 were injured, some seriously, when a train at a road crossing ran into a large truck and trailer just north of Kristianstad in southern Sweden yesterday morning. The deceased were both drivers on board the train. Out of the 47 injured, four are considered as serious. The "Kustpilen" trains, which operate between Karlskrona and Malmo several times a day, are allowed to pass through the small village of Nosaby at 140 kph and the road crossings are blocked by gates/beams with red lights flashing, stopping the traffic on the road in good time before the passage of the train. A lorry and trailer mistook the signals and parked across the rails. When the train came at full speed it hit the lorry and trailer, with all units being smashed to pieces. Before the impact the lorry driver first tried to open up the closed gates but when failed he drove through the closed gates to escape from the dangerous area but hit another lorry which was stopped at the other side, just as the train was approaching. The train wagons rolled around and ended at the side. The Average Commission (SHK) is to investigate the accident. The train traffic will be stopped for some time and buses will be used instead. First test of the safety equipment of the train and beams showed no defects on the system but a final report will be presented early next year. A total of 35 ambulances from various regions to assist and took the injured to hospital at Kristianstad. — Westax Marine Services AB.

KRISTIANSTAD, SWEDEN

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A commuter train carrying high school students collided with a truck in southern Sweden this morning, killing at least two people and injuring 40, police and rescue workers said. The accident happened around 0900 hrs, at a gated crossing outside Kristianstad, a town on the southeastern coast. The three-carriage regional train jumped the tracks and the first carriage flipped over, rescue worker Sven Nilsson told The Associated Press. "We know there are at least two deceased," Nilsson said. "But

there could be more. There's a risk people are still trapped under the car." About 70 people were on the train, including a large group of high school students. Hospital officials said 40 people were admitted for treatment. About 100 rescue workers were on the scene, including 20 ambulances. Officials at Banverket, the authority responsible for rail traffic in Sweden, are investigating. It was unclear how fast the state-run train was travelling.

MADONNA DELL'OLMO AREA, ITALY

London, Sep 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Two women died and around 30 were injured when a passenger train derailed in northern Italy. Three of the injured were seriously hurt, including the driver of the train, which was carrying around 40 people in all when it derailed for unknown reasons near the town of Madonna dell'Olmo, the Ansa agency said yesterday. One of the dead women was the train's chief engineer. The Italian railway company, FS, opened two investigations into the crash, which occurred on a service linking the northern city of Turin and Cuneo, in northwestern Italy. Ansa said the derailment ripped down electrical power cables over a distance of 700 metres.

NEW TERRITORY, HONG KONG

London, Sep 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A Hong Kong light rail train derailed in Hong Kong's New Territory yesterday morning with no casualties. According to Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (KCRC), the accident affected more than 5,000 passengers as the traffic on parts of the three light rail routes were suspended for over two hours. The KCRC said the company sent buses to get passengers to their destinations in the district. Preliminary investigations indicated that an explosion of a steel wheel caused the train to derail.

TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The Evandale Road in north-east Tasmania was closed for two-and-a-half hours last night after a train derailment near Western Junction. Police say the accident happened about 2020, AEST. No one was injured by the derailment. Police say they do not know why the train derailed.

VENTURA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A car-carrier loaded with vintage Porsches was struck by a freight train today after becoming stranded on railroad tracks, officials said. The accident occurred about 1545 hrs near the Ventura County Fairgrounds, said Lt. David Wilson of the Ventura Police Department, who was at the scene. The car-carrier was "high-centred" on the railroad tracks and the driver was trying to manoeuvre it off the tracks when Wilson arrived. Wilson said he

called to have train traffic stopped, but a northbound freight train came barreling down the track only moments later. The driver suffered minor injuries while fleeing from the impact, Wilson said. The vintage Porsches "are close to totalled, if not totalled," Wilson said. The front engine of the freight train came off the tracks and Union Pacific crews were called to the scene to get it operating again, Wilson said.

Miscellaneous



COLLAPSE OF COAL MINE, FUYUAN COUNTY, CHINA

London, Sep 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Ten miners have been found dead after being trapped in a coal mine in southwestern China for five days following a roof collapse, state media reported today. The roof of the Tuanjie coal mine at Fuyuan county in Yunnan province gave way last Thursday (Sep 9) when 17 workers were underground, Xinhua news agency said. Seven managed to escape. More than 200 people were mobilised for rescue work but their progress was hampered by "the complex geological conditions underground" after the accident, Xinhua quoted local official Li Haihua as saying. The cause of the accident was still being investigated.

DRUGS SEIZED ON SENEGAL VESSEL BY SPAIN

Vigo, Sep 13 — Fishing vessel *South Sea* has been sold at auction by the Port Authority of Villagarcia to breakers company "Gijonesa de Desguaces y Recuperacion Ferricas, S.L" of Gijon, for the nominal amount of Euro 100. The vessel will be taken away by breakers soon hereafter. — Lloyd's Agents.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated Sep 9, states: A man in Thailand has died of bird flu, the first human casualty in the country since the disease re-emerged in Asia in July, officials said today. Tests confirmed that the death yesterday of an 18-year-old man in Prachinburi province was caused by the H5N1 bird flu virus, said Dr. Charal Trinvuthipong, director-general of the Health Ministry's Department of Communicable Disease Control. "This case is not unexpected," Dr. Kumara Rai, the acting World Health Organisation representative to Thailand, said. "As the WHO has been reminding its member countries, as long as the virus is circulated by birds it is a matter of time before a human is infected." The victim, who raised fighting cocks, was admitted to a hospital in Prachinburi, 60 miles north-east of Bangkok, on Sep 4, four days after falling ill. The victim, who was not identified, was in the habit of sucking out blood and other fluids from the

mouths of his roosters when they were injured during fighting, a common practice in the sport, said a Public Health Ministry spokeswoman. She said all the chickens in a one-mile radius of the victim's house had been culled. A 15-year-old assistant of the victim was quarantined even though he did not show any symptoms, she said. The death raised the number of people killed by avian influenza in Thailand this year to nine and in Asia to 28. Eight people died in Thailand and 16 in Vietnam in the first outbreak in January, which devastated poultry stocks and led authorities to cull tens of millions of birds. The disease re-emerged in July and claimed three more lives in Vietnam. Nearly 300,000 birds have been slaughtered since early July in Thailand. Experts from the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and other groups have warned that the virus cannot be easily or quickly eradicated, especially since evidence has accumulated that it is spread by migratory birds. Rai said Thailand had done a good job of surveillance and detection. "Since Thailand has experienced the first wave of bird flu, it is much more prepared to deal with it now," he said.

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Officials in Malaysia say new cases of bird flu have been detected for the second time in five days. They say a veterinary worker has been hospitalised with fever and a cough. Culling of poultry in the infected area is beginning. But the authorities say more tests are needed to determine whether the virus is of the H5N1 strain, which has killed 27 people in Asia this year. The World Health Organisation, meanwhile, says a bird flu pandemic could sweep Asia unless efforts to halt the virus are intensified. The regional director for the WHO's Western Pacific Region, Shigeru Omi, says member states must strengthen reporting systems and improve their animal husbandry practices.

Hanoi, Sep 16 — Vietnam has moved to stamp out two more bird flu outbreaks near the capital by culling about 600 sick chickens and ducks, an official said today. Bird flu has killed 29 people in Asia this year, 20 of them in Vietnam, and experts fear it is so widespread it will take years to control. Dau Ngoc Hao, deputy head of the agriculture ministry's animal health department, said the H5 subtype of bird flu virus was found among 300 sick and dead poultry, half of them ducks, at a market in Hanoi and from a flock in nearby Ha Tay province. "It happened on Aug 27 and 28 but the authorities are now very experienced in dealing with this so they have settled them right away," Hao told Reuters, referring to the cull. Officials have disinfected the farms where the birds came from and the burial site. People in the latest areas infected with bird flu have been advised to monitor their health and not eat sick poultry. Tests on humans are conducted only if people are hospitalised with flu-like symptoms

but there were no immediate reports of anyone being admitted with such symptoms from the infected areas. The bird flu-infected poultry in the Hanoi market had been brought in from surrounding areas even though animal health inspectors had been randomly checking on poultry shipments on the roads leading to the city. Yesterday, an animal health official in southern Ho Chi Minh City said the H5 subtype was found in most ducks living in two districts on the outskirts of the city but that they would not be culled. — Reuters.

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Malaysia on Wednesday (Sep 15) placed the entire north-eastern state of Kelantan under quarantine to prevent the spread of bird flu as three more villagers were hospitalised after developing symptoms. The move, which restricts the movement of poultry throughout the state, came after the bird flu virus was yesterday found to have jumped outside the original quarantine zone around the first village in Kelantan hit by the virus. Bird flu has killed 28 people in Vietnam and Thailand this year and led to the slaughter of millions of birds. Agriculture Minister Muhyiddin Yassin told reporters when asked if the whole state was under quarantine. "We have set up roadblocks at border checkpoints to prevent anyone from transporting poultry out of the state." Veterinary officers are beefing up surveillance throughout Kelantan, especially in infected areas, and neighbouring states such as Terengganu have also been put on the alert to ensure it doesn't spread there, he added. Health ministry disease control director Ramlee Rahmat said that three people, including an eight-year-old girl, who were hospitalised over the weekend have been cleared of the disease. But three children from nearby villages were admitted for observation late Tuesday after developing cough and flu-like symptoms, he said. "All three have a history of contact with the dead animals. We are isolating them as a precaution pending test results," he said. Culling activities are ongoing but only in affected villages, he added. Muhyiddin earlier this week also suggested the use of the tough Internal Security Act, which allows indefinite detention without trial, against poultry smugglers to curb rampant smuggling across the border. Officials say the disease was first brought into Malaysia by fighting cocks that had been exposed to the virus in Thailand and that the new outbreaks were caused by the continued smuggling of chicken meat. Malaysia is seeking an urgent meeting with Thai authorities to discuss measures to combat the spread of the virus, including strengthening border security. Thailand has put nine more people under surveillance for suspected bird flu, officials said. Eighty people have now been put under observation since the reappearance of the virus in July, according to Thailand's public health

ministry, with all but 12 of them cleared of having the deadly H5N1 virus. One person died last week and a further 11 were awaiting test results, according to a statement. The new cases included two boys aged 11 and 13, living in different provinces. Thailand has been criticised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for not doing enough to monitor birds capable of carrying the deadly avian flu virus following the kingdom's ninth human death last week. The WHO fears that the H5N1 virus could mutate into a highly contagious form that triggers a global human flu pandemic

OUTBREAK OF SALMONELLA ON BAHAMAS FLAGGED PASSENGER VESSEL (MONA LISA)

London, Sep 15 — Seventy-five passengers and 27 crew members on board passenger *Mona Lisa* (28891 gt, built 1966) were hit by salmonella during a 12-day cruise from Bremerhaven around the coast of England. After the return to Bremerhaven on Sep 9, the port doctor said that the poisoning was probably caused by food but the source was no longer identifiable. The passengers and crew started to feel ill one day after departure from Bremerhaven, on Aug 28. The vessel is on long-term charter to Holiday Kreuzfahrten in Erkelenz/Germany, which is offering cruises.

POWER OUTAGE, KARACHI, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Sep 11 — The power utility company-Karachi Electric Supply Corporation (KESC) said yesterday evening that its main extra high tension line from the Port Muhammad Bin Qasim power station broke down and as a result at least half of Karachi was plunged in darkness. Official sources said the fault developed about 1815 hrs in the main extra high-tension (EHT) line of the Korangi West Grid, due to which the power supply from the Bin Qasim station suspended immediately. The cut-off resulted in a power shortage of 1,000 MW. Almost the entire defunct South district, including Defence, Clifton, II Chundrigar Road, Old City Areas, Garden, Soldier Bazaar, Lasbella, and parts of Nazimabad, North Nazimabad, Federal B Area, Gulistan-e-Jauhar, Gulshan-e-Hadeed, Gulshan-e-Maymar, Malir, Shah Faisal Colony, Malir Cantt and other areas, were affected by the breakdown. He said that KESC engineers were restoring power supply to the affected localities one by one. He added that, after carrying out the rehabilitation process, the engineers would figure out why the main Bin Qasim line broke down. The power supply was restored in some areas around 2200 hrs. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

VIARSA I (Panama)

Fremantle, Sep 14 — Fishing *Viarsa I* is still at Jervoise Bay. — Lloyd's Agents.

Fires & Explosions

CHEMICAL WAREHOUSES, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

London, Sep 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire destroyed two warehouses containing chemicals on the Gold Coast overnight. Eight crews and three aerial appliances from Brisbane were called to the blaze that began about 2030, AEST, at a company called Chemical House in the suburb of Ernest. Witnesses described numerous large explosions. Atmosphere tests revealed low level toxic gases but there was no danger to residents and no injuries to fire officers, a fire brigade spokeswoman said. The fire destroyed two warehouses and was contained in just over two hours. An investigation is underway into the cause of the blaze. Firefighters were still at the scene this morning.

DOCKS, IMMINGHAM, HUMBERSIDE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sep 14 — More than 50 firefighters are tackling a chemical fire at Immingham docks. Two tonnes of sodium hydrosulphite escaped from a container at the Norfolk Line terminal and caught fire. The initial fire is now out, however, because the powder ignites when it is exposed to air there is a danger that it could reignite. Humberside Fire Service officers say they are waiting for the Environment Agency to assist them. Assistant Divisional Officer Tony Harvey said the chemical was being sprayed with water to prevent it catching fire again. At the same time it is being moved into other containers which will then be used by the Environment Agency to dispose of the chemical. "We anticipate this will take us most of today and into tonight," Mr Harvey said. He added that the vapour given off by the fire was toxic, but it was being safely dispersed over the Humber and no-one was in any danger.

London, Sep 15 — Around 50 firefighters were called to the Norfolk Line terminal in Immingham yesterday, following a spill of the chemical sodium hydrosulphite that caught fire on exposure to the air. The powerful bleaching agent - used in the textile and paper industry - was in an intermediate bulk container, from which it somehow escaped. A spokesman for Humberside Fire Service said that only prompt action from the brigade, following a call at 1045 hrs, averted what could have been a serious situation at the Associated British Ports-operated facility. "Luckily the fire crews got in quickly. Any length of time and we'd have been in real trouble," he said. The chemical is difficult to tackle for technical reasons, he added. "This is a bizarre one. Even though it was on fire, it reacts with water." As a result, the

firefighters continued flooding the area with water for an extended period to prevent reignition. Speaking yesterday afternoon, the spokesman said that operations would probably have to continue into the evening. Fortunately, the wind was blowing strongly out to sea, alleviating problems with the resultant toxic smoke. ABP said that no vessels had been prevented from calling as a result of the situation. Investigations were yesterday being carried out into how the fire broke out, with concerns centred on the possibility of damage to a valve during handling by a forklift. The Environment Agency reported that there was no damage to the environment.

FACTORY, MANSFIELD, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sep 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Managers at a Nottinghamshire firm whose factory was gutted by a huge fire on Aug 25, say it will take several months to clear the site. The fire, at Pyramid Products in Mansfield started when machinery burst into flames and at its height, 60 firefighters tackled the blaze. It burned for 24 hours. The remains of the factory building have now been demolished. The company supplies goods to the camping and caravanning trade.

FACTORY, PETERBOROUGH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sep 11 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A fire at a Peterborough factory which caused almost £2m worth of damage last week was started deliberately, say police. The fire was started by arsonists at Winpack Limited on Lattersey Hill Trading Estate in Whittlesey Aug 30.

FORMER BREWERY, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated Sep 9, states: A huge fire heavily damaged the old Pearl Brewery early today. When firefighters arrived at the historic building at 0200 hrs, big flames were shooting from the 40,000 foot structure. Nearly 85 firefighters battled the three-alarm blaze and brought it under control in about an hour. "The building was completely on fire when we first got here," said Randy Jenkins, of the San Antonio Fire Department. Several small explosions from a diesel tank were reportedly heard but a cause had yet to be determined. No one was injured and no one was in the building, which was built in the 1800's, at the time of the fire. Damage is expected to be in the millions. The brewery was shut down in April 2001.

FURNITURE STORE, SOLIHULL, WEST MIDLANDS, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sep 15 — A press report, dated Sep 14, states: Up to 130 people had to leave their homes after a fire broke out at a furniture store in a nearby retail park in Solihull. Sixty firefighters tackled the blaze at the Klaussner store, Sears Retail Park, in

Oakenshaw Road, Shirley, which broke out just before 2300, BST, yesterday. Fire investigators will return to the shop later to establish the cause. A structural engineer has been called in to assess the safety of the building.

KIMHYUNGJIK COUNTY, RYANGGANG PROVINCE, NORTH KOREA

Seoul, Sep 12 — A huge explosion rocked North Korea three days ago but US and South Korean officials said today it was unlikely to have been a nuclear weapons test despite a report that the blast produced a mushroom cloud. South Korea's Yonhap news agency said the blast on Thursday (Sep 9) in Kimhyungjik county in Ryanggang province in the north-east near the border with China appeared much bigger than a train explosion that killed at least 170 people in April. The "New York Times" reported in its Sunday editions that the Bush administration had received recent intelligence reports that some experts believed could indicate North Korea was preparing to conduct its first nuclear weapons test explosion. However, in Washington, US officials said there was no definitive explanation yet, although the blast did not appear to be nuclear. A test would alter the stakes in the North's stand-off with the United States over Pyongyang's atomic ambitions. "We've got no indication that anything of the sort has happened. We believe these reports to be completely unfounded," said a State Department official. "People are pretty sure it's not a mushroom cloud and not a test of any kind," the official said. Yonhap said a mushroom cloud up to 4 km in diameter was seen after the blast in an area near missile bases. South Korean Unification Minister Chung Dong-young also played down an atomic link, saying after a National Security Council meeting that Seoul's assessment so far was the explosion was unlikely to have been part of the communist North's nuclear arms ambitions. "There are some foreign media reporting such possibilities, but we are judging at the moment the explosion is unrelated to such reports," Yonhap quoted him as saying. Chung chairs the National Security Council, which advises President Roh Moo-hyun. Roh's spokesman, Kim Jong-min, said the president had been briefed. The South's weather service said no earth tremors had been detected. Japan said it was checking the reports. North Korea has said nothing so far about a blast but often reports on events long after they happen. Yonhap quoted one source as saying it could be a forest fire. Other possibilities include a failed missile engine test, a high-explosives test as a precursor to a nuclear blast or an industrial accident. — Reuters.

Seoul, Sep 13 - A huge explosion in North Korea last week was a deliberate blast to pave the way for a hydroelectric dam, the BBC quoted the North's foreign minister as telling a visiting British official today. "It was no nuclear explosion or an accident. It was a deliberate controlled detonation to

demolish a mountain in the far north of the country," a BBC correspondent in Pyongyang with British Foreign Office minister Bill Rammell quoted North Korean Foreign Minister Paek Nam-sun as saying. Paek, who was giving the first North Korean word on the explosion, said it was part of a construction project to build a hydroelectric dam in the remote mountainous region of Ryanggang on the Chinese border. — Reuters.

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The five-member inspection team from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), who will arrive in Seoul on Sunday (Sep 19) for additional investigations into South Korea's nuclear experiments, will focus on the 150 kilograms of uranium metal produced in the early 1980s at three facilities that had not been declared to the nuclear watchdog, according to sources here. Staying until Sep 26, the inspectors are expected to interview scientists involved, take environmental samples and visit the nuclear research facilities in Seoul and Taejon where the two controversial experiments took place in 1982 and 2000, officials said. During their first visit early this month, the IAEA inspectors didn't meet Korean scientists. "We haven't tried to develop nuclear weapons and didn't try to test fissile materials with the aim of making a bomb," Cho, former Defense Minister, said "I think this is the country's chance to make everything clearer and prevent this kind of event from happening again."

MOTORCYCLE MUSEUM, BICKENHILL, BIRMINGHAM AREA, UNITED KINGDOM -

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Around £20m has been spent on rebuilding the National Motorcycle Museum following a devastating fire exactly a year ago. Five hundred motorbikes and 80% of the building in Bickenhill, Solihull, were destroyed in the fire, which was started by a discarded cigarette. The museum did not have a sprinkler system at the time of the fire but £1m has now been spent on installing one. The building is due to reopen to the public on Dec 1. Fire investigators said the cigarette which started the fire had been dropped into a box of air conditioning filters outside the building. More than 120 firefighters tackled the fire, on Sep 16, 2003. The bikes destroyed in the collection traced the history of the British motorcycle industry and many of the museum's rarest exhibits were lost.

PREMISES, CINCINNATI, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated Sep 9, states: Fire investigators will have to wait at least a week more - and possibly two - before they can get inside and try to establish why the Queen City Barrel Co. warehouse ignited into one of the largest fires in the city's recent history. Demolition work continued today on large portions of the building deemed unstable. That

work will continue for at least a week before investigators can enter and start looking for a cause and origin of the massive fire Aug 19 in the 400,000-square-foot warehouse that held between 40,000 and 50,000 barrels, some containing up to an inch of potentially hazardous chemicals. But even when they get in, there's no guarantee investigators will find any answers. Cincinnati Fire Capt. Dan Rottmueller, the city's lead investigator, said it will be like trying to put together a huge jigsaw puzzle without knowing if one has all the pieces. Rottmueller said the three weeks since the fire is one of the longest periods he has had to wait before beginning a fire investigation. Investigators also have interviewed about 35 witnesses and reviewed videotape of the fire. But they don't have enough evidence to determine a cause or origin of the blaze, which caused an estimated \$5 million in damage. Once they get inside, the investigation should take between a week and 10 days. After investigators are finished, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will take control of the site to make sure it is cleaned up properly.

REFINERY, POINTE-A-PIERRE, TRINIDAD

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Several workers were evacuated from the Number 4 Vacuum Distillation Unit at Petrotrin's Pointe-a-Pierre refinery when fire broke out early yesterday morning. The unit is involved in the process in which gasoline is produced. Residents in nearby Marabella said they heard a loud explosion and saw flames "shooting" high up into the air around 0200 hrs. They said the flames lasted for about an hour. The State-owned oil company said later no one was injured and that the fire would not affect the supplies of petroleum products to the local market. It did not say whether exports would be affected. Petrotrin described the fire as "small" and said it "was brought quickly under control by the company's fire department". An investigation team, which includes a trade union representative, has been appointed to probe the cause of the fire, Petrotrin said.

SCHOOL, ARNOLD, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sep 15 — A press report, dated Sep 14, states: The cost of repairing a Notts school hit by fire is likely to be at least £6m. Pupils from the upper school site at Arnold Hill Comprehensive were being allowed back into classes today, a week after the massive blaze, but another 850 pupils based at the lower school - where a dozen classrooms were destroyed by the fire - still do not know when they will be able to return. The re-opening came as it emerged that the cost of rebuilding after the fire is going to be at least £6m. The cost of the repairs, which include classrooms recently refurbished at a cost of

£300,000, are not expected to be met by the council taxpayer, but by insurance company Zurich Municipal. The cause of the blaze is still being looked into by fire investigators.

THEATRE, BRANTFORD, ONTARIO, CANADA

London, Sep 14 — A press report, dated Sep 13, states: The curtain will be down on the Sanderson Centre stage for at least a month to repair up to Can\$1 million in smoke and water damage caused by a fire next door at the former Ludlow's building. Officials yesterday hadn't determined a cause for Saturday's (Sep 11) blaze, which destroyed two historic buildings and damaged the centre.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Firefighters battling a new wildfire in Stanislaus National Forest are mourning one of their own tonight. A firefighter died and six others were injured while working to contain the comparatively small, but tricky blaze that broke out this afternoon in hilly terrain about 12 miles east of Groveland. Authorities say the seven-person crew from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection was overrun by flames while participating in the initial attack on the fire in the Tuolumne River Canyon. The identities of the dead and injured are being withheld until their families are contacted. The fire broke out at about 1245 hrs and has burned more than 500 acres so far. It's moving northeast in an area that cuts across 10 campgrounds and Highway 120, the western route into Yosemite National Park. About 150 firefighters spent the afternoon trying to contain the blaze, and more are arriving.

London, Sep 14 — A press report, dated Sep 13, states: A member of an elite helicopter wildfire crew has become the first female firefighter from the California Department of Forestry to die in the line of duty, state officials said yesterday. Officials could give few details about what happened when the seven-member crew was apparently overrun by flames Sunday (Sep 12) in rugged terrain of the Stanislaus National Forest. The department identified the woman as Eva Schicke, 24, of Arnold. Jim Wright, chief of fire protection at the CDF, said the crew appeared to have been on the ground about an hour. Their job was to use hand tools to build a fire break ahead of the blaze, which had grown to 800 acres yesterday and was 20 percent contained. Fire crews were also working to contain a separate wildfire threatening the western Sierra Nevada town of Mariposa, about 50 miles south of the blaze that killed Schicke. The flames had burned 2,000 acres and forced the evacuation of about 300 homes in the town of 1,400 residents. A 34-year-old man was in custody on an arson charge, accused of starting the fire with a match inserted inside a cigarette.



ABORTED TAKE-OFF AT LARNACA AIRPORT, CYPRUS

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A jet carrying 275 British holidaymakers and eight crew had to abort take-off when engines malfunctioned and a fire broke out on one wheel. The Thomas Cook Boeing 757-300 bound for Manchester had been secured for take-off and was half way along the runway at Larnaca Airport in Cyprus when the captain pulled out of the take-off manoeuvre. The captain was alerted by three warning lights flashing on the flight deck indicating a possible, "engine over-run," the airline said. After the brakes were put on a small fire broke out in the braking system of the left back wheel and the airfield fire service was scrambled. The passengers were put on another aircraft and flown home following the aborted take-off. Shaun Robinson, of Thomas Cook Airlines, said: "The captain carried out a text-book style procedure on the runway following a warning indication to a possible engine problem. The aircraft reacted correctly to the captain's controls and the fire service turned out as a precaution. The safety of both passengers and aircraft was never compromised."

ABORTED TAKE-OFF FROM HANEDA AIRPORT, TOKYO, JAPAN

London, Sep 14 — A press report, dated Sep 13, states: An All Nippon Airways (ANA) jet aborted take-off from Tokyo's Haneda Airport this evening after one of its two engines developed trouble, airline and airport officials said. None of the 201 passengers and crewmembers aboard the aircraft — an Airbus A-321 — was injured. ANA mechanics are examining the aircraft in a bid to determine the cause of the trouble. At around 1650 hrs, the captain of ANA Flight 647 bound for Kumamoto from Tokyo noticed that its right engine was not burning properly while speeding up for take-off, the officials said. The pilot immediately shut down the troubled engine and aborted take-off. The aircraft stopped in the middle of the runway. An air traffic controller at Haneda Airport reported to the airport administration office that fire was coming out of the right engine of the plane, prompting the Tokyo Fire Department to dispatch about 50 fire engines. However, it was later proven that the engine did not catch fire.

ACCIDENT, EVANSVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT, INDIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 15 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A private charter twin engine turboprop Beechcraft King Air landing gear collapsed on landing at the Evansville

Regional Airport at about 0800 hrs. The aircraft was en route to Evansville from Louisville. Eight people were on board. The aircraft has since been removed from the runway. Evansville officials say it will need extensive repairs. There were no delays in airline flights because of the incident.

C-FWPY

London, Sep 9 — On Sep 6, the privately owned Taylorcraft 19, registration C-FWPY, was on the take off roll near Rancheria, YT when it struck trees beside the strip. Witnesses noted that there was no wind prior to departure, and then significant gusts after the accident. The pilot, the lone occupant, was not injured, however, the aircraft sustained substantial damage.

CRASH INTO AEGEAN SEA, GREECE

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Patriarch of Alexandria Peter VII, who is the second most senior figure in the Greek Orthodox Church, has been killed along with an Australian and 15 others in a helicopter crash in the Aegean Sea. The Patriarch is the spiritual leader of Greek Orthodox Christians in Africa. He had been heading to the Mount Athos monastery in northern Greece in an army helicopter when the aircraft disappeared from radar screens. Military vessels and planes launched a rescue operation and found wreckage and bodies in the water 5.5 nautical miles off the Halkidiki peninsula, where Mount Athos is located. The Greek Government confirms the death of the 55-year-old. Government spokesman Theodore Roussopoulos says the death is a "great loss for Orthodoxy and Hellenism". He pays tribute to the cleric's "brilliant humanitarian work in Africa". Sixteen other people were on board the Greek Army Chinook helicopter, including the Patriarch's brother, several Alexandrian and other Orthodox clerics and five crew members. The Greek Foreign Ministry says Australian Bishop Nektarios of Madagascar is also among the dead. Greek Defence Minister Spiliotopoulos says rescuers are still recovering bodies from the sea among the helicopter debris. A vessel specialised in underwater searches would arrive at the crash site tomorrow. A military source says the crash is almost certainly accidental in nature, but that its cause is still unknown.

CRASH, FALFURRIAS AREA, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated Sep 9, states: A 33-year-old San Antonio man died today when his small plane crashed on ranchland in Brooks County. Authorities say the wreckage was discovered about 25 miles south of Falfurrias. Investigators believe the plane malfunctioned. The Department of Public Safety identified the victim as Kenneth Engels, who was alone in the single-engine Piper. Officials believe Engels had taken off from McAllen and was en route to San Antonio. He was

carrying bags full of banking documents, which were scattered around the wreckage.

CRASH, KENNESAW, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated Sep 9, states: A small plane crashed in Cobb County just west of McCollum Field near Kennesaw Tuesday (Sep 6) morning. The single engine Piper went down just after take off from the Cobb County airfield and caught fire on impact. Forty year old Adam Kulacheck was piloting the plane and 48 year old Bill Yates was his passenger. Both survived the crash and were treated by emergency personnel at the scene. They were then transported to Kennestone Hospital. Police said that the plane went down at the corner of Summit Creek Drive and Wood Cliff Court in the Stilesboro subdivision. Residents of the subdivision pulled the pilot and his passenger from the flaming wreckage. The single engine Piper PA-32 went down behind two homes in a heavily wooded area. The fire from the plane spread to the roof of a nearby home. An FAA spokesman says the plane was on its way from McCollum Field to Fort Pierce, Florida. Crash investigation teams from the National Transportation Safety Board and the FAA have been dispatched to the scene.

CRASH, LAKE WALES AREA, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A mosquito control aircraft performing relief operations crashed after hitting a communications tower this morning and killed both pilots aboard, the Federal Aviation Administration said. The twin-engine Piper Aztec crashed into an orange grove east of Lake Wales in Polk County. No injuries were reported on the ground, said Kathleen Bergen of the FAA. The main pilot was employed by Vector Disease Control, Inc., out of Greenville, Miss., and was working under contract with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, according to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The aircraft departed Bartow Municipal Airport this morning and had been spraying insecticide to kill mosquitoes in eastern Polk County when it hit the communications tower. A hazardous materials team was on site, and the National Transportation Safety Board also was investigating the crash.

CRASH, LIVINGSTONE AREA, ZAMBIA

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Australian officials are still seeking details of an aircraft crash in Zambia, in which three members of a West Australian family were killed. A Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) spokeswoman today said a married couple, both aged 26, and the husband's mother, aged 58, were on a scenic flight near Victoria Falls when the accident happened. It was not immediately clear what caused

the crash near the Zimbabwean/Zambian border, or exactly when it happened, and authorities were still seeking details, the spokeswoman said. It is believed six people in all were killed on the flight, including two Britons and the pilot, thought to be Canadian. According to a report from the Times of Zambia, the chartered light aircraft crashed as it flew between Livingstone and Kalomo, both in Zambia, killing the six people on board. Zambia's civil aviation director Chitalu Kabalika told the newspaper the wreckage had been located, and that all people on board had perished. "There were five passengers and one pilot," Mr Kabalika was quoted as saying. Theo Goveia, the managing director of local air charter company Airwaves Airlink, was reported as saying the light aircraft was on lease to his company from Travel Africa, a South African company. He said mechanical failure was suspected.

CRASH, SOMERSET AIRPORT, NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated Sep 15, states: Somerset County authorities today charged a Connecticut man with flying an aircraft while under the influence of liquor or drugs after his aircraft landed at Somerset Airport and crashed into a hangar. Michael Foisie, 42, of Higganum, Conn., veered off the runway while attempting to land his two-seater Cessna this morning, clipping the wing of another aircraft on the ground and crashing into a second aircraft parked in a hangar, authorities said. Foisie's aircraft was destroyed in the accident, according to the Somerset County prosecutor's office. Foisie was not injured in the crash, police said, but appeared to be under the influence of a controlled substance. An officer then found a clear plastic bag containing approximately 40 yellow pills inside the aircraft. The pills were later identified as Klonopin, a depressant, according to the county prosecutor's office. Foisie did not produce a prescription for the pills. Klonopin, made by Roche Pharmaceuticals, is used to treat panic disorder and some types of seizures, according to the company's Web site. Patients using the drug are cautioned against "hazardous occupations requiring mental alertness," such as operating machinery or driving a motor vehicle. Somerset County Prosecutor Wayne J. Forrest said Foisie was charged with third-degree possession of a controlled dangerous substance and flying an aircraft while under the influence of liquor or drugs.

CRASH, TAMANRASSET AREA, ALGERIA

Algiers, Sep 14 — Human and technical error caused an Air Algérie Boeing 737 to crash in the Sahara desert in March last year killing 102 people, an official inquiry into Algeria's worst air disaster showed today. The state-owned plane had been heading for Algiers on the Mediterranean coast when it crashed near Tamanrasset, 1,920 km from the capital in the far south of the country. "There are three key reasons behind the crash — losing

the engine during take-off, failure of the wheels to fold in, and the pilot being unaware of engine problems (before take-off)," Hasane Afane, head of the government commission, told a news conference. He gave no explanation as to why the left engine fell off, nor why the wheels did not fold back into the Boeing body, but Afane said the pilot failed to check the engines prior to departure. The commission called for more training for Algerian pilots, particularly on emergency situations. It said French and U.S. experts were also involved in the investigation. Initially, the commission believed the crash was due to an engine glitch. — Reuters.

EMERGENCY LANDING, POCATELLO, IDAHO, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated Sep 15, states: A FedEx regional was diverted to Pocatello Regional Airport Tuesday evening (Sep 14) when a fire detector in the aircraft's cargo hold went off. An "in-flight emergency" was declared shortly after 1930 and emergency personnel were summoned to the scene to meet the 727 jet upon landing in Pocatello, the nearest airport at the time. Captain Michael Landon of Pocatello Fire Station Four said fire crews used thermal detectors to scour the aircraft for "hot spots". Though no such spots were found, Landon said the jet would sit in Pocatello overnight until repairs can be made and a specific cause of the detector's activation can be determined. Landon said the incident could have been caused by dust in the air or an electronic malfunction. None of the three people on board the aircraft were harmed during the emergency landing.

EMERGENCY LANDING, QUETTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Sep 14 — Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) said this morning that one of its aircrafts bound for Lahore International Airport made an emergency landing at Quetta city yesterday morning due to some technical problem. An official of national airline said a Boeing 737-300, flight number PK 50 with 200 passengers on board left the Quetta International Airport, yesterday morning but had to return after 40 minutes due to a technical fault to the aircraft. The aircraft resumed its flight for Lahore at 1205hrs after repairs. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

FLIGHTS GROUNDED DUE TO OUTAGE, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A communications failure at a Federal Aviation Administration control facility forced some airports in the West to hold flights on the ground yesterday afternoon, a Los Angeles International Airport spokeswoman said. The radio outage occurred at the Los Angeles Air Route Traffic Control Center in Palmdale, in the desert north of Los Angeles, said Gaby Pacheco, citing information from a regional FAA office. Control of the

airspace was turned over to other air traffic control facilities. "We want to stress there are no safety issues, just delays, because control over the air space has been turned over to other air traffic facilities," Pacheco said. Flights were not being allowed to depart, but flights in the air were being allowed to land. There was no word on when the FAA might lift the order holding aircrafts on the ground.

London, Sep 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A communications failure at a Federal Aviation Administration control facility forced some airports in the West to hold flights on the ground in some cases for more than three hours yesterday afternoon, authorities said. Air traffic controllers could monitor the aircraft on radar but were not able to communicate with them. Pilots were forced to switch to a different radio frequency to communicate with other control facilities. Control of the airspace was turned over to other air traffic control facilities, including one in Albuquerque, N.M. The outage was repaired about 2000 hrs, nearly three and a half hours after it began, and all airports resumed regular operations, said Cyndy Johnson, spokeswoman for the Oakland International Airport, where about two dozen flights were delayed. All flights at San Francisco International Airport destined for Southern California were grounded, said airport spokesman Mike McCarron. The airport's duty manager, Dennis Neves, said three aircraft bound for Southern California were diverted to the airport: Passenger flights from London and Seattle and a cargo flight from Alaska.

HELICOPTER CRASH, ORREMOSSEN AREA, SWEDEN

Gothenburg, Sep 11 — A private helicopter, with three persons on board, crashed this afternoon and all on board were killed. The wreckage is located in a difficult area north of Gothenburg. The military, using band-wagons to go there, as no ordinary vehicles can be used. According to the first report from place of crash, none of the three had a chance to survive as helicopter totally smashed to pieces. People walking in the area of Orremossen, outside Angered/Gothenburg, heard the helicopter explode when it crashed and called the emergency services. An ambulance helicopter was sent to the area and located the wreck, in 10 cm of water, as the area is marshy and swampy. During the day, the helicopter had several contacts with the tower at Saeve/Gothenburg City airport and no alarm or mayday was sent from the helicopter. Fog was noted in the area, which may have contributed to the problems. The three bodies were brought to hospital. The Police are now awaiting the Average Commission to arrive, during this evening/night. Westax Marine Services AB.

INCIDENT AT KRABI AIRPORT, THAILAND

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Bangkok Airways

aircraft encountered problems after landing at Krabi airport yesterday, delaying some flights. The Bangkok Airways' Flight PG-821 got stranded on the runway at 1030 hrs, when one of the Boeing 717 aircraft's wheels failed to fully extend during landing. The 37 passengers aboard were taken to the terminal by shuttle bus. An incoming Phuket Air flight was diverted to Phuket. Airport executive Sunthorn Boonrat said the front wheel of the aircraft got stuck at 90 degrees and would not move when the plane made a turn toward the terminal.

N1150D

London, Sep 15 — Cessna 140A, N1150C, operated by Flight Time Pathways, landed in a corn field off of runway four at Jackson Municipal Airport, Minnesota, at 0215, Sep 11. Aircraft was destroyed and no injuries are reported.

N172WW

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated Sep 11, states: A pilot attempting to take off from Medina Municipal Airport ended up putting his aircraft in a ditch near Route 18. The pilot said he experienced problems and decided to abort the takeoff around noon, yesterday. The Ohio State Highway Patrol said that Svec's single-engine Cessna 172 slid off the runway and went through a fence before landing in the ditch. He was not injured. The aircraft had moderate damage. The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating.

London, Sep 15 — Cessna 172M, N172WW, operated privately, landed long and sustained substantial damage at Medina Municipal Airport, Ohio, at 1550, Sep 10. Other circumstances are unknown.

N451000

London, Sep 11 — Piper PA-32-360 (Cherokee Six), N45100, operated by Berniquea I. Smith, while on a flight from Atlanta, Georgia, with one person on board, during departure from runway 27, Cobb County Airport-McCollum Field, heading south, lost altitude and crashed approximately one mile south-west of the airport, at 1506, UTC, Sep 9. The aircraft was substantially damaged and fire reported.

N5211R

London, Sep 15 — Hughes 369D, N5211R, operated by Helibase LLC was destroyed at Burke County Airport, Georgia, at 1725, Sep 10. Other circumstances are unknown.

N6209J

London, Sep 11 — Piper PA-32R-300 (Lance), N6209J, operated by John R. Bean, while on a flight from San Antonio, Texas, to McAllen, Texas, with one person on board, diverted to Brooks County Airport, from approximately 35 miles north of McAllen Miller International Airport, at about 1114, UTC, Sep 9. The pilot reported equipment problem on the aircraft failed to arrive at Brooks Airport. The

aircraft wreckage was located 10 miles west of Encino, Texas. The pilot died.

N7662C

London, Sep 15 — A press report, dated Sep 14, states: The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating after a small plane crashed into a hangar at Detroit City Airport yesterday afternoon. It is reported that a student pilot had leased the 1975 Piper 0-320 series plane from Great Lakes Flight LLC, a licensed flight school in Detroit. The student had the appropriate number of flying hours to fly alone. He was flying solo practicing maneuvers when he crashed the aircraft into the northeast Conner T-hangar, named for its T shape. The pilot escaped the wreckage. His injuries appeared to be non-life-threatening. The fuselage was said to be intact, but the wings were torn off of the aircraft. The hangar, which reportedly houses small aircrafts, suffered damage to its roof. The plane remained lodged in the structure.

London, Sep 15 — Piper PA-28-140, N7662C, operated by Great Lakes Flight LLC, a student pilot remaining left closed traffic on his third/fourth option. aircraft bounced on runway, continued airborne in left turn and crashed into Connel St. hanger at Detroit City Airport, Michigan, at 2047, Sep 13. Aircraft sustained substantial damage. Injuries unknown.

N777UH

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated Sep 14, states: A helicopter crash-landed in Spanish Fork this afternoon. It went down in a field in the east end of the town just after 1600 hrs. Instructor Matthew Hobby of Orem and pilot Preston Ravin of Springville went down with the craft, but their injuries were minor. The helicopter was heavily damaged. No word on what caused the crash, but the FAA is investigating.

London, Sep 16 — Robinson R22, N777UH, operated by Universal Helicopter Inc, student and instructor crashed in a field located at Spanish Fork, Utah, at 2220, Sep 14. Substantial damage and minor injuries to both student and instructor are reported.

N843MC

London, Sep 14 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A small aircraft crashed on an island in the Missouri River after circling the runaway at an airport nearby, killing all four people aboard, authorities said today. The crash happened last night on Howell Island as a group of four adults flew from Sikeston to the Spirit of St. Louis Airport in Chesterfield, about 25 miles west of St. Louis, officials said. Pilot Mark Kaplan and his wife, Phyllis Kaplan, both 56, of Chesterfield, were killed along with passengers Ralph Supinski, 57, and his wife, Carol Supinski, 58, of Bradenton, Fla. Witnesses reported the Cessna circled the runway before going down, the Federal Aviation Administration said. "We don't know what happened. There's no indication of any problem," said airport director Richard Hrabko.

Hrabko said the pilot received landing instructions and began his approach, but at some point decided not to land and turned around. A police helicopter discovered the wreckage about an hour later on the small island. "It was badly, badly torn up," said Dave Nichols, a fire official in Chesterfield. The National Transportation Safety Board was investigating.

London, Sep 15 — Cessna 182T, N843MC, operated by Spirit Aviation LLC, vfr on upwind from a go-around disappeared from radar and sight at West Spirit of St. Louis Airport, Missouri, at 0219, Sep 13. Aircraft is destroyed, fire is reported. The pilot was killed. Other circumstances are unknown.

RA-65080

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated Sep 15, states: The two aircraft crashes of Aug 24 were caused by explosives in the passenger compartments, the head of the state commission investigating the incidents announced today. The statement confirms earlier information that the two crashes were terrorist attacks. The Prosecutor General's office has instigated criminal proceedings in connection with the crashes on a terrorism article of the Criminal Code, the Russian transport minister, Igor Levitin, said today. Ninety people were killed in the crashes. The two aircraft had taken off from Moscow. A Tu-134 that was heading to the Central Russian city of Volgograd went down in the Tula region. A Tu-154 was on its way to the South Russian resort of Sochi and crashed in the Rostov region. The aircraft and their equipment were functioning properly, and the crews were prepared for the flights, the minister was quoted by Interfax news agency as saying. Conversations between the crew members recovered from flight recorders "did not reflect an attack on the crew or a plane seizure," Levitin said. Suspicion has fallen on two Chechen women whose passports apparently were used by passengers, one on each aircraft.

ZK-KFU

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated Sep 8, states: A Convair 580 (ZK-KFU) which crashed into the sea near Paraparaumu with the loss of two lives is believed to have become heavily iced up shortly before the crash, according to an investigation report released early today. The aircraft, operated by Air Freight New Zealand, was on a scheduled freight flight. It crashed in extreme weather about 2130, Oct 3 last year, killing the pilot and copilot. The Transport Accident Investigation Commission report into the crash pointed to a critical period of just 15 seconds when the aircraft levelled, for an unknown reason, at around 4,700 metres during descent. Investigator-in-charge Ian McClelland said the aircraft had descended through an area of severe icing that was probably beyond the design and certified icing capabilities of the aircraft. The build-up of ice had become critical to the point

that the aircraft stalled and went into a spiral dive. The report said that because the aircraft had levelled for those 15 seconds, a build-up of ice probably reached a point where continued controlled flight was not possible. Mr McClelland said "rare and extreme" weather had probably been responsible for a particularly dangerous form of aircraft icing — freezing rain ice. That type of icing could form quickly, disrupting the normally smooth flow of air over the wings and increasing aircraft weight, resulting in a stall. Anti-icing equipment had probably been working satisfactorily. It was reasonable to assume the aircraft's crew had not been aware of the severity of the icing and the rate it was building up on the tailplane and other surfaces out of their sight. "The first indication of anything untoward may have been when the aircraft stalled, by which time recovery was probably impossible," Mr McClelland said. "This accident was the result of an unfortunate set of circumstances. "Without knowing why the aircraft was levelled during the descent, had any other crew been placed in the same situation and had the same information available, they may well have completed the same actions." The investigation had probably been prolonged and limited by the lack of cockpit voice recorder information, and to a lesser extent aircraft flight data recorder information, he said. "The failure of the CVR to record any cockpit communications was unacceptable, but steps have been taken by the operator and regulator to address this subject." The commission recommended that the report into the crash be used to emphasise to pilots and operators the hazards of icing, in particular tailplane icing and the danger of freezing rain. It also wants to see pilots educated about the benefits of transmitting reports from the air on conditions such as wind shear, turbulence and icing. The accident file showed that an aircraft reported a severe ice encounter about 1940 hrs west of Otaki, but did not report it until after the crash. Mr McClelland said the two-person crew on the Convair had been experienced and capable. The flight had proceeded normally until, after passing Paraparaumu during the descent, the aircraft had levelled, then shortly after entered a steady turn to the left. During that time the co-pilot made a routine radio transmission. At the end of the transmission the plane had started to descend rapidly, entering a tightening spiral dive. Flying at about 400 knots, it had started to break up about 2,073 metres over the sea.



GENESIS

London, Sep 10 — A press report, dated Sep 9, states: Scientists with tweezers today picked through the

twisted wreckage of a space capsule that crash-landed on Earth, hoping that microscopic clues to the evolution of the solar system were not completely lost in Utah's salt flats. NASA engineers were stunned yesterday when neither parachute deployed on board the Genesis capsule and the craft plummeted to the ground at 193 mph, breaking open and exposing its collection of solar atoms to contamination. The capsule held billions of charged atoms — a total haul no bigger than a few grains of salt — that were harvested from solar wind on five collecting disks during the 884-day, \$260-million mission. Roy Haggard, who took part in the initial reconnaissance of the capsule, said the capsule's shell had been breached about three inches and the science canister inside appeared to have a small break. The inner canister was flown to the Army's air field at the proving ground and put in a clean room, a work area in which the air quality, temperature and humidity are highly regulated to prevent contamination. The reconstruction was expected to take several days, and scientists were hopeful they could salvage the embedded atoms among the wreckage of the spacecraft. "This is something that's not a total disaster," said Carlton Allen, astromaterials curator for the Houston-based Johnson Space Centre. "We didn't lose all the science in the crash." NASA planned to appoint a "mishap review board" to determine a cause for the failure. Flight engineers said a set of tiny explosives did not trigger the capsule's parachutes, although the fact that all explosives failed pointed to another cause. The spacecraft was designed and built by Lockheed Martin Space Systems near Denver. Robert Corwin, an engineer for the company, said a battery that overheated shortly after the 2001 launch could be a culprit. Scientists got their first glimpse of the damage when the Genesis capsule was wheeled into a garage bay late yesterday. The capsule's inner canister was all but unrecognisable, although scientists thought they saw some unbroken parts holding the atoms. The space capsule had been outside the earth's magnetic shield for three years, collecting solar wind particles that could explain how the sun formed an estimated 4.5 billion years ago and what keeps it fuelled. The atoms were captured on five-foot disks, each with hexagons of gold, sapphire, silicone and diamond. Each collector array was assigned to catch various types of solar wind. The five disks were of different thicknesses, which could make it easier for scientists to put the pieces back together like a puzzle, Wiens said. The disks were so tightly packed within the canister that it was hard to tell how badly they were damaged. Helicopters flown by Hollywood stunt pilots were supposed to grab Genesis almost a mile above the Utah desert and lower it gently to the ground by snatching its main parachute with a hook. However, before the capture team learned of the parachute failure, the speeding capsule had plummeted into the Utah desert.

London, Sep 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Material has been found still intact inside the crashed Genesis space capsule, say Nasa scientists. Experts said yesterday they hoped the mission to gather solar wind particles could still be largely successful. "We should be able to meet many, if not all, of our primary science goals," said physicist Roger Wiens of the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Wednesday's (Sep 8) crash-landing in Utah has been blamed on a faulty battery. The precise nature of the particles could tell scientists how the Sun and the planets grew out of a huge cloud of gas and dust 4.5 billion years ago. Examinations, using torches and a mirror on a stick, revealed that much of the sample canister inside the wrecked capsule had remained intact. The inner canister contained several disks which had been collecting atoms from the Sun. Recovery lead engineer on the project, Don Sevilla, said they had some "serious compromises due to contamination". "However, we do have our collectors and there is science to be gained from this cargo," he added. Earlier it had emerged a faulty battery was one of the likeliest causes for the crash. The battery was designed to detonate explosive charges that would release the craft's parachutes, helping to slow its descent to Earth. It was then supposed to be caught in midair by a Hollywood helicopter stunt pilot. Instead, the parachutes failed to open and the capsule struck the ground at the Air Force's Utah Test and Training Range, southwest of Salt Lake City, at 310km/h.

Product Recalls



BABY CARRIERS, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Regal Lager Inc. is recalling about 49,000 baby carriers because the back support buckle can detach from the shoulder straps, which can cause the baby to fall, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said yesterday. There have been 93 reports to the company of the buckle detaching from the shoulder straps on the Baby Bjorn Carrier Active. There were no reports of injuries. The carriers, made in Sweden, are made of a cotton polyester blend fabric in black with red piping and blue with white piping. "Baby Bjorn" is printed on the front of the carrier and on the black molded-plastic back support buckle. "Baby Carrier Active" is written on the packaging and above the warning label on the carrier. Model number 1-260 is printed on the care label on the strap of the carrier. The carrier, sold for about \$120, was available in specialty retail stores, from catalogs and online from September 2003 through August 15, 2004.

FORD MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 11 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Ford Motor Co. is recalling 234,208 Econoline vans because fires could start if the anti-lock brake unit overheats, the company said. Econolines from the 2003 and 2004 model years are included in the recall, Ford spokesman Glenn Ray said Thursday. Vans made after November 2003 aren't affected. Ray said there have been no accidents or injuries reported because of the defect. Ford believes the chance that the anti-lock brake unit could overheat and spark a fire is extremely small. Even if the anti-lock brakes fail, the regular brakes still will work, Ray said. Customers will be notified of the recall later this month and can have the defect repaired for free. Ford also has extended the warranty on the anti-lock braking system from three years or 36,000 miles to 10 years or 150,000 miles.

FUJI HEAVY INDUSTRIES LTD SUBARU MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd, the maker of Subaru cars, said today it will recall about 23,000 vehicles in its Impreza and Forester models for free repairs over engine oil leaks. The vehicles to be recalled were manufactured between June 2000 and February 2003, the company said in a report to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

ISUZU MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Sep 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Isuzu Motors Ltd. said yesterday it will recall a total of 2,461 heavy-duty trucks due to defects in fuel devices. Subject to the recall are Giga trucks made between December 2000 and May 2003, Isuzu said in a report filed with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

SUBARU MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd, the maker of Subaru cars, said yesterday it will recall about 23,000 vehicles in its Impreza and Forester models for free repairs over engine oil leaks. The vehicles to be recalled were manufactured between June 2000 and February 2003, the company said in a report to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

SUZUKI MOTOR VEHICLES, CHINA

London, Sep 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Chang'an Suzuki Automobile Co, the Sino-Japanese mini car joint venture, announced yesterday it will recall 157,480 Alto cars due to potential fuel pipe problems. The recall represents the biggest of its kind in China in terms of the number of affected vehicles. The move comes as China will officially carry out vehicle recall regulations on October 1. The

regulations were issued on March 15. The affected Alto cars, equipped with electric-injection engines, were produced from September 4, 1999 to March 26, 2004, said Chang'an Suzuki Automobile Co based in Southwest China's Chongqing Municipality. Fuel pipes in the Alto cars will possibly be abraded under strong vibration, the company said. "Any owners of the affected Alto cars can check and repair their vehicles free of charge at Chang'an Suzuki's service stations between September 9, 2004 and March 31, 2005," the company said. The company, jointly held by the Shenzhen-listed Chang'an Automobile Co, and Japan's Suzuki Motor and Sojitz Corp, has applied its recall plan to China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine.

TOYOTA MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Sep 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Toyota Motor Corp said yesterday it will recall a total of 176,372 automobiles in four models to fix their braking systems. Subject to the recall are the Funcargo and bB minivans, Celica sports car and MR-S convertible sports car made between July 1999 and July 2000, Toyota said in a report to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

VOLVO MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE

London, Sep 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Volvo is recalling 460,000 vehicles worldwide because a wiring problem could cause a fan to overheat and burn, the company said Monday. The recall involves S80 and S60 sedans and XC70 and V70 wagons from the 1999, 2000 and 2001 model years, including 150,000 vehicles in North America. The recall is the largest in Volvo's history, company spokesman James Hope said. There have been no injuries related to the defect, which has caused seven reported vehicle fires, Hope said. Hope said a defect in the main cooling fan, which cools the engine, can cause a short circuit and force the fan to keep running. If the fan's motor overheats, a fire could occur. Volvo will replace the fan for free in all affected vehicles.

Port Conditions



PANAMA CANAL

London, Sep 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Principal lock works in the Panama Canal were completed at 0600 hrs, yesterday. The Canal Authority shall now conduct lock works from 2000 to 0600 hrs, for approximately 10 days at Gatun Locks (one lane). This will, however, be spread over a period of time and not run con-

Port Conditions

currently. Currently, Panamax vessel are experiencing delays of two-three days, whilst regular vessels can expect to wait for one-two days. Arrivals have increased in recent days and no

substantial decrease in the waiting time is expected for several days. It is anticipated that 77 vessels will be awaiting transit at 0001 hrs, tomorrow.

SYRIA

Lattakia, Sep 4 — Waiting time is presently 24 hours at Lattakia and five days at Tartous. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Port Delays

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	15-Sep-2004	Coal: 11 vessels due by 20/10; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Brisbane	15-Sep-2004	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 3 vessels due by 30/9; up to 1 day's delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion. Grain: 3 vessels due by 19/9, 2 to load wheat, 1 sorghum; up to 5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Dalrymple Bay	15-Sep-2004	Coal: 3 vessels berthed, 30 anchored; 33 vessels due by 11/10; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability; up to 15 days delay subject to cargo availability and berth congestion can be expected, although vessels with other stems are experiencing longer berthing delays.
Dampier	15-Sep-2004	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 anchored; 8 vessels due by 23/9; 1-6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 12 vessels due by 24/9; 1-9 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shippers will always consider a shift to a lay-by berth for loaded vessels awaiting HW; cargo shortages are evident, delays are anticipated and vessels may berth out of turn.
Gladstone	15-Sep-2004	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 2 vessels berthed, 3 anchored; 33 vessels due by 10/10; up to 3 days delay expected subject to port congestion and cargo availability; Barney Point: 4 vessels due by 23/9; up to 1 day's berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion. Grain: no vessels; no delays expected.
Hay Point	15-Sep-2004	Coal: 2 vessels berthed, 8 anchored; 13 vessels due by 27/9; 1-8 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion. Berth No. 1 will be closed from a.m. 21/9 to p.m. 24/9 for maintenance.
Newcastle	15-Sep-2004	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 41 vessels due by 28/9; Dykes 4+5: 17 vessels due by 28/9; 1 unallocated vessel due 25/9; 1-5 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal and cargo receipt. Grain: 4 vessels due by 22/9, all to load wheat; up to 10 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Adelaide	15-Sep-2004	Grain: No. 27 berth: 8 vessels due by 1/10, 6 to load wheat, 2 barley; 1-7 days delay expected due to berth congestion.
Port Hedland	15-Sep-2004	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 5 vessels due by 19/9; 1-3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 8 vessels due by 23/9; no delays expected; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 2 vessels due by 15/9; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; Westyard "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 6 vessels due by 17/9; a 72 hour shiploader maintenance shutdown will take place from approx. 17/9; 1-2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Due to heavy demand for product, acute cargo shortages are being experienced at wharf stockpiles. Vessels will continue to berth as product becomes available.
Port Kembla	15-Sep-2004	Coal: 15 vessels due by 5/10; CBI: 2 vessels due by 22/9; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Grain: 2 vessels due by 28/10, both to load wheat; up to 9 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Walcott	15-Sep-2004	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 4 anchored; 13 vessels due by 27/9; 1-4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; as a result of a heavy schedule for July and maintenance requirements, it is extremely likely that vessels will berth out of order. In the next few days there will only be one lump re-screening plant available, which will mean not being able to load two lump vessels at the same time. Shippers advise that stores, air freight and crew baggage can no longer be delivered to vessels or taken off at berth. With immediate effect, all stores, airfreight and bags must be delivered/removed by launch.
Portland	15-Sep-2004	Grain: 8 vessels due by 5/10, 3 to load wheat, 1 wood-chips, 3 barley, 1 canola; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Brazil		
Paranagua	14-Sep-2004	Eighteen vessels berthed of which 2 bulk sugar loaders, 4 fertiliser dischargers, 1 reefer loader, 3 pellets loaders, 2 containers, 1 soya loader, 5 other loaders/dischargers; 24 vessels

© Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit 2004 These reports may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photographic, recorded or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Port Conditions

		waiting in roads of which 11 to load (3 pellets, 1 soya, 2 reefers, 5 others), 13 to discharge (4 containers, 8 fertiliser, 1 other); 37 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio Grande	14-Sep-2004	Five vessels berthed of which 1 calcium phosphate discharger, 2 fertiliser dischargers, 2 bulk soya loaders; 8 vessels waiting in roads; 35 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Santos	14-Sep-2004	Twenty-five vessels berthed of which 3 bulk fertiliser dischargers, 1 bulk LPG discharger, 1 bulk salt discharger, 3 chemical products loaders/dischargers, 1 bulk solvents discharger, 3 full container loaders/dischargers, 1 bulk wheat dischargers, 12 sugar loader; 25 vessels waiting in roads; 97 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Sao Sebastiao	14-Sep-2004	Three vessels berthed, 1 waiting in roads; 4 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Vitora	14-Sep-2004	Ubu: 1 iron ore loader; 26 vessels waiting in roads; 16 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	13-Sep-2004	Ten vessels in port operating, of which 4 loading (1 wheat, 1 coils, 1 scrap, 1 containers), 6 discharging (1 containers, 1 trucks, 1 zinc concentrate, 1 billets, 1 iron ore, 1 salt); 5 vessels waiting in roads, of which 3 to load (1 wheat, 1 scrap, 1 empty), 2 to discharge (1 crude oil, 1 coal); 18 vessels due of which 13 to load (2 coils, 2 barley, 1 copper concentrate, 2 equipment, 3 steel sheet, 1 wheat, 1 scrap, 1 ammonium sulphate), 4 to discharge (1 profiles, 1 billets, 1 salt, 1 iron ore), 1 passenger vessel.
Chile		
Valparaiso	14-Sep-2004	Four vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 5 vessels anchored; 11 vessels due this week.
Egypt		
Adabiya	14-Sep-2004	Five vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 1 general cargo, 3 bulkers, 1 tanker.
Alexandria	14-Sep-2004	Twenty-nine vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 23 general cargo, 1 containers, 3 reefers, 2 bulkers; 9 vessels at inner anchorage, 8 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	14-Sep-2004	Thirteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 9 general cargo, 1 bulker, 3 containers; 3 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.
Dekheila	14-Sep-2004	Six vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 1 containers, 5 bulk carriers.
Suez Canal	14-Sep-2004	Nineteen vessels transiting Northbound, 21 Southbound.
Israel		
Ashdod	13-Sep-2004	No labour problems. Three general cargo vessels loading at berth, 13 vessels discharging at berth (9 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 6 vessels loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 2 car carriers); 11 vessels waiting at anchor to discharge (10 general cargo, 1 bulker), 7 vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge (5 containers, 2 tankers); 1 vessel under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 15 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	13-Sep-2004	No labour problems. Six vessels discharging at berth (3 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 9 vessels loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 2 car carriers, 2 tankers, 1 passenger vessel); 4 vessels waiting at anchor to discharge (1 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 11 vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge (10 containers, 1 tanker); 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 19 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Mozambique		
Maputo	10-Sep-2004	Twenty-four hour berthing/sailing. Some restrictions to berthing at certain badly-lit wharves. Vessels have to be geared for general cargo berths as no shore cranes available. The Port is working normally and is expected to remain so, hence vessels should berth on arrival, daylight, draft and weather permitting. No berthing delays envisaged. A shortage of equipment is being experienced (except at the Container terminal). Shed space is currently available. Safe draft for transiting the channel is 9.1 metres plus the tide of the day. Density of water varies from 1.015 to 1.018. Vessels with ramps on starboard side can berth with the ebbing tide. Should ramps be portside, vessels to berth with the flowing tide. Pilot launch is operational. Both tugs are operational. Leading lights are lit. One container gantry is operational, the second is still under repairs. Matola coal terminal is operational. Ressano Garcia, Goba and Limpopo railway lines are all operational. Three vessels are currently operating, of which 1 loading coal, 1 discharging bulk wheat, 1 discharging/loading containers; 1 vessel on stand-by; 22 vessels due by 21/9, of which 10 to load (2 timber, 1 ferro chrome, 1 coal, 3 citrus, 1 gas, 1 aluminium, 1 bulk sugar), 7 to discharge (2 rice, 1 bulk wheat, 2 aluminium, 2 petrol), 5 to discharge/load containers.
Pakistan		
Karachi	13-Sep-2004	Three vessels loading at berth (2 rice, 1 ethanol), 3 discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 1 DAP, 1 HSD), 2 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 fertiliser, 1 chemicals, 1 MEG); no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 3 vessels due (1 containers, 1 coal, 1 MOL), with no berthing delays expected.

Port Conditions

Port Qasim	13-Sep-2004	Two vessels discharging at berth (1 wheat, 1 palm oil), 2 container vessels loading/discharging at QICT berth; 2 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 containers, 1 palm oil).
Poland		
Gdansk	13-Sep-2004	Nine vessels loading at berth (3 coal, 2 general cargo, 2 bulkers, 1 grain, 1 tanker), 2 grain vessels discharging at berth; 9 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 2 vessels waiting in roads (1 bulker, 1 general cargo); 26 vessels due.
Gdynia	13-Sep-2004	Seven vessels loading at berth (4 general cargo, 1 bulker, 2 coal), 2 discharging at berth (1 bulker, 1 general cargo); 16 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 40 vessels due.
Russia		
Novorossiysk	13-Sep-2004	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, all to load, of which 2 crude oil, 1 fuel oil; 3 vessels in roads, all crude oil; 6 vessels due by 20/9, all crude oil.
Tuapse	13-Sep-2004	Oil products: 5 vessels berthed, all loading, of which 1 crude oil, 3 gasoil, 1 naphtha; no vessels in roads; 7 vessels due by 18/9, of which 1 naphtha, 3 gasoil, 1 fuel oil, 1 crude oil, 1 unknown cargo.
Slovenia		
Koper	13-Sep-2004	Port working normally; no berthing delays. Seven vessels berthed of which 1 discharging/loading containers, 1 bulk carrier loading grain, 1 barge loading coal, 3 vessels loading steel products/sawn timber/general cargo, 1 Ro/Ro loading vehicles; 10 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 4 to discharge/load containers, 1 bulk carrier to discharge grain, 1 vessel to discharge aluminium products, 1 vessel to load paper products, 2 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 1 tanker to discharge mineral oils.
Spain		
Cadiz	14-Sep-2004	Fifteen vessels in port of which 8 operating (3 Ro/Ros, 2 containers, 1 wheat, 2 semolina), 3 passenger vessels, 4 vessels under repair; no delays.
Sagunto	14-Sep-2004	Twenty-one vessels in port operating of which 15 discharging steel products, 2 loading (1 steel products, 1 cement), 4 Ro/Ros discharging/loading general cargo; no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays.
Sri Lanka		
Colombo	13-Sep-2004	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Six container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 17 vessels discharging at berth (10 containers/feeders, 3 bulk cement, 1 bagged soya bean meal, 1 steel cargo, 1 bulk pal, oil, 1 Ro/Ro); no vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 containers/feeders, 1 general cargo); 6 vessels dry-docked, 1 under arrest, 1 awaiting orders from principals, 1 at new tanker berth; 8 vessels due (7 containers/feeders, 1 bagged fertiliser), with no delays expected.
Turkmenistan		
Aladja	13-Sep-2004	Oil products: 1 vessel in roads to load crude oil.
Okarem	13-Sep-2004	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, completed loading crude oil; 3 vessels in roads, all to load crude oil.
Turkmenbashi	13-Sep-2004	Oil products: no vessels berthed; 5 vessels in roads of which 4 to load (2 gasoil, 1 heating oil, 1 gasoline), 1 to discharge crude oil; 2 vessels due 13/9 of which 1 to load kerosene, 1 to discharge crude oil.
Ukraine		
Ilichevsk	13-Sep-2004	Six vessels in port operating, of which 4 loading (2 steel products, 1 wood, 1 wheat), 2 discharging/loading containers; 1 vessel in roads to discharge/load containers; 15 vessels due, of which 8 to load steel products, 2 to discharge nickel ore, 5 to load/discharge containers.
Mariupol	13-Sep-2004	Seventeen vessels in port operating, of which 14 loading (6 steel, 3 fire-clay, 3 coal, 1 wheat, 1 sulphur), 3 equipment vessels undergoing survey; 4 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 steel, 1 coal, 2 fire-clay; 74 vessels due, of which 70 to load (33 steel, 19 coal, 11 fire-clay, 1 fire-clay/containers, 1 containers, 3 barley, 2 ammonium saltpetre), 3 to discharge (1 boric acid, 2 equipment), 1 to discharge/load containers.
Odessa	13-Sep-2004	Oil products: 3 vessels in roads, 1 to load fuel oil, 2 crude oil; 7 vessels due by 28/9, all to load, of which 1 LPG, 1 fuel oil, 3 gasoil, 2 crude oil.

Yemen

Hodeidah

12-Sep-2004

Berths 2, 3 and 4 are occupied; all other berths are vacant; 5 vessels berthed (1 bulk wheat, 1 general cargo, 1 steel, 1 corn, 1 containers); no vessels anchored; expected waiting times: general cargo/bagged cargoes: up to 1 day's delay; bulk cargoes: up to 2 days delay; no delays for containers.

Published by Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit, part of T&F Informa plc, Sheepen Place, Colchester, Essex CO3 3LP.

Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit does not guarantee the accuracy of the information contained in this publication, nor accept responsibility for errors or omissions or their consequences.

Copyright © Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit, part of T&F Informa plc 2004. This casualty information is copyright. Unauthorised copying prohibited by law.

ISSN 0047 4908

If subscribers wish to purchase records for networkable or shared use within their company they can contact Andrew Luxton on +44 (0) 20 7017 4625.

Lloyd's is the trademark of the Society incorporated by the Lloyd's Act 1871 by the name of "Lloyd's"

© Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit 2004 These reports may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photographic, recorded or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher.