

October 1 2004

## Truce as Izar freezes yard sell-off plans

**T**HERE were signs of a temporary truce in the Spanish shipyard crisis last week as Sepi, state shareholder of Izar, agreed to freeze plans for radical restructuring of the shipbuilding group pending negotiation with unions.

The development was announced at the end of a five-hour meeting with labour leaders on Thursday and came against a background of further violent protests around the country.

Sepi officials and union representatives said after the meeting that they would travel together to Brussels to urge the European Commission to adopt a flexible approach to the repayment of hundreds of millions of euros in illegal state aid received by Izar.

But by Friday afternoon Spanish finance minister Pedro Solbes had confirmed that the commission had already agreed to stop the clock on repayment until Sepi and the unions reached a compromise on the future of the group.

Both sides will now work on a proposal to restructure Izar in line with European Union competition law, which forbids further injections of public money toward civilian shipbuilding. As part of that proposal they will explore solutions that avoid the individual privatisation of specific yards.

They will also have to agree on a new industrial plan that will see Izar's 11,000-strong workforce cut down to realistic levels that properly reflect the group's future prospects.

Sepi had intended to split military and civilian activity at the group, keeping four yards for defence work under a new publicly owned company and seeking private investors for the remaining facilities.

Although the mood after last week's meeting was optimistic Sepi remained adamant that splitting the business lines at Izar was vital in order to safeguard as many jobs as possible.

That view was reinforced on Friday by the Spanish finance minister.

"If there is any other alternative that could be accepted by Brussels and would allow us to go further, we will move in that direction," Mr Solbes said.

"But while there is no other alternative, we have to work along the lines defined in the plan now on the table."

One alternative that has gained momentum in recent days and is in line with the move to separate business segments at Izar is to hammer out a proposal that will establish a single part-privatised

business for the civilian yards left out of the new defence company.

The unions remain fundamentally opposed to the segregation but have signalled that they could be swayed as long as the civilian yards are kept together.

They could also agree to private investment in the latter company as long as the state retained a controlling stake.

Whether or not private investors can be found for such a venture is a question that remains to be answered, however.

Even so, the assessments from both sides last week were positive and reflected a fresh, conciliatory climate for negotiations/

"We have established a common starting point," said a spokesman for Sepi.

A spokesman for leading union UGT concurred. "The negotiations have changed direction," he said.

Both spokesmen expressed the hope that the latest agreement would help to ease tension in the yards, which have witnessed chaotic scenes during demonstrations in the course of the past week.

**Brian Reyes**  
Lloyd's List Correspondent

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
ANGLIAN EARL	tug	BRB	NV	2,311	2,499	1987	Arrived Falmouth in tow Sep 19 due to rope becoming wrapped around propeller while assisting general cargo <i>Maanav Star</i> . Drydocked Sep 21.
APOLLO	fishing	GBR	(NV)	246	200	2001	Windows of wheelhouse smashed by huge waves and lost steering while fishing off Rossaveal, Co Galway, Sep 21.
DELTA RANGER	tug	USA	—	92	—	1995	Grounded in Oregon Inlet, North Carolina, Sep 19, while pushing dredger <i>Beachbuilder</i> , due to Hurricane "Ivan". Refloated Sep 20 and proceeded to dry dock in South Carolina for repairs.
FAGERVIK	general	ATG	GL	2,050	3,254	1980	Reported abandoned and adrift in lat 53 46.2N, long 05 48E, Sep 21 after developing list due to deck cargo shifting. Towed to Eemshaven Sep 22.
MARTE	lpg	ITA	(RI)	2,709	2,700	2004	Reported Sep 20 lost engine power in lat 60 45.3N, long 04 40.2E, and drifting towards shore. Taken in tow by tugs <i>Ajax</i> and <i>Boxer</i> and being towed to open sea. Subsequently towed to Sloevag Sep 20 for investigation.
MIRABELLA V	yacht	IOM	NV	1,003	66	2004	Grounded near entrance to Beaulieu sur Mer harbour Sep 16. Also experiencing hydraulic problems. Some damage sustained. Freed from beach Sep 18 and proceeding La Ciotat for drydocking. In dock near Marseilles Sep 21.
NIRINT CHAMPION	general	BHS	NV	6,714	8,734	1999	Reported Sep 21 vessel had sustained main engine damage about 70 miles off Terceira Island and under tow of tug <i>O Bravo</i> , bound Ponta Delgada for repairs.
RYAN'S COMMANDER	fishing	CAN	—	129	—	—	Declared Mayday Sep 19, reporting taking water off Cape Bonavista, Newfoundland, in lat 48 42.21N, long 52 58.24W. Crew abandoned vessel, which subsequently sank. Four of the 6 crew rescued.
SRI MUANG THONG 3	trawler	THA	—	—	—	—	Struck by unknown vessel about 30 nautical miles off Prachuab Khirikhan Province, Gulf of Thailand, Sep 22. Capsized. Twenty-five of the 40 crew rescued.
TOSCA	general	BEL	—	—	1,387	—	Struck by inland general cargo <i>Octopussy</i> Sep 12 while moored at Sluiskil. Broke moorings and struck a number of other vessels. Damage to bow and stern. At shipyard Sep 21 for repairs, ETC end September.
VIKING VICTOR	standby safety vessel	GBR	NV	536	160	1969	Had fire break out 20 miles east of Aberdeen in lat 57 16N, long 01 31W, Sep 16. Internal firefighting systems attempting to keep blaze under control. Crew winched off. Taken in tow Sep 17 but sank in about lat 57 52N, long 02 59W, Sep 19.

# CONTENTS

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

<b>Marine, including Overdue &amp; Missing Vessels</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Seizures &amp; Arrests</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Pipeline Accidents</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Pollution</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Weather &amp; Navigation</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Earthquakes</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Volcanic Activity</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Political &amp; Civil Unrest</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Kidnappings</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Labour Disputes</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Awards &amp; Settlements</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Railway Accidents</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Fires &amp; Explosions</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Aviation</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Product Recalls</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Port Conditions</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Port Conditions charts</b>	<b>37</b>

© 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



## Marine

### A-397 (U.S.A.)

Troy, Michigan, Sep 18 — Bar Point Light D-33 was destroyed when it was apparently struck by tug *Karen Andrie* and barge A-397, at around 0615, Sep 11. Area residents reported an initial explosive sound followed by what was most likely the shriek of steel as the vessel backed off the light. The structure once rose 45 feet above the water. The Canadian Coast Guard placed a temporary beacon soon after the accident and has been surveying the area for the location of debris. Although no report has officially been issued, reports indicate A-397 and *Karen Andrie* have been at the Toledo Shipyard, with the barge undergoing repairs to bow damage, ever since then. — Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping News.

### ANGLIAN EARL (Barbados)

London, Sep 21 — According to Falmouth Pilots anchor handling tug/supply *Anglian Earl* (2311 gt, built 1987) arrived Falmouth in tow Sep 19. Also understood the vessel is to enter Dry Dock No.3, Falmouth, at 1915, today. (Note — Understood *Anglian Earl* was towed to Falmouth with a tow wire around its propeller which happened while assisting grounded general cargo *Maanav Star* Sep 16.) (See also *Maanav Star*.)

Falmouth, Sep 22 — Anchor handling tug/supply *Anglian Earl* arrived Falmouth at 1800, Sep 19 in tow of tug *Multratug 7* from Folkestone and berthed Queens Wharf, Falmouth Docks. Vessel has a rope in its propeller. The tug was moved to No. 3 dry dock at 2000, Sep 21 for further examination. — Lloyd's Agents.

### ANJA-C. (U.K.)

London, Sep 21 — General cargo *Anja-C.* sailed Cowes Sep 7.

### APOLLO (U.K.)

London, Sep 22 — A press report, dated Sep 21, states: Scottish fishing *Apollo* (246 gt, built 2001), which had the windows of its wheelhouse smashed by huge waves while fishing off the west coast, is being towed into Rossaveal Harbour in Co Galway. The 80-foot steel-hulled trawler was about 90 miles North West of Loop Head in Co Clare when it ran into gale force winds and high seas. The boat lost its steering power for several hours but managed to regain it as the crew of four boarded up its windows and secured the wheelhouse.

London, Sept 22 — Following received from Dublin MRCC, timed 0930, UTC: Fishing *Apollo* arrived Rossaveal and tied up alongside at 1240, UTC, yesterday. The vessel regained steering 1537, UTC, Sept 20 but was eventually escorted into Rossaveal by fishing *Shauna Ann*.

### APOSTOLOS P. (Greece)

London, Sep 20 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Ferry *Apostolos P.* (836 gt, built 1967), with 95 passengers on board, sustained damage to the port main-engine while sailing from Angistri to Aegina at 1745, Sep 19. The vessel continued the voyage on one engine arriving at Aegina at 1810. The passengers with destination Piraeus were forwarded on passenger ro/ro's *Apollon Hellas* and *Nefeli*. *Apostolos P.* was permitted to perform one voyage to Piraeus without passengers, in order to carry out repairs.

### ARATERE (New Zealand)

Wellington, Sep 22 — A report, dated Sep 17, states: About 20 litres of pesticide spilled on to the vehicle deck of ro/ro *Aratere* (12596 gt, built 1998) after a container burst early today, the Fire Service said. The container was on a truck on the ferry, which was at the Wellington terminal when the incident happened, Fire Service central communications spokesman David Meikle told NZPA. The ferry's captain made an emergency call to the Fire Service just before 0630 hrs. About 10 fire appliances and firefighters in full protective gear were dealing with the spill, Mr Meikle said. He understood no one had been injured and that none of the pesticide had escaped into the water. A Toll New Zealand spokeswoman told NZPA the ferry had left Picton at 0200 hrs with only freight on board. The spill had happened while vehicles were being unloaded at Wellington. As a result of the spill, a morning freight run from Wellington to Picton had been cancelled, and passengers booked to sail from Picton to Wellington on the 1000 hrs sailing would be transferred to the Lynx fast ferry service. — Lloyd's Agents.

Wellington, Sep 22 — A report, dated Sep 17, states: Emergency services have finished clearing up a serious chemical spill on ro/ro *Aratere*. A truck leaked the herbicide, paraquat onto the vehicle deck. The Wellington Fire Service says the situation is under control and chemicals did not leak into the water. Interisland line marketing manager Peter Monk says the major concern was the safety of passengers. He says passengers who were affected today have been moved to another ferry. — Lloyd's Agents.

### ATLANTIS CHARM (Cyprus)

See "Brittany, France" under "Pollution."

### BAHLAWAN (Syria)

Aleppo, Sep 23 — Our Lattakia office have reported that general cargo *Bahlawan* is still stranded. They have learned that the vessel has been sold for refloating and inside a week the transfer of ownership formalities will be carried out. — Lloyd's Agents.

### BANGLAR SHOURABH (Bangladesh)

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

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



**BEACHBUILDER (U.S.A.)**

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

**CAPE BANKS (Germany)**

Mersin, Sep 20 — Chemical/oil carrier *Cape Banks* commenced discharge of cargo at 2340, local time, Sep 19. The discharging operation still continues and is expected to be completed tomorrow night. — Lloyd's Agents.

Mersin, Sep 23 — Discharging operation of the chemical/oil carrier *Cape Banks* at Mersin was completed at 1128, yesterday. Vessel departed at 1748 hrs. The tanker's next port is Tutunciftlik for loading 20,000 tonnes Naphtha. As per information gathered from the vessel's agent, according to the underwater pictures and controls there is no serious damage to the bottom of the vessel. There are some paint scratches certified by German Class Lloyd's. — Lloyd's Agents.

**CAPO MANUELA (Italy)**

Rijeka, Sep 22 — Lpg *Capo Manuela* is still at Sibenik. The vessel is detained by shiprepairers due to their financial requests. It is their intention to sell the vessel for its scrap value. — Lloyd's Agents.

**CMA CGM AEGEAN (Liberia)**

London, Sep 17 — C.c. *CMA CGM Aegean* was reported passing Istanbul at 1635 hrs, Sep 15, on passage Syros for Novorossiysk.

**CMA CGM MOZART (French Southern Territories)**

Maassluis, Sep 17 — C.c. *CMA CGM Mozart* arrived Hamburg Sep 16 and sailed same day for Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**COMMODORE (Netherlands)**

London, Sep 17 — Chem.tank *Commodore* completed repairs and sailed from De Schroef BV Shipyard in Sluiskil on Sep 15.

**CRISTOFORO COLOMBO (Belgium)**

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Fuel from two damaged tanks of the hopper dredger *Cristoforo Colombo* is being pumped out. The vessel ran aground during a storm at the southwestern part of Sakhalin Island on Sep 8, about 50m from the town of Kholmsk. Petroleum has stopped leaking from the vessel. A double boom defence has been set up around the vessel to prevent the nearly 200 metric tons of crude and diesel from entering the Gulf of Tatar. Oil slicks on the surface of the water are being removed with absorbing substances. Specialists from the Sakhalin emergency and rescue department are working on the vessel. A voluntary student group from Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk is helping in the cleanup of the 5km part of the shore polluted by oil. Ecological groups from the Kholmsk youth associations are also helping cleanup. Local residents and workers at nearby companies are helping the specialists because the headquarters asked help. Everyday, about 100 people are involved in the cleanup.

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated Sep 18, states: Today, engineers in the port of Kholmsk finished mounting a pipeline on board the damaged hopper dredger *Cristoforo Colombo* to pump out the fuel still remaining in the vessel's tanks, an official of the emergency centre set up to deal with the crisis said. Oil and diesel fuel will be pumped out either to the shore or to another vessel, the official said. Yesterday, the oil products still held in the ship's two damaged tanks were pumped out into its other tanks that remained intact after *Cristoforo Colombo* had run aground last week. The decision to pump out the remaining fuel was taken to avoid the risk of additional pollution of the harbour likely to occur when work starts shortly to take *Cristoforo Colombo* off the rocks, the official said. Engineers of the Sakhalin emergency and rescue centre are currently working onboard the vessel. They are to seal up major holes in the ship's bottom.

London, Sep 21 — Understood salvage services are being rendered to hopper dredger *Cristoforo Colombo* by salvors Smit Singapore Pte Ltd/Sakhalin Salvage Co, under Lloyd's Open Form, dated Sep 9.

London, Sep 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Two-metre waves have cast a 115-metre-long barge onto the western coast of Sakhalin near the settlement of Bolshevik. The barge of about 1,000-tonne cargo capacity was brought from Korsakov to the port of Kholmsk where it was to be loaded with equipment from hopper dredger *Cristoforo Colombo*. But the storm in the Tatar Strait yesterday changed the plans. Specialists hoped to facilitate the operation to set the dredger afloat by removing the heavy equipment. At present, the operation is postponed indefinitely. The barge incident occurred on Sep 21, an officer on duty at the Sakhalin sea rescue centre, Igor Pampurin, said. Rescuers now have the two vessels to be removed from the stones. No people were on board the barge. It has no fuel tanks, and so there is no fuel leakage threat.

**DEEPSEA NAUTILUS (Panama)**

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

**DEEPWATER NAUTILUS (Panama)**

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

**DELTA RANGER**

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

**DELTA RANGER (U.S.A.)**

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

**DWEEP SETU (India)**

Kochi, Sep 22 — Passenger ro/ro *Dweep Setu* is still undergoing its annual drydocking at Kochi Shipyard. The local agents say the vessel is likely to leave in another eight to 10 days. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ENSCO 25**

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

**ENSCO 64 (U.S.A.)**

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

**FAGERVIK (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Sep 21 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0700, UTC: General cargo *Fagervik* (2050 gt, built 1980), Kalmar for Shoreham, seven crew, listing due deck cargo shifting, crew abandoned and vessel reported adrift in lat 53.46.2N, long 05 48E at 0700, UTC. Tugs are proceeding and due on scene in four-to-five hours. (Note — *Fagervik*, Kalmar for Shoreham, passed Brunsbuttel W at 1139, Sep 20.)

London, Sep 21 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1626, UTC: General cargo *Fagervik* has been taken in tow by tug *Waker*, bound Eemshaven. Position at 1625, UTC, lat 53 44.4N, long 06 12.5.

London, Sep 21 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 2035, UTC: General cargo *Fagervik* has several tugs on scene. It is under tow at 2.4 knots and no ETA at Eemshaven presently predicted.

London, Sep 22 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0715, UTC: General cargo *Fagervik* is currently three miles from the port of Eemshaven. ETA 0900, UTC.

London, Sep 22 — Understand salvage services are being rendered to general cargo *Fagervik* by Wijsmuller Salvage BV under Lloyd's Open Form.

London, Sep 22 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1010, UTC: General cargo *Fagervik* arrived Eemshaven 1000, UTC.

**FAIRWEATHER (U.S.A.)**

London, Sep 22 — A press report, dated Sep 21, states: The Alaska passenger ro/ro *Fairweather* (3424 gt) has been taken out of service after clipping a pier and cutting the lines of a moored cruise ship yesterday, state and Coast Guard officials said. *Fairweather* was departing Skagway just after noon in 25-knot winds, according to the Coast Guard Command Centre in Juneau. Skagway's port manager told the Coast Guard the ferry clipped a mooring dolphin on the pier just before severing the cruise ship's mooring lines. No injuries were reported, and there was no metal-to-metal contact between the vessels. Longshoremen ran new moorings from the cruise ship. The Marine Safety Office will investigate the incident, the Coast Guard said. The Department of Transportation said *Fairweather* will be out of service until further notice. Ferry-schedule adjustments will be made by the Alaska Marine Highway System. The \$40 million, 235-foot *Fairweather* began service in Southeast Alaska earlier this year. It can carry 250 passengers and 35 vehicles and has been operating between Juneau, Skagway, Haines and Sitka. Travelling from Bridgeport, Conn., to Alaska in March, *Fairweather* stopped in Acapulco, Mexico, because of

a malfunctioning engine computer. Since then, one of its four engines has had to be replaced because improperly installed parts allowed water into the exhaust system.

London, Sep 23 — A press report, dated Sep 22, states: Passenger ro/ro *Fairweather* slammed into three stern lines of a cruise ship docked in Skagway on Tuesday (Sep 21) and also may have hit a mooring dolphin, leaving cracks in the side of the vessel. The accident did not result in any injuries on either vessel. The Alaska Marine Highway System said *Fairweather* has returned to Juneau for an investigation, but the damage it sustained will put it out of service until further notice. "We will investigate to determine how it happened, and take steps to make sure it doesn't happen again," said Tom Briggs, deputy commissioner for the state Department of Transportation, in a brief press release issued Tuesday. The accident happened just after noon as the vessel left Skagway, said Jim Robertson, executive officer of the Marine Safety Office for the US Coast Guard in Juneau. The vessel made contact with three of five stern lines of a moored cruise ship, severing the lines, according to a press release issued by ferry officials Tuesday evening. Transportation spokesman John Manly said he is uncertain which cruise ship was involved in the accident. Department officials also said *Fairweather* might have rammed into one of the mooring dolphins of the Skagway dock. The accident created cracks in a bulkhead at the bow and in a seam of the aluminum plating about 15 to 20 feet above the waterline, the press release said. No damage occurred below the waterline. Manly said it is uncertain how big the crack is, adding that there is no estimate yet to the damage. "We don't know exactly what happened," he said. "We'll have to have some interviews with people onboard and on the bridge." He said the vessel is scheduled for overhaul in October, when the state has tentative plans to replace a malfunctioning engine that broke down earlier this month.

#### **FJORD ICE (Malta)**

Ymuiden, Sep 16 — Wijismuller Salvage B.V. and Roda Bolaget earlier this morning refloated the reefer, not ro/ro, *Fjord Ice*. Roda Bolaget and Wijismuller Salvage B.V. were contracted instantly on LOF 2000 terms to assist and staff were sent in immediately from Sweden and The Netherlands. SvitzerWijismuller tug *Frigga* was sent in from Denmark as well to support the Roda Bolaget tug operations in Sweden. Upon arrival of the team on board and the tug on site actions were taken instantly to control the situation and plan for further action. Deteriorating weather overnight with 35-knot winds forced salvors to take immediate corrective action which resulted in the casualty being refloated at about 0320 today by the salvage team and *Frigga*. The vessel then was anchored offshore. The vessel was subsequently later in the morning brought into the port of Malmo, where a

diving survey was executed based on which the vessel was re-delivered to the owners at 1600, local time, today.

Malmo, Sep 20 — Ro/ro *Fjord Ice* berthed at Malmo harbour at 1000, local time, Sep 16. Divers inspected the bottom and big damage at the bottom forward was noted, but no oil leakage. The vessel will proceed to Fredericia, Denmark, for discharging cargo of frozen fish and then drydock at the yard. According to the police there was not any alcohol involved. The vessel left Malmo at 0100, local time, Sep 17. ETA at Fredericia, is 2100, local time, Sep 17. — Lloyd's Agents.

Gothenburg, Sept 20 — Ro/ro *Fjord Ice*: As the result of the diving survey it was confirmed vessel was holed in bulb and bottom tank No.3, also some distortions to bow-thruster. Class, DNV, attended and agreed vessel to proceed to Fredericia for repairs, with tug assistance. Vessel left Malmo am Sept 17 and is at present under repair at yard. — Westax Marine Services AB.

#### **FLINTERZEE (Netherlands)**

London, Sep 22 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1010, UTC: General cargo *Flinterzee* (4368 gt, built 1997), PCCI, cargo steel plates/coils, reported broken down due engine problems in lat 53 44.8N, long 06 03.3E, at 0934, UTC. Vessel advised to drop anchor. (Note — *Flinterzee* sailed Gdynia Sep 20 for Antwerp and passed Brunsbittel Sep 21.)

London, Sep 22 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1110, UTC: General cargo *Flinterzee* was reported underway at 1057, UTC, understood bound for Antwerp.

#### **FLYING DOLPHIN IV (Greece)**

London, Sep 21 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Hydrofoil *Flying Dolphin IV* (142 gt, built 1976) while sailing to Piraeus sustained damage to the port main engine during the afternoon Sep 19. Following the incident vessel continued to Piraeus on one engine but following the arrival was prohibited to depart pending inspection of the repairs.

#### **FU KUO HSIN NO.7 (Panama)**

Yokohama, Sep 21 — The Nippon Salvage Co Ltd commenced refloating operations to bulk *Fu Kuo Hsin No.7* on Sep 9 and refloated the vessel on Sep 19 after temporary repairs. *Fu Kuo Hsin No.7* has anchored off Kochi. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **GALACTICA 001 (Canada)**

London, Sep 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Just three days before it sank mysteriously yesterday, passenger *Galactica 001* (67 gt, built 1957) had taken partiers on a four-hour trip on its first cruise in two years. The 47-year-old charter boat, estimated to be valued at about \$560,000, had been out of commission for the past two years while it was being renovated, said owner Jozef Jagelka, 48. Renovations had been completed by the end of August. No one was on board when it sank. Now, as port officials try to get the boat out of the water before any

environmental damage occurs, marine authorities will be investigating the cause of the sinking. "It could take a matter of hours to bring it to the surface," said Angus Armstrong, harbour-master for the port authority. The recovery operation continues today. The 27-metre boat had been docked near the Redpath Sugar plant when an employee there noticed the vessel taking on water at 0130 yesterday, said Sergeant Brian Dickson of the Toronto police marine unit. It took more than an hour to sink. "We were pumping the water out coming in. Unfortunately it was a losing battle and the boat sank," he said. Transport Canada and the federal transportation safety board will monitor the retrieval and launch an investigation to determine why the charter vessel sank, said Tara Wilkins, of the marine branch of Transport Canada. *Galactica 001* had just gone on its first cruise in two years last Saturday, "a private party of 60 people," said Jagelka. He estimates it will cost about \$150,000 to bring the boat up. The boat is insured. The next cruise was scheduled a week from now. with 20 more slated for October and November, he said.

#### **GECO SAPPHIRE (Panama)**

Gdynia, Aug 31 — Research *EDT Protea*, ex *Geco Sapphire*, is still in the repair yard at Gdynia. — Correspondent.

#### **GLOBAL FREIGHTER (Finland)**

Turku, Sep 22 — Ro/ro *Global Freighter* (13145 gt, built 1977), in regular service between Finland and Germany, grounded in lat 60 13.48N, long 21 42 82E, outside Lovskar in Turku Archipelago at approximately 2309, Sep 21. According to the Coastguard the vessel was near to capsizing after grounding, but the crew were able to divert the vessel to shallow water. At the time of the incident, there were 29 persons onboard. Sixteen have been taken off during the night. Rescue efforts are still going on but currently there is no risk of the vessel sinking. The reason for grounding is not known. — Lloyd's Agents.

Helsinki, Sep 22 — Ro/ro *Global Freighter* touched ground yesterday evening close to Nauvo, Finland. The 155 metre vessel subsequently grounded in order to prevent sinking. According to the information given five passengers and 11 crew members were evacuated. Thirteen crew members are still on board. A small amount of oil has leaked into the sea which is being collected by oil protection vessel *Halli*. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 22 — Following received from Turku MRCC, timed 0950, UTC: Ro/ro *Global Freighter* is still aground with a large hole in the bottom and cannot be moved at present as it would sink if it was refloated. A tug is on scene. Hull repairs will have to be carried out on scene.

Turku, Sep 23 — Ro/ro *Global Freighter*, chartered for Sea Wind Line, was sailing from Turku to Stockholm, with approximately 11 units of trucks and trailers on board, when incident



took place. Lightering procedures will most probably start today, by means of a barge. According to the carrier no damage on cargo as during incident wind velocity only 2-3 m/s. Grounding happened 2255, local time, Sep 21, and VTS and Coastguard alarmed at 2309, local time. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **GODDESS (Singapore)**

London, Sep 22 — Following navigation warning broadcast today: Stranded c.c. *Goddess*, 8890 gt, (built 1997) removed. (Note — *Goddess* sailed Hakata Sep 21 for Iwakuni.)

London, Sep 22 — Following received from Coast Guard Japan, timed 0720, UTC: C.c. *Goddess* grounded in Matsuyama area this morning and has now refloated and proceeding to Matsuyama.

#### **GORDON C. LEITCH (Canada)**

London, Sep 22 — Bulk *Gordon C. Leitch* arrived Hamilton (CAN) Sep 20 from Port Weller and sailed same day for Welland.

#### **GREEN KARMOY (U.K.)**

London, Sep 21 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1835, UTC: At 1830, UTC, ref *Green Karmoy* (5084 gt, built 1989), while approaching Ijmuiden with pilot on board, had complete black-out, one nautical mile in front of the harbour entrance. The vessel attempted to drop anchor, but water too deep to be effective. Vessel presently 1.5 miles from beach. A lifeboat and a tug are on their way to *Green Karmoy*, but, due to very rough weather, uncertain whether a line can be attached.

London, Sep 21 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1915, UTC: The engine of ref *Green Karmoy* has been restarted and the vessel is heading into the harbour of Ijmuiden under its own power.

London, Sep 21 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 2035, UTC: Ref *Green Karmoy* entered the harbour of Ijmuiden at 1919, UTC.

#### **GULF HORIZON (U.S.A.)**

London, Sep 22 — A press release from Horizon Offshore Inc, dated Sep 20, states: Horizon Offshore Inc announced that its ongoing negotiations to collect insurance proceeds from the underwriters on the policy of marine hull insurance, that was purchased to cover physical damage to derrick/pipelaying barge *Gulf Horizon* while on tow from the U.S. Gulf of Mexico to Israel, has resulted in litigation between the Company and the underwriters. The underwriters have filed a claim in the High Court of Justice in London seeking a declaration that they are entitled to deny coverage based on alleged misrepresentations in the company's insurance application. The Company has filed a suit in Harris County, Texas, asserting a claim for the \$28 million insured value of the vessel. The Company also has issued a notice to the underwriters that it intends to seek treble damages for the underwriters' claims handling practices. The company believes the

underwriters' action has no merit and intend to vigorously defend against any avoidance or denial of insurance coverage and to seek recovery of the full amount of the policy, plus damages. In the second quarter of 2004, the Company wrote-off the value of *Gulf Horizon* and related assets and has recorded a receivable in an amount equal to the net book value of \$22.3 million of the vessel and related assets and \$1.6 million of sue and labour and administrative costs that have been incurred through Aug 31, that management believes are reimbursable under the insurance policy in addition to the insured value. Given the early stages of this litigation, the Company cannot predict whether a negotiated resolution of this dispute will occur or, if such a resolution does occur, the precise terms of such a resolution. As a result, the Company cannot guarantee the sufficiency of any insurance proceeds that may ultimately be collected, which may be more or less than the amount of the receivable that is recorded. If it is determined that the recovery will be less than the amount recorded, the company will record the loss in the period in which such determination is made.

#### **HIGH AIM 6 (Indonesia)**

London, Sep 21 — A press report, dated today, states: The mystery of what happened aboard Taiwanese fish *High Aim 6* found floating abandoned with tonnes of rotting fish on board may never be known, with the vessel destined for a West Australian scrap heap. The owners of *High Aim 6* reported it missing in mid-December 2002, several days after the last contact with the captain. The US Coast Guard searched for the 24 metre fishing vessel but failed to find it. The closest they got was a brief sighting of one life raft. The whereabouts of the vessel remained a mystery until it was spotted steaming, crewless, towards the Western Australia coast on Jan 4, 2003. The vessel has been docked in Broome since Jan 10 last year but international efforts to solve the mystery of what happened to its vanished crew have failed. Nothing has been heard from *High Aim 6's* Taiwanese captain, engineer and 10 Indonesian crew since December 2002, when the vessel was near the Marshall Islands, halfway between Papua New Guinea and Hawaii. The vessel will now be junked and taken to Broome tip. Broome Port Authority chief executive officer Stefan Frodsham said "We'll be very happy to see it go. As far as we're concerned it has overstayed its welcome," Mr Frodsham said. "its been a worry for us because of the environmental risks it poses, and also because it does represent a potential marine hazard. "We've got a cyclone season coming up and if it did break away from its moorings, it could cause havoc." Hopes that the vessel would live on as an underwater tourist attraction for divers, or a fish habitat, were scuppered when authorities concluded that they could not guarantee that once sunk, *High Aim 6* would stay sunk. "Normally

these sort of fishing vessels are burnt, but in this case that wasn't appropriate because of its construction," Mr Frodsham said. "So we then spent some time looking at sinking it as an artificial reef, but again that was ruled out because nobody could guarantee that the vessel would stay sunk because of its naturally buoyant hull. Mr Frodsham said there were few alternatives, but when it was noticed last week that hull deterioration had led to a diesel fuel leak from the vessel, its fate was sealed. "It became clear that we needed to move quickly to prevent any risk to the environment," he said. "There's no facility in the region capable of pulling it out of the water so that left us the only option of breaking it up and hauling it to the tip."

#### **HIGH ENDURANCE (Liberia)**

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated today, states: C.c. *Merkur Bridge* that was trying to overtake a Singapore navy (RSN) warship in total darkness along a narrow stretch of the busy Singapore Straits on early Wednesday (Sep 15) morning was in collision with chemical/oil carrier *High Endurance*. No one was injured and no oil spills were reported in the collision shortly after Tuesday midnight at the eastern tip of the Singapore Straits, near Horsburgh Lighthouse, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) said yesterday. The half-laden container vessel, *Merkur Bridge*, had pulled alongside the landing ship tank, *Persistence*, when it had to suddenly veer towards the warship to avoid the oncoming oil tanker, *High Endurance*. After scraping the side of the navy vessel, *Merkur Bridge* slammed into the 183m-long tanker, tearing a small hole just above the waterline. Two fires, which started in the engine-room and a tank with some 46 tonnes of gas oil, were put out by the 24 sailors on board the oil tanker. The 30,000-tonne vessel's main storage tanks, however, were empty as it had just offloaded its cargo in Surabaya, in Indonesia. The agent for the *Merkur Bridge*, bound for Ho Chi Minh City with a crew of 20, said it has yet to establish the extent of damage to the vessel, although MPA said it was in stable condition. All three vessels are still afloat and vessel traffic along the Singapore Strait remains unaffected, the MPA added. Salvage tugs from Semco and Smit International are helping the two Liberian-flagged merchant vessels, anchored north-east of Horsburgh, while the warship returned to Changi Naval Base with just minor scratches to its left side. The damaged tanker is expected to be towed to a shipyard today while the container vessel should make it to port on its own power. A Ministry of Defence spokesman said there were more than 150 personnel onboard the 141m-long warship, which was heading to Australia. Mariners interviewed yesterday said the stretch of the waterway where the collisions took place is a notorious choke point which is hard to navigate even during the daytime because of heavy traffic.

Singapore, Sep 18 — Chemical/oil carrier *High Endurance* arrived Singapore Sep 17. — Lloyd's Agents.

Singapore, Sep 20 — C.c. *Merkur Bridge* arrived Singapore Sep 18. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### IRAN ARDEBIL (Iran)

Aden, Sep 17 — It has been reported that c.c. *Iran Ardebi* was refloated at 0700, UTC today, with the assistance of three tugs. This follows the lightening of a total of 464 containers from *Iran Ardebil* onto c.c. *Thor Sofia*, in three "trips" and onto the barge *Jawazaa*, plus further containers onto the barge *Borneo*. — Lloyd's Agents.

Aden, Sep 20 — C.c. *Iran Ardebil* is presently at anchor off Aden, vessel is expected to berth tomorrow. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### JAMBO (Cyprus)

London, Sep 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Pollution from the wreck of general cargo *Jambo* which sank off Wester Ross last summer has shown no cause for concern, according to a report. The ship and its cargo of more than 3,000 tonnes of zinc sulphide are still lying on the sea floor after efforts to raise it were abandoned. Officials have found no evidence of damage to the marine environment. However, they have called for a three-year environmental monitoring programme at the site. A diving survey for the Department for Transport found that zinc levels in the water and in the sediments around the wreck remain low. Tests of scallops and crabs show there is no risk to human health by eating them. However, the department said it would continue to monitor the area around the wreck very carefully for the next three years. Shipping Minister David Jamieson said: "I recognise the importance of protecting the environmentally sensitive area where *Jambo* sank last summer and that's why the government will continue to monitor the area around the wreck very carefully in the next three years. "The report shows that a great deal of work has been done. "However, it is important to ensure the levels of zinc and other associated metals continue to remain acceptably low and that is why the monitoring must continue." The minister said monitoring and the dive survey showed there was no need to restart the cargo recovery.

#### JO LIND (NIS)

Las Palmas, Sep 20 — Chemical/oil carrier *Jo Lind* sailed Las Palmas Sep 13 for Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### KAREN ANDRIE (U.S.A.)

See A-397.

#### KATERINA (Malta)

See under "Pollution."

#### KEN EXPLORER (Liberia)

London, Sep 20 — Following received from the operators of bulk *Ken Explorer*, dated today: *Ken Explorer* is still aground. Cargo discharge operations are continuing, ETC 20-25 days.

#### LA SUPERBA (Italy)

Genoa, Sep 20 — Passenger ro/ro *La Superba* (54400 gt, built 2002), during berthing manoeuvre, due to heavy weather, bumped against starboard side of ferry *Nuraghes* (36475 gt, built 2004), already berthed at Isola Bianca pier, Olbia, on Sep 17. Minor damage reported to upper decks of both vessels. After RINA authorisation both vessels sailed at about midnight respectively for Genoa and Civitavecchia. — Lloyd's Agents.

Genoa, Sep 18 — Passenger ro/ro *La Superba* arrived Genoa Sep 17 from Olbia and sailed same day. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### LENANEFT 2061 (Russia)

London, Sep 18 — A press report, dated Sep 17, states: At least four people were killed and three more are reported missing after an explosion on product tanker *Lenaneft 2061* (3239 gt, built 1986), carrying 600-800 tons of gasoline and 180 tons of oil, crew of 12, in the Russian internal republic of Sakha-Yakutia in North Siberia, Russian media reports. The explosion took place 2115, local time, during the fuel pumping operation which caused the fire in the engine-room while being unloaded near the village of Yurung-Khaya, on the Anabar River. The reason for the explosion remains unclear. Six people were taken to hospital, four of them in a serious condition. Local residents were evacuated from nearby villages because of the possibility of further explosions on the burning tanker, the local directorate of the Emergencies Ministry has reported. Firefighters arrived at the scene of the blast at 0145, Moscow time. At 0320 the fire was localized and approximately an hour later the icebreaker *Kapitan Babichev* with special fire fighting equipment approached the scene of the incident. At about 0600 the fire was completely extinguished, the RIA-Novosti news agency reports. The firefighters managed to avoid a spillage of oil products into the river, the agency added. The vessel belongs to the Lena River ship line.

#### LUCKY LADY (Malta)

London, Sep 20 — Following received from the managers of crude oil tanker *Lucky Lady*, dated today: *Lucky Lady* has completed cargo discharge and is presently anchored off Cilacap.

#### LUMARE (Netherlands)

London, Sep 23 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1315, UTC: General cargo *Lumare* (2780 gt, built 1998) reported at 0745, UTC, Sep 21 that it had lost part deck cargo of timber overboard in lat 53 19.2N, long 04 30.8E. At 0957, UTC, same day vessel reported losing more timber and had a 30 degree list to starboard. The vessel later reported it had corrected the list and subsequently put into Harlingen at approximately 1530, UTC, same day. Vessel is still in port at Harlingen. (Note — *Lumare* sailed Kotka Sep 17 for Cardiff and passed Brunsbuttel 0854, Sep 20.)

#### MAANAV STAR (India)

London, Sep 17 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1235, UTC: General cargo *Maanav Star*: The refloating attempt scheduled for today has had to be cancelled due to rough weather. It is hoped to try again tomorrow. High tides tomorrow are at 0043, UTC, and 1304, UTC.

London, Sep 18 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1000, UTC: General cargo *Maanav Star* is still aground in the same position. Vessel is expected to remain aground until Sep 28.

London, Sep 19 — Following press release from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, dated Sep 17, states: The Salvage Operation of general cargo *Maanav Star* has been postponed owing to adverse weather conditions coupled with the falling tides. Full security and health and safety measures have been put into place and, unless current weather conditions worsen, the crew will be remaining on board. Although the refloating of the vessel failed this time, a second attempt will be made when the tides are at their highest, between Sep 28 and Oct 1. A full salvage plan has been both formulated and put into place. This will facilitate the next salvage attempt to refloat of the vessel.

#### MARJA (Netherlands)

Ferrol, Sep 20 — General cargo *Marja* arrived at Vigo Sep 17, and was drydocked in Metalships & Docks shipyard yesterday. A repair period of three weeks is expected. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### MARTE (Italy)

London, Sep 20 — Following received from Stavanger MRCC, timed 0745, UTC: Laden lpg *Marte* (2709 gt, built 2004), IBSR, in lat 60 45.30N, long 04 40.20E, has lost engine power, is disabled and drifting towards shore. Tug *Ajax* and tractor tug *Boxer* are proceeding and should be on scene in around 10 minutes.

London, Sep 20 — Following received from Stavanger MRCC, timed 0820, UTC: Lpg *Marte*, cargo polypropylene, is now in tow of tugs *Ajax* and *Boxer* and being towed into open sea, destination not known at the moment.

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Lpg *Marte*, fully loaded, with a crew of 14, was today adrift west of Fedje, on the west coast of Norway, north of Bergen. The ship's engines had stopped, and the anchors were useless in the stormy weather. However, two tugs managed to get the tanker under tow just as the ship was about to hit the rocks. There was strong wind and bad weather conditions in the area, and preparations were made to evacuate the people living on the island of Fedje, for fear that the tanker would explode if it grounded. Two Coast Guard vessels and two rescue helicopters are also on their way towards the tanker.

London, Sep 20 — Following received from the managers of lpg *Marte*, dated today: At approximately 0857 hrs, this morning, the vessel, while on passage from Mongstad to Antwerp, had a loss



of propulsion in lat 60 45.2N, long 04 40.3E, in the Fedjefjord. Following the propulsion failure, the stormy weather conditions began to take the vessel towards the Fedjebaen rocks. The Fedje VTS centre, seeing that the vessel had lost speed on their radar, called *Marte* and asked if assistance was required. The Master, Capt Avenoso immediately requested the assistance of two tugs. Tugs *Ajax* and *Boxer* were immediately dispatched to the scene. As *Marte* was in very deep water, the ship's master identified that the anchors would only be of limited use (dredging) in halting the drift of the vessel until such time as it was in shallower waters. At 0917 hrs the anchor touched the bottom and halted the ship's progress. At 0931 hrs, the vessel started drifting again and at 0935 hrs, the port anchor caught fast and the vessels motion was stopped some 50-100 metres from the shore. *Ajax* put a line aboard at approximately 0950 hrs, and with the second tug in assistance, *Marte* started to be towed to sheltered waters at 1016 hrs. *Marte* has now been towed to the port of Sloevag for investigation. A superintendent of ship manager V.Ships is attending the vessel and will co-ordinate ship and cargo matters. *Marte*, which is a brand new double bottom liquefied gas carrier was delivered in August of this year and is carrying some 1500 cu.metres of propylene. The managers report that they will be investigating the cause of the propulsion failure and wish to thank the local coastguard authorities for their timely and efficient response to this situation. There was no pollution and no injuries among the 14 crew members on-board.

London, Sep 22 — Class society Rina and ship manager V.Ships yesterday began their probe into why lpg *Marte* lost power in a storm and came within minutes of hitting rocky shore near Bergen. V.Ships spokesman Pat Adamson said that preliminary evidence indicated there had been an electrical fault in the vessel's propeller system. The vessel, which was only delivered last month from Italy's De Poli yard, was towed yesterday afternoon to nearby Sloevag, where a V.Ships superintendent will coordinate the investigation.

#### **MARWA M. (Tonga)**

Valletta, Sep 2 — General cargo *Marwa M.* is still laid up at Valletta. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MARY NOUR (Panama)**

See "Cement Dispute, Mexico" under "Miscellaneous."

#### **MECIT KAPTAN (Turkey)**

Istanbul, Sep 20 — General cargo *Mecit Kaptan* (1162 gt, built 1998) has been under repair since Sep 18, completion time unknown. After repairs have been effected, vessel will proceed for Libya. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MERKUR BRIDGE (Liberia)**

See *High Endurance*.

#### **MIKASA MARU**

Yokohama, Sep 17 — A collision occurred between fishing *Mikasa Maru*,

engaged in fishing activities, and general cargo *Wide Pos* (2415 gt, built 1992) at 1245 hrs, Sep 15, in the Sea of Suo, Oita Prefecture. *Mikasa Maru* was badly damaged in the stern area and the vessel's master died after falling into the sea. His body was successfully recovered. There were no injuries reported to the 11 crew of *Wide Pos*. — Lloyd's Agents.

Yokohama, Sep 21 — General cargo *Wide Pos* arrived Sakai Sep 20 from Takuma. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MILAGROS TRES (Philippines)**

Manila, Sep 17 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that ferry *Milagros Tres* reached Puerto Princesa Port yesterday towed by a sistership. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Sep 22 — Ferry *Milagros Tres* is currently in Guimaras Island undergoing repairs. The vessel was towed by a sister vessel to Iloilo and eventually to Guimaras on Sep 19. There is still no expected date of completion of repairs at the moment. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MIRABELLA V (Isle of Man)**

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Yacht *Mirabella V* (1003 gt, built 2004), currently stranded on rocks near the entrance to Beaulieu sur Mer harbour, is this evening reported safe with a rescue plan in place. Latest information is that the wind and sea state has dropped and *Mirabella V* is sitting upright again. Hydraulic failure due to a problem with the pipework had caused the keel to drop although it has been raised again. It is not thought to be a contributing factor in the grounding. *Mirabella V* is now sat on her keelbox and a small boat is in attendance with a line on. A tug is due within two hours. The 206ft explorer yacht *Big Roi* and Roman Abramovich's 282ft motor yacht *Ecstasea* are standing by but not now actively involved in attempting a tow. Some damage has been sustained but the rig is said to be secure. The La Ciotat dry dock is standing by to receive *Mirabella V* as soon as it can be recovered.

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated today, states: As dawn broke off the French Riviera this morning yacht *Mirabella V* was still hard and fast on the shore close to Beaulieu sur Mer. The rescue tug *Nerou* is standing by, it has a line attached to the stricken yacht and divers will shortly inspect *Mirabella V*'s hull and keel. The weather this morning is fair with no more than five knots of breeze from the south and no sea running. If the re-floating of *Mirabella V* is successful she will be towed to La Ciotat near Marseilles where it can be drydocked. According to Tim Thomas, who is watching developments from the shoreline, *Mirabella V* appears to be sitting high on her marks but there is no sign of any listing. "She may have emptied some of her tanks," said Tim. He also noted that *Mirabella V*'s anchor chain appeared not to be sitting in its fairlead at the point at which it exits the hull on the stem. It is also apparent that the keel is

not in the fully up position. When it is fully retracted the top of the fin protrudes through the top of the coachroof and there is no sign of this at the moment, which suggests there is a problem with the lift mechanism.

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A rescue operation was under way last night to free a new £30 million super-yacht which ran on to rocks off the French Riviera. The 246ft long yacht *Mirabella V*, owned by Joe Vittoria, a millionaire and the former Avis car hire chairman, was aground at Villefranche-sur-Mer, near Nice. Five female members of the crew were taken off the yacht but eight crew stayed on board. The yacht, which was launched this year, has a 293ft mast. Rescuers said it was apparently swept ashore by a combination of a north westerly wind and strong current. "The crew must have been pretty inexperienced as the wind was only force two to three," said Dominique Dubois, at the Mediterranean Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Toulon. "With their huge sail up, once they realised they were drifting inland, it was too late." Crews from other yachts made repeated attempts to pull the *Mirabella V* free. One that answered the emergency call, *Big Roi*, twice succeeded in attaching lines but the tow failed to hold. The *Mirabella V*, built by the VT Group in Southampton and said to be the world's biggest privately-owned yacht. The extent of the damage was still unclear last night.

London, Sep 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Earlier this morning yacht *Mirabella V* motored clear of the beach where it has been trapped since Thursday (Sep 16) and is heading for La Ciotat near Marseilles where it will be drydocked to undergo a full condition check. A metal gantry which had been erected on deck last night over the keel box to support the 150-ton lifting keel had clearly succeeded in doing its job. Hydraulic rams had been used to support and possibly lift the keel enough to free it from the rock in which the keel's bulb had apparently been wedged. Paul Johnson who project managed the build of the yacht was overseeing the operation. Tim Thomas, who has been watching the recovery from the beach for the past two days said that a small launch and the yacht's tender helped to "wiggle and wobble" the 247ft yacht off the beach. "It then motored away under its own power," said Tim. The rescue coincided with an equinoctial high tide which provided *Mirabella V* with vital centimetres of water.

London, Sep 21 — Yacht *Mirabella V*, said to have cost around \$60 million, and reported insured for \$40 million, is now in a wet dock in the Marseilles area for detailed damage assessment. The problem is the extent of damage to the unique high-tech retractable keel. The 10-metre deep keel is designed to give the most efficient resistance to heeling over when in its down position, and when retracted to four metres to allow shallow water exploration. It is not known at this stage whether the keel was down or up when the accident occurred. The vessel was delivered



earlier this year by Vosper Thornycroft (VT), Southampton, and was built to Det Norske Veritas and Germanischer Lloyd class, and is Maritime and Coastguard Agency compliant. The vessel is under VT warranty, and a team of specialists from Southampton, already in the area on warranty work, will inspect the stricken yacht. Maritime lawyers will be on hand to assess and advise on liability matters. It is possible, if repairs to the keel prove complicated or lengthy, that *Mirabella V* will have to return to Southampton. Meanwhile, the accident will come as a double blow for millionaire owner Joe Vittoria, the Miami-based charter king. *Mirabella V* was to have been the star of the Monaco Yacht Show, to where it was bound, which opens tomorrow, and where high-value charters might have been arranged. Further, there will be substantial ancillary costs involved since special security will be necessary while the yacht is out of commission due to the expensive equipment, fine art, antiques and furnishings on board.

#### **MISTRAL (Honduras)**

London, Sep 16 — As at Aug 31, product tanker *Mistral* was still laid-up at Bari.

#### **MODS 141**

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

#### **MSC LAUREN (Panama)**

See *Nordbeach*.

#### **NIKOS (Malta)**

Cadiz, Sep 17 — General cargo *Nikos* (1499 gt, built 1981) arrived at Cadiz on Sep 14, for discharge, and is still in port due to a main engine breakdown. It is understood that some water was found mixed with the internal motor oil, so the injectors are being replaced. The work is expected to be completed this morning and the vessel is anticipated to sail tomorrow afternoon. — Lloyd's Agents.

Cadiz, Sep 23 — General cargo *Nikos* sailed Sep 21. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **NIRINT CHAMPION (Bahamas)**

Ponta Delgada, Sep 21 — Reported that general cargo *Nirint Champion* (6714 gt, built 1999) sustained main engine damage in a position about 70 miles off Terceira Island and is now being towed by tug *O Bravo* towards Ponta Delgada, for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Nirint Champion* sailed Bilbao Sep 15 for Havana.)

Ponta Delgada, Sep 23 — General cargo *Nirint Champion* arrived Ponta Delgada under tow of tug *O Bravo* where safely berthed alongside the quay inner port at 0200, local time, today. Vessel arrived for repairs account of its main engine breakdown sustained during its laden voyage from Spain to Cuba. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **NO LIMIT**

Maassluis, Sep 20 — A report published Sep 13 stated that it was proven that the cause of unknown *No Limit* breaking in two was a designers mistake. The parties involved are now

trying to decide who is going to pay for the repair. No repair end yet available. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

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

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

#### **NORDBEACH (Cyprus)**

Durban, Sep 20 — C.c. *Nordbeach* entered dry dock at Durban Sep 20. Repairs are expected to take eight to 10 days. C.c. *MSC Lauren* completed repairs and sailed Durban Sep 18. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **NORTH ISLAND PRINCESS (Canada)**

London, Sep 16 — Reported damage to *ro/ro North Island Princess* is very minor.

#### **NURAGHES (Italy)**

See *La Superba*.

#### **OCEAN AMERICA (U.S.A.)**

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

#### **OCEAN DRAKE (U.S.A.)**

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

#### **OCEAN STAR (Panama)**

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

#### **OCEAN WARWICK (U.S.A.)**

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

#### **OCTOPUSSY (Belgium)**

Zeebrugge, Sep 21 — Inland general cargo *Octopussy* proceeded on journey with minor damage to bow. Inland general cargo *Tosca* sustained damage to bow and stern and is presently at Nieuwe Schelde Werven repairyard, Rupelmonde. Repairs expected to be completed end of this month. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **OVERSEAS MARILYN (U.S.A.)**

See under "Miscellaneous".

#### **PARTNER (Russia)**

Rijeka, Sep 21 — General cargo *Partner* is still at Sibenik. The repairs are underway, however, spare parts have still not arrived and thus the date of sailing is still uncertain. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **POP REEFER (Yugoslavia)**

See *Sea Shuttle*.

#### **PRINCE OF STREAMS (Netherlands Antilles)**

Zeebrugge, Sep 19 — Ref *Prince of Streams* sailed Antwerp 2008, Sep 18, for Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Maassluis, Sep 19 — Ref *Prince of Streams* arrived Rotterdam 0715, Sep 19, from Antwerp. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Maassluis, Sep 22 — Ref *Prince of Streams* sailed Rotterdam Sep 21 for Itajai. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **ROSEBANK (U.K.)**

Maassluis, Sep 21 — General cargo *Rosebank* is still under repair at

Ridderkerk, ETC not yet known. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **RYAN'S COMMANDER (Canada)**

London, Sep 20 — At 2102, UTC, Sep 19, fishing *Ryan's Commander* (129 gt), six miles east of Cape Bonavista, Newfoundland, in lat 48 42.21N, long 52 58.24W, declared a mayday (distress message), taking on water and abandoning, with six persons on board. Vessel is presumed to have sunk.

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Searchers, today, recovered the body of one of two fishermen who drowned after fishing *Ryan's Commander* sank off the eastern coast of Newfoundland. The body was found in rocks at the base of a cliff, after heavy fog delayed initial attempts to reach it. The other man was presumed drowned after he and five other crewmen abandoned *Ryan's Commander* near Cape Bonavista on Sunday night (Sep 19). One crewman was plucked from a liferaft by a Cormorant helicopter. Rescue technicians rappelled down a rocky cliff late yesterday to safely evacuated three others who had drifted to shore in the raft. The coast guard patrol vessel *Cape Roger* remained in the area today, amid heavy fog and eight-metre seas. A Cormorant helicopter, out of Gander, Newfoundland, was also grounded by fog. The shrimp boat ran into trouble eight kilometres offshore, at around 1900, local time. Environment Canada had issued a gale warning for eastern Newfoundland on Saturday (Sep 18). The warning was upgraded early yesterday morning.

London, Sep 21 — Fishing *Ryan's Commander* drifted ashore, capsized on Newfoundland coast. Four persons recovered, one deceased and one still missing.

London, Sep 22 — A press report, dated Sep 21, states: Members of the crew from fishing *Ryan's Commander*, the longliner that sank near Cape Bonavista Sunday (Sep 19), are telling the story about what happened the night two of their friends died and four lived. Don Brown from Sandringham says the 65 ft. shrimp trawler was steaming in hurricane conditions when it rolled over and started taking on water. The six-member crew abandoned ship into a life-raft. Only two were wearing survival suits. Brown says they were in the raft two hours when a Cormorant helicopter showed up from Search and Rescue in Gander, and a technician was lowered from the helicopter on a tether. "They wrapped the strap around me under my arms and hooked me to him. It seemed like an eternity. Finally the cable took me up out of the water," Brown says. Brown was flown to hospital in Gander for treatment of hypothermia and then released. There were still five other people, including Ron Furlong from St. Brendan's, bobbing in the life-raft, drifting towards the cliffs near Spillar's Cove. Three or four hundred feet from shore, the raft flipped over and tossed the men into the water. Furlong was washed in and grabbed for the cliff, eventually getting above the water. He

says he was cold. He was dressed in only jeans and a t-shirt, socks and no shoes. Rescuers pulled two of his crewmates up the cliff, but it was midnight when they finally spotted Furlong. Furlong says it was rough enough that night that if he'd heard he was the only survivor he wouldn't have been surprised. The search for one the man missing and presumed drowned has been suspended due to poor weather conditions. RCMP officers have identified Joseph Ryan, 42, of St. Brendan's as missing and presumed drowned. His brother, David Ryan, 47, also of St. Brendan's is dead. His body was recovered near Spillar's Cove.

#### **SAINT ENOGAT (South Africa)**

Cape Town, Aug 15 — Fish factory *Saint Enogat* (379 gt, built 1975) is currently lying sunk in port. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Saint Enogat* arrived Cape Town Mar 2, 2002.)

#### **SAINT OLIVER (Republic of Ireland)**

London, Sep 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Communities on the Aran Islands and Connemara mainland were last night mourning the deaths of four men who drowned after their fishing vessel ran aground in high Atlantic winds on Friday night (Sep 17). The bodies of three of the men, aged between 17 and 62 years, were recovered yesterday from the sea off Mweenish Island, Co Galway. Their 65-foot trawler *Saint Oliver*, was discovered a mile from the shore, split in two parts with an empty liferaft floating alongside it. One man was still missing last night. Up to 200, along with members of the Garda and coast guards, joined the search at Mweenish yesterday. Congregating at the local cemetery, which has a high vantage point over the sea, they formed into small search parties and spread out along the coast. The families of the missing men waited in their homes for some news of their relatives. The split hull of the boat, which ran aground on rocks, was clearly visible from the mainland as shocked locals shifted through debris from the wreck that had washed ashore. Empty fish crates from the vessel lay scattered along the shoreline. Local people yesterday expressed puzzlement as to why the men put to sea on Friday evening when storm-force conditions prevailed along the western seaboard. The crew were taking the vessel on a relatively short trip from a boat repair yard at Glinsk in Co Galway to its permanent moorings at nearby Rossaveal. They left Glinsk at 1900 and telephoned ahead to Rossaveal, where they said they would dock at 2200. However, shortly before 2200 a signal from the vessel's emergency beacon was picked up and extensive efforts were made to contact the crew by radio. The Aran lifeboat and the rescue helicopter based at Shannon airport were immediately scrambled when there was no response to repeated radio messages. The immediate search operation was hampered by gale-force winds and high seas which battered the south

Connemara coast throughout most of Friday night. Sergeant Ciaran Fitzpatrick, who oversaw yesterday's recovery operation, also expressed surprise that the boat had taken to the water on Friday night. 'It was dangerous enough even driving a car down the road, given the weather. We don't know why they decided to go to sea and we never will now,' he said. *Saint Oliver* went down close to the area where the Spanish trawler, *Arosa*, sank two years ago with the loss of 12 lives.

#### **SCOT PIONEER (U.K.)**

Sheerness, Sep 22 — General cargo *Scot Pioneer* (1587 gt, built 1984), Rochester for Goole, has broken down with engine problems at Rochester and is currently on the lay-by berth at Scotline Terminal, awaiting parts. — Medway Ports.

London, Sept 23 — Following received from the owners of general cargo *Scot Pioneer*, dated today: *Scot Pioneer* on passage Varberg for Rochester developed a problem with the main engine cooling pump. The vessel berthed at Scotline Terminal, Rochester, using its emergency cooling pump, at 0600, Sept 22 with a tug standing by. The vessel sailed for Goole at 1800, Sept 22 after completion of discharge and repairs.

#### **SEA EAGLE (U.S.A.)**

London, Sep 21 — Following received from Coast Guard Kodiak, dated Sep 19: Coast Guard cutter *Spar* is currently conducting a tow of fishing *Sea Eagle* (148 gt, built 1987) from the waters around Amchitka Island to Adak Island in the Aleutian Island chain. *Sea Eagle* is based in Astoria, Ore, and on the great circle route bound for Korea. The Coast Guard received notification from *Sea Eagle's* crew Friday afternoon (Sep 17) that they were disabled and adrift approximately 30 miles north of Amchitka Island. The vessel had lost use of a cooling water pump on the engine. They were unable to anchor the vessel because the hydraulic system for deploying the anchor had failed leaving them in danger of drifting into the island. The vessel with two crew onboard was being hammered by 12-foot seas and 25-knot winds. *Spar* was in port in Adak they have been conducting Aids to Navigation work (ATON) along the Aleutian Chain. The Coast Guard Command Centre in Juneau directed *Spar* to get underway, retrieve *Sea Eagle* and tow it to Adak. The transit to *Sea Eagle's* location took 16 - 20 hours. Fortunately *Sea Eagle* had not gone aground on the island during this time. *Spar* took them in tow and is currently en route to Adak. They are expected to arrive late tonight or early tomorrow morning.

London, Sep 21 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 0935, UTC: Fishing *Sea Eagle*, official No.924174, arrived Adak safely.

#### **SEA EAGLE S. (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Rijela, Sep 20 — General cargo *Sea Eagle S.* is still at Rijeka and repairs are under way. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SEA SHUTTLE (U.K.)**

London, Sep 21 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the morning of Sep 20, general cargo *Pop Reefer* (1785 gt, built 1988), Risan, Serbia-Montenegro bound for Drepano, Achaia, and 93ft ketch *Sea Shuttle*, Turkey for Spain, were in collision while sailing five nautical miles west-north-west of Cape Papa in the Patraikos Gulf. Both vessels sustained minor damages and the 12 crew of the cargo vessel and the six crew of the yacht remain in good health. The Patras port authorities have prohibited the departure of *Pop Reefer* pending the issuance of a class maintain certificate. *Sea Shuttle* proceeded to the port of Messolongi where its departure was also prohibited pending an inspection.

London, Sep 23 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: General cargo *Pop Reefer* was permitted to sail from Patras after temporary repairs had been performed and a seaworthiness certificate had been issued by the vessel's class Sep 22.

#### **SEA TRADER (Malta)**

London, Sep 17 — Ro/ro *Sea Trader*: The transport was due to sail from Antwerp yesterday, however, due to the rudder of the *Sea Trader* being at an angle of 15 deg to port, the transport was cancelled and returned to the berth. Attempts were made to turn the rudder amidships. This morning the vessel left Antwerp locks and it is now on the River Scheldt, being towed by four Union de Remorquage tugs, ETA Terneuzen at 1530 today. The gutted vessel will go through the lock at Terneuzen and will be towed to Ghent, where it will be broken up at Van Heyghen Freres.

Zeebrugge, Sep 18 — Ro/ro *Sea Trader* arrived Ghent 1954, Sep 18, from Antwerp. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **SHINSHO MARU (Japan)**

See *Shoju Maru*.

#### **SHOJU MARU**

Yokohama, Sep 17 — A collision occurred at 0230, Sep 15, 4,600 metres, 174 degs, from Motoyama beacon in Yamaguchi Prefecture between fishing *Shoju Maru* (5 gt), proceeding to Ube and "bulk carrier" *Shinyo Maru* (? general cargo *Shinsho Maru* (3880 gt, built 1998)), proceeding off Ube. There were no reported injuries to either crew. Neither vessel experienced water ingress and there was no spillage of oil. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SOUTHERN MOANA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Suva, Sep 23 — General cargo *Southern Moana* is still in port waiting for a tug to arrive. Understand that tug *Sea Bulk Carol* is expected to arrive Suva on/or about Oct 2. The vessel will be towed to Shanghai Shipyard, China for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SRI MUANG THONG 3 (Thailand)**

Bangkok, Sep 22 — A press report states: Trawler *Sri Muang Thong 3* was hit by an unknown ocean going vessel



about 30 nautical miles off the coast of Prachuab Khirikhan Province in the Gulf of Thailand at 0100, local time, Sep 22. The trawler was stated to have capsized and 25 crew members were rescued, twelve crew members were missing and three were found dead in the trawler. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER (Philippines)**

Manila, Sep 22 — Passenger ro/ro *St. Joseph the Worker* is still undergoing repairs at Keppel Shipyard in Batangas. Further informed that the said repairs are not continuously being carried out, no reason given, and that date of repair completion could not be determined as yet. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SUMMIT (Bahamas)**

San Francisco, Sep 18 — Passenger *Summit* commenced repairs at San Francisco Dry Dock Sep 12 and is scheduled to complete same and depart later today for Vancouver, where ETA Sep 20. — Lloyd's Agents.

San Francisco, Sep 21 — It is confirmed that passenger *Summit* was repaired and left San Francisco as per schedule on Sep 18 bound to Vancouver, BC and scheduled to arrive on Sep 21. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 23 — Passenger *Summit* arrived Vancouver Sep 20.

#### **SUN PRINCESS (U.K.)**

See "Outbreak of Norovirus on United Kingdom Flagged Passenger Vessel" under "Miscellaneous."

#### **SUPERFERRY 2 (Philippines)**

London, Sep 18 — A press report, dated Sep 17, states: Passenger ro/ro *Superferry 2* (11405 gt, built 1973) struck an underwater object off Bogo town last Tuesday night (Sep 14) and had to divert to Cebu City. None of the 807 passengers, from Manila, were hurt. The vessel was diverted to Cebu, where it arrived about 1300 Wednesday. Philippine Coast Guard Cebu station said the vessel left Manila Monday night and was still going to Tagbilaran and then Dumaguete when it touched bottom in Bogo. According to a report received by the PCG, the vessel was cruising in Bogo waters when there was a sudden vibration when it tried to evade a fishing boat. The bottom of the vessel allegedly hit a hard object and it sailed slowly back to Cebu. All paying passengers and 67 non-paying minors were transferred to other vessels to be forwarded to their destinations. WG&A spokesperson Gina Virtucio said the vessel's integrity was still intact but it had decided to pursue drydocking options for safety reasons.

#### **SUSIE (Romania)**

Piraeus, Sep 16 — General cargo *Susie* was refloated yesterday evening by means of tug employed under no cure no pain form, on lump sump basis. No cargo damage was reported. Vessel remains afloat at Achladi and divers are employed in order to check damages sustained to the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SVEAFJELL (Norway)**

Trondheim, Sep 17 — General cargo *Sveafjell* is still aground. Understand part of the cargo will have to be discharged before Taub&atkompaniet AS will make another attempt to refloat the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

Trondheim, Sep 20 — Some of the cargo from general cargo *Sveafjell* was discharged before vessel refloated at 1530, Sep 19, assisted by three tugs: *Tambur*, *Siw* and *Boa Chief* from Taub&atkompaniet AS. Vessel now at Valsneset (Bjugn). — Lloyd's Agents.

Trondheim, Sep 21 — Cargo of general cargo *Sveafjell* transhipped to ref *Green Arctic* Sep 20, which sailed 2200 for Aalesund, where cargo will be discharged today. After survey by vessel's Class and Norwegian Ship Control today, *Sveafjell* will be towed to Kvernhusvik Shipyard, Hitra, probably this evening, for emptying of diesel oil, slipway and inspection. No oil pollution at the casualty site. — Lloyd's Agents.

Trondheim, Sep 22 — General cargo *Sveafjell* arrived Kvernhusvik Shipyard, Hitra, in tow 2100 yesterday. Vessel will be on slipway tomorrow for inspection. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TENAGA LIMA (Malaysia)**

Yokohama, Sep 1 — Lng *Tenaga Lima* remains in port at Yokohama, under repair. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TOM T. (Sao Tome & Principe)**

Bucharest, Sep 15 — General cargo *Tom T.* is still laid up at Midia. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TORM GERD (DIS)**

London, Sep 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Product tanker *Torm Gerd* (30058 gt, built 2002) ran aground yesterday in the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal just east of the St. Georges Bridge. The double-hulled vessel hit bottom just after 1500, local time, while giving way to another boat, said Petty Officer Kim Smith, a Coast Guard spokeswoman. Smith said the tanker was carrying 197,000 gallons of fuel, but none spilled during the incident. Aided by the tugboats and the tide, the vessel eventually made it back to deeper water. (Note — *Torm Gerd* arrived Baltimore Sep 19.)

London, Sep 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Product tanker *Torm Gerd* which ran aground Tuesday (Sep 21) in the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal just east of the St. Georges Bridge, was aided by the tugboats and the tide and eventually made it back to deeper water.

#### **TOSCA (Belgium)**

See *Octopussy*.

#### **UAL RODACH (Cyprus)**

London, Sep 21 — General cargo *UAL Rodach* sailed Houston Sep 12.

#### **ULLA**

Monaco, Sep 23 — General cargo *Ulla* was deleted from St. Vincent registry for unpaid taxes Apr 3. — St. Vincent & Grenadines Maritime Registry.

#### **ULLA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

London, Sep 21 — Diplomatic and legal wrangling continue to plague the fate of general cargo *Ulla* which sank in Turkey about two weeks ago along with its cargo of 2,200 tonnes of toxic ash. Greenpeace campaigners this week held a demonstration outside the Turkish environment ministry to complain about delays in tackling what the group regards as an environmental threat. The campaigners claim that Turkey is taking too long to respond to offers from Spain, where the cargo originated, to help solve the problem. The ship sank earlier this month just as agreement had finally been reached to transport the ash back to Spain for proper disposal. "It's good to know that Spain is willing to help, but both countries have acted way too late on this matter," said Banu Dokmeci, Greenpeace campaigner in Turkey. "Four years is too much time to spend on a clear case of waste trade scandal." Greenpeace divers have collected samples from around the wreck of *Ulla* that will be tested by independent experts to try and establish the level of contamination in the marine environment.

#### **UNION SUN (Barbados)**

London, Sep 22 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1940, UTC: General cargo *Union Sun* (1543 gt, built 1985), Fowey for Antwerp, with a cargo of china clay, has a complete blackout in lat 50 19.5N, long 00 04.0W. Vessel is requesting tug assistance. Tug *Anglian Monarch* has been tasked to stand by.

London, Sep 22 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 2007, UTC: At 1946, UTC, general cargo *Union Sun*, in lat 50 17.7N, long 00 22.3E, 170 deg Beachy Head, 27 miles, drifting easterly at 0.6 knots. Vessel has total engine failure and requires tug assistance, which is being arranged by its owners. Weather in area, wind westerly force 3 (gentle breeze), sea moderate, visibility good.

London, Sep 23 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0715, UTC: General cargo *Union Sun* has been taken in tow by tug *Anglian Monarch*, which has been taken off Coast Guard charter, for Dover where ETA 1400, BST.

London, Sep 23 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1330, UTC: General cargo *Union Sun* is due to arrive at Dover in tow, at 1515, local time, today.

#### **URSULA LEONHARDT (Malta)**

London, Sep 16 — As at Sep 1, general cargo *Ursula Leonhardt* was still at Brest.

#### **VANGUARD (U.K.)**

London, Sep 17 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1300, UTC: Tug *Vanguard*: Hull state: Little change or movement. Pollution status: Two sections of existing boom damaged and in need of repair/replacement. Streaks of light oil present.



**VIKING VICTOR (U.K.)**

London, Sep 16 — Fire has broken out on standby safety vessel *Viking Victor* (536 gt, built 1969), with 12 crew on board, in the North Sea 20 miles east of Aberdeen. An RAF Lossiemouth rescue helicopter and lifeboats from Aberdeen and Peterhead are on their way to the scene. The vessel's internal firefighting systems are attempting to keep the blaze under control. The fire has been described as significant.

London, Sep 16 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 1711, UTC: Standby safety vessel *Viking Victor* in lat 57 16N, long 01 31W, 20 nautical miles east of Aberdeen reporting fire in engine-room. Fire spreading. All crew winched off vessel. Aberdeen and Peterhead lifeboats on scene.

London, Sep 16 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 1945, UTC: Standby safety vessel *Viking Victor* is currently drifting in position 11 nautical miles south-east of Peterhead with smoke still emitting from the vents. Anchor handling vessel *Highland Endurance* standing by awaiting on scene conditions to improve before trying to connect a tow.

London, Sep 17 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 0520, UTC: Standby safety vessel *Viking Victor*: Situation remains unchanged. Smoke is still coming from the drifting vessel. Tug *Highland Endurance* is on scene awaiting better weather conditions and light before salvage operations can be performed.

London, Sep 17 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 0937, UTC: Standby safety vessel *Viking Victor* is now under tow of tug *Highland Endurance*, awaiting final decision on destination port. Latest position lat 57 31.2N, long 01 29.9E, at 0906, UTC.

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated today, states: An oil industry support vessel which caught fire 20 miles north east of Aberdeen is now under tow. Twelve crewmen were airlifted from standby safety vessel *Viking Victor*, which is being taken back to port. Three were suffering from the effects of breathing smoke and were kept in hospital overnight. An investigation has begun into the cause of the fire. The Montrose-registered vessel's own firefighting systems were unable to extinguish the blaze. It broke out at about 1600, BST, yesterday in the vessel's engine-room, as it was making its way from Aberdeen to an oil rig. A Sea King helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth and lifeboats from Aberdeen and Peterhead took part in the rescue operation. Rough weather conditions caused a delay in getting a tow-line on board *Victor Viking*. BUE Viking Ltd, owners of Viking Standby Ships, said: "The *Viking Victor* has now been boarded by crew members of the chartered (tug/supply) *Highland Endurance*, which had been standing by at the location overnight and a line has been secured to tow the *Viking Victor* to a safe haven. Discussions are under way as to which port it will be returned to. The situation on the *Viking Victor*

appears to have stabilised and it is in no immediate danger." Graham Philip, chief executive of BUE Viking Ltd, said the firm would assist with the Marine Accident Investigation Branch's inquiry into the cause of the fire.

London, Sep 19 — Following press release from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, dated Sep 18, states: At just after 2100, this evening, while under tow, the burnt out standby safety vessel *Viking Victor*, which was the subject of a successful search and rescue effort by Aberdeen Coastguard on Thursday evening (Sep 16), sank in 86 metres of water, 10 and a half miles from the Scottish shoreline off Findochty near Buckie. There have been no injuries. The vessel has sunk in open waters and there are no pipelines nearby. The local authority has also been informed. On Thursday Aberdeen Coastguard had received a call via VHF radio at 1600 to report that the 44 metre standby vessel *Viking Victor* was on fire. The crew were dealing with the fire themselves and did not require any further assistance at the time. The Coastguard then requested the Peterhead and Aberdeen Lifeboats to launch and made a broadcast to all shipping. A number of vessels responded and of these the Coastguard requested four to assist and stand by the vessel in case assistance was required. As the fire developed it became apparent that the crew would be unable to deal with it and a decision was made to airlift all twelve crew off the vessel by the RAF helicopter from Lossiemouth and taken to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. One of the crew members suffered from smoke inhalation. The vessel then began drifting in a north-westerly direction. The vessel was tracked by the further stand by vessel *Highland Endurance* throughout Thursday night and by early Friday morning the fire was apparently out and the vessel was taken under tow, initially towards Invergordon at the owner's request. However, as it became apparent that the vessel was taking water and the stern was sinking, the vessel was moved away from highly sensitive ecological and environmental areas. There was also uncertainty about whether the fire was fully out on board *Viking Victor* which would have required a full Fire service team standing by. As the tow progressed the vessel took in more water and by late Saturday afternoon (Sep 18) it had barely a foot of freeboard left visible. A further tug with salvors and owners representatives on board joined the tow late on Saturday afternoon to inspect the vessel from close quarters but by then the craft was virtually underwater and listing heavily and later in the evening it sank. The vessel's progress was monitored throughout by an aerial surveillance aircraft from the MCA. Another flight is planned for tomorrow morning for any signs of pollution from the 60 tons of marine diesel fuel that was on board the vessel. Aberdeen Coastguard has informed the UK Hydrographer and Northern Lighthouse Board of the site of the sinking.

London, Sep 19 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC: Standby safety vessel *Viking Victor* sank in 85 metres of water in lat 57 52.05N, long 02 58.7W at 2001, UTC, Sep 18. The position is approximately 11 nautical miles north of Buckie. No pollution evident. Anchor handling vessel *Highland Endurance* departed scene at 2107, UTC, bound Aberdeen.

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated today, states, A burnt-out oil industry support ship which caught fire off the north east coast of Scotland has sunk. Standby safety vessel *Viking Victor* was being towed into port at Invergordon on Saturday when it became clear it was taking in water. It caught fire on Thursday after fire broke out in the engine-room and its 12 crew had to be airlifted to safety. The ship has 60 tons of marine diesel on board and is now in waters off Buckie. The coastguard said there is no sign of any pollution from the vessel. The decision was taken to move the 44-metre ship away from sensitive ecological and environmental areas after its stern started to fill with water on Saturday. Aberdeen Coastguard said the vessel sank just after 2100, BST, in 86 metres of open water, 10 miles off Findochty, near Buckie, Morayshire. An aircraft has been closely monitoring the sea around the wreck for fuel since it sank. A spokesman for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) said: "The vessel's progress was monitored throughout by an aerial surveillance aircraft from the MCA. "Aberdeen Coastguard has informed the UK Hydrographer and Northern Lighthouse Board of the site of the sinking." The Montrose-registered standby ship caught fire 20 miles off the coast as it was making its way from Aberdeen to an oil rig. A blaze broke out in the engine-room but its firefighting systems were unable to douse the flames. *Viking Victor's* crew were winched to safety by a Sea King helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth and taken to hospital. None were seriously injured. *Viking Victor* was then tracked by another vessel, *Highland Endurance*, until the flames went out and it was taken under tow on Friday. The ship is owned by Bue Viking Ltd in Aberdeen.

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated today, states: The owners of sunken standby safety vessel *Viking Victor* will today consider whether to mount a salvage operation. When salvage experts arrived at the stricken vessel they were forced to abandon any recovery action after smoke was seen onboard and the harbour master deemed the operation unsafe. Ally Fraser, of the salvage team from JP Knight, said: "I sent out a crew to assess the situation but it was very clear that the ship was beyond recovery. It was in a terrible state and nothing could be done. I kept my tug on standby but it headed back into port around 2300 on Saturday night (Sep 18) after the boat finally sank." Fears of an oil spill were dispelled last night by coastguards who said there were no reports of leaking fuel. A spokesman for BUE Viking said: "The prevention of

pollution was our top priority and we're relieved that there was no sign of a fuel spill. We are working with the authorities to find out if there is anything further that can be done to save the vessel. "The future of the ship rests with the insurance company who will decide the best course of action."

#### WIDE POS (South Korea)

See *Mikasa Maru*.

#### WINNER I (Panama)

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



## Seizures & Arrests

#### ACRONEOS (Cayman Islands)

Maassluis, Sep 17 — Product tanker *Acroneos* was released from detention on Sep 10 and departed from Rotterdam at 0240 hrs, Sep 11. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### AFRICAN PRIDE (Panama)

London, Sep 17 — The Defence Minister, Dr. Rabiu Kwakwanso, was quoted a few days ago as saying that the Federal Government was probing how product tanker *African Pride*, a vessel which was arrested last year for alleged crude oil theft, suddenly disappeared in broad day light, while being protected by the nation's security agencies. Likewise, the House of Representatives is now conducting a public hearing on the heist. The Naval High Command is probing the embarrassing security sellout as well, after its helicopters and patrol boats had failed to track the vessel. The Police also say they have contacted the International Police (Interpol) in Benin Republic, Ghana, Togo and Cote d'Ivoire, to help arrest the runaway vessel. President Olusegun Obasanjo had reportedly chaired a meeting of virtually all the stakeholders to ensure that all the 21 vessels arrested for the illegal lifting of crude oil, including *African Pride*, were well-guarded. The meeting, reportedly held in January, was chaired by the President himself. The Minister of Transport, Chief Abiye Sekibo, Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Tafa Balogun, Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Samuel Afolayan and Mr. Funso Kupolokun, Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) attended the meeting. It was there the President reportedly ordered that the detained vessels, which were under the custody of the Navy at the material time, should be handed over to the Police for proper protection. *African Pride* was to be tendered as an exhibit in the prosecution of some foreign nationals and Nigerians held for crude oil theft. The President, it was revealed, also directed the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to clear the 150,000 barrels of crude oil valued at about N20 billion,

which the vessel was laden with. It was reported two days ago that the NNPC claimed it evacuated only 6,499 cubic metres of crude oil from the vessel, instead of 150,000 barrels. NNPC Managing Director, Mr. Funso Kupolokun, said the evacuation took place in the presence of some Naval personnel. But the Chief of Naval Staff had stated that the vessel bore no crude at all. Following the disappearance of the vessel on Aug 17, however, the House of Representatives organised a public hearing this month as part of its efforts to unravel the mystery surrounding the vessel's illegal release. It was at the public hearing that the Naval boss, Afolayan, alleged that the Navy handed over *African Pride* to the Police, in compliance with Obasanjo's order. Afolayan insisted that the Police be held responsible for the missing vessel. The Police IG denied the charge the next day, saying the Navy lied against the Police Force. Indications from Afolayan and Balogun, however, are that the hunt for the vessel is a wild goose chase. According to Afolayan, for instance, it is possible *African Pride* to still remain in business by merely changing its name. Balogun, on the other hand, claimed that the Police came under unbearable pressure from the Ministry of Justice officials in Enugu, who despatched a legal advice to his office seeking the release of some of the detained vessels and their crew, a request the Police IG said he turned down. The strong suggestion is thus made, that some powerful forces might have pulled the strings that facilitated the eventual disappearance of the vessel. It can, therefore, be said with a measure of certainty, that it is final good-bye to *African Pride*.

#### AGIA ELENI (Greece)

Valetta, Sep 2 — Fishing *Agia Eleni* is currently still laid up at Valetta. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### BOKA STAR (Tonga)

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

#### CEM TRADER (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Sep 16 — Following received from ITS, Istanbul, dated today: Cement *Cem Trader* remains under arrest. The vessel is to be sold.

#### DAMANIA-1 (India)

Mumbai, Sep 7 — Ferry *Damania-1* is still alongside dock at NP Dock, Mumbai, under arrest by order of the High Court. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### ELENI (Romania)

Chennai, Sep 17 — The scrapping of general cargo *Eleni* has still been held up due to legal action, without any further development. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### ELLA L. (Panama)

Cadiz, Sep 14 — Chemical/oil carrier *Ella L.* (1830 gt, built 1970), arrived Algeiras Jun 11 2002, is arrested and still in port. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### ENDEAVOR II (Greece)

Karachi, Sep 20 — The Sindh High Court is scheduled to re-hear the case of crude oil tanker *Endeavor II* on Sep 21. The vessel is still under arrest at Karachi Port, according to Karachi Port Authority (KPT) and Partner Surridge & Beecheno, the counsel for M/s Andros Maritime of Greece, which owns the vessel. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Sep 22 — The Sindh High Court has adjourned until Oct 12 to rehear the case of crude oil tanker *Endeavor II*, which is still under arrest at Karachi Port, according to Karachi Port Authority and Partner Surridge & Beecheno, the counsel for M/s Andros Maritime of Greece, which owns it. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### FERROMINA HARVEST (India)

Mumbai, Sep 7 — Supply *Ferromina Harvest* remains at Mumbai, under detention by the Mercantile Marine Department. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### FILIPPOS (Paraguay)

Rio Grande, Sep 20 — C.c. *Filippos* is still under arrest in Porto Alegre. No prospects for release. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### GAGARINSKIY (Russia)

Vladivostok, Aug 31 — Fishing *Gagarinskiy* remains under detention/repairs at Vladivostok Fishery Port. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### GULFBREEZE (Malta)

Maassluis, Sep 17 — Chemical/oil carrier *Gulfbreeze* was released from detention on Sep 11 and departed from Rotterdam at 0205 hrs, Sep 13, bound for Ningbo. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### JOVELLANOS (Spain)

Mumbai, Aug 23 — Cement *Jovellanos*, now renamed *Parvati III*, arrived Alang Aug 17 from Apapa-Lagos, to be broken up. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Jovellanos* was detained at Apapa-Lagos Jun 4, 1996.)

#### KAWKAB (Egypt)

Venice, Sep 22 — The new owners of general cargo *Kawkab* are a company named Salam International Shipping & Trading, Amman, Jordan. The vessel is expected to sail from Venice, in tow, bound for Rijeka, within a short period. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### KRYUKOVO (Russia)

Vladivostok, Aug 31 — Fishing *Kryukovo* remains at Vladivostok Fishery Port under detention. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### MARI LUZ (Panama)

Setubal, Sep 17 — General cargo *Mari Luz* arrived Setubal Sep 16 from Las Palmas. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Mari Luz* arrived Las Palmas Jun 21, 2002, and was arrested in Jul, 2003, with problems when renewing Panama registry.)

#### MEKHANIK (Russia)

Vladivostok, Aug 31 — Fishing *Mekhanik* remains at Vladivostok Fishery Port under detention. — Lloyd's Agents.



**NORTHELLA (U.K.)**

Valetta, Sep 2 — Oceanographic research *Northella* is currently still laid up at Valletta. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ORALAKE (Netherlands Antilles)**

Maassluis, Sep 17 — Product tanker *Oralake* remains under detention at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**OSIRIS (Netherlands)**

Maassluis, Sep 17 — General cargo *Osiris* remains under arrest, at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**OSTWIND (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Maassluis, Sep 17 — General cargo *Ostwind* remains under arrest at Vlaardingen. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**PAVEL YABLOCHKOV (Russia)**

Leghorn, Sep 8 — Cargo/training *Pavel Yablochkov* is still under arrest at Leghorn. — Lloyd's Agents.

**QUEEN CONSTANTINA (Cyprus)**

Limassol, Aug 31 — Passenger *Queen Constantina* is still under arrest at Limassol. — Lloyd's Agents.

**RESHID BEHBUDOV (Azerbaijan)**

Mersin, Sep 17 — Local agents of general cargo *Reshid Behbudov* (3714 gt, built 1977) advise that vessel is still under arrest and there have been no developments regarding its possible release. However, some developments are expected to take place towards the end of next week. — Lloyd's Agents.

**RYBAK VLADIVOSTOKA (Russia)**

Vladivostok, Aug 31 — Fish factory *Rybak Vladivostoka* remains at Vladivostok Fishery Port under detention. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SALEM TWO (Egypt)**

Alexandria, Sep 18 — General cargo *C.H.M.T., ex Salem Two*, is still under arrest at Alexandria port for non-payment of funds to a local company. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SEAGREEN (Cyprus)**

London, Sep 21 — C.c. *Seagreen* is today reported still at South East Lamma Anchorage, Hong Kong, under arrest.

**SEMIRAMIS (Panama)**

Mumbai, Sep 7 — General cargo *Semiramis* remains at Mumbai, under detention by the Mercantile Marine Department. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SENTINEL (Comoros)**

Genoa, Sep 21 — General cargo *Sentinel* is still under judicial arrest at Genoa port. A local newspaper is reporting that the Authorities' investigations have ascertained a possible connection between illegal immigration with terroristic nets and the arrest of the vessel and of its Pakistani Master Amad Siddiqi Shamin, presently detained in Genoa Marassi jail. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SOUTH TOMI**

London, Sep 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Former fishing

vessel *South Tomi*, which was caught three years ago with an illegal haul of Patagonian Toothfish has become Western Australia's newest dive wreck. *South Tomi* was seized in April, 2001, after a 14-day chase across the Southern Ocean, with a catch valued at \$1 million. Hundreds of people packed vantage points around the town of Geraldton to see the vessel scuttled. Clearance divers have inspected the wreck which will be open to the recreational divers in a week.

**STRILBAS (Norway)**

Maassluis, Sep 17 — Standby safety vessel *Strilbas* remains under arrest at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**TRUBCHEVSK (Russia)**

Busan, Sep 23 — Ref *Trubchevsk* was sold to a new Korean owner, Kumchang Industry Development Co., Ltd. on Aug 17. The new owners are now deciding whether the vessel will be repaired or demolished. The vessel's name, flag, call sign, etc. remain unchanged and it remains at Gamman Harbour, Busan, Korea without any fixed schedule. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**VOYAGER (Netherlands Antilles)**

Maassluis, Sep 17 — General cargo *Voyager* is still under arrest at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

## Pipeline Accidents

**DOHA, QATAR**

London, Sep 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A severe water shortage hit several suburban localities of Doha yesterday due to a serious damage to a 1,200mm diameter water pipe near the US embassy on Monday (Sep 20). The shortage was so acute in suburbs like Duhail, for instance, that residents were willing to pay as much as QR300 (£46) for a tanker of water. In areas like Duhail, municipal tankers supply water as there is no pipeline. Normal charges for a tanker of water is QR50, some said yesterday. In a press statement issued by Water Networks Department, Engineer Ali Saif Al Malki said yesterday that supplies to main reservoirs in Al Gharrafa and New Doha (Al Dafna) were seriously hit on Monday after a contracting company was doing some digging work. The digging work was being carried on, on 22nd February Road, near the US embassy and the company workers accidentally damaged water mains. Supplies to several suburbs like Al Gharrafa, Al Rayyan, Laqta, Bin Omran, Merrikh and New Doha were hit as a result. The 1,200mm diameter water pipe that was damaged connects the desalination plant at Ras Abu Fontas to the two above-mentioned reservoirs. The supplies are likely to be resumed as the damage has been repaired, according to a press

statement issued by Nasser Al Mohammadi, head of public relations at Kahramaa yesterday.

**LAGOS AREA, NIGERIA**

London, Sep 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Between 30 and 50 people have been killed in an explosion at a fuel pipeline on the outskirts of the Nigerian commercial capital Lagos, police said. "Between 30 and 50 people were killed while siphoning fuel from a damaged pipeline," Lagos police spokesman Emmanuel Ighodalo said, giving a new toll from Thursday's (Sep 16) explosion at Imore village, a northern suburb of the city. Witnesses had earlier said at least 12 people died in the blast. Mr Ighodalo said no arrests were made. "Nobody was arrested because the victims were also the offenders," he said. Earlier, witness Yinka Adamolekun said at least 12 people killed when a vandalised portion of the pipeline was ignited by a spark from a generator used to power a boat allegedly used by the victims while stealing fuel.

Lagos, Sep 20 — Rescue workers recovered five more bodies at the scene of a pipeline explosion at Imore village, on the outskirts of Lagos on Friday (Sep 17). The charred bodies were retrieved from the nearby lagoon, which had been polluted by the flow of fuel from a ruptured pipeline, which was allegedly tampered with by some unidentified persons. An official of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation told newsmen that the fire was very intense because the pipeline was vandalised at 10 different points. He said this had made it difficult for the fire to be put off by the combined team of firefighters, police and NNPC officials. The valve regulating the pipeline had already been shut, he said, in order to reduce the pressure on the supply line and to make it easier to extinguish the inferno.

## Pollution

**BRITTANY, FRANCE**

London, Sep 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulk/c.c. *Atlantis Charm* (13588 gt, built 1982), Pasajes for Muuga, was ordered into Brest yesterday after a 15-km slick was observed trailing behind it by the French Navy off Ile-de-Sein, at the westernmost tip of Brittany. (Note — *Atlantis Charm* sailed Pasajes Sep 15, arrived Brest Sep 17 and subsequently sailed Sep 18.)

**DURBAN AREA, SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Sep 20 — Information received, dated Sep 9, states: At approximately midday Sep 8, an oil leak developed at a single buoy mooring owned by SAPREF, a joint venture oil refinery between Shell Oil and BP Oil. The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism had immediately deployed its marine anti-pollution



vessel and aircraft to disperse and monitor the oil leak. The Department can confirm that, contrary to various media statements, less than one ton of oil was spilled and more than 90% was effectively dispersed. The oil that leaked is a light Arabic oil unlike crude. Some oil had unfortunately washed up on a nearby beach but this is in the process of being cleaned up. No significant environmental damage is immediately apparent. No marine animals appear to be adversely affected at this stage. The Department's Kuswag anti-pollution vessel and aircraft remain on alert. The Department has today informed SAPREF's chief executive officer that it requires a written report in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998, by 1600, Sep 10, explaining why the leak had occurred, what steps were taken to inform members of the public of any possible harm or damage and what remedial measures are intended. A further detailed report is required in a fortnight. The Department will decide on what measures to take against SAPREF thereafter.

#### **KARNAPHULI RIVER, BANGLADESH**

Karachi, Sep 20 — A seven-member high-powered probe committee, headed by the director general (shipping) Captain Ahsanul Azim formed by Bangladesh Shipping Ministry has alleged that 180 tonnes of crude oil were spilled in the vicinity of Chittagong Port last month from crude oil tanker *Banglar Shourabh*, of the Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC). The findings are likely to be submitted today, according to a local report. An official of BSC told Lloyd's that the Committee formed by Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has earlier submitted their findings. However, because of the dispute with the quantity of oil spilled as well as amount of oil contaminated with ballast water, the government formed this committee on Sep 5 to investigate the oil spill and asked it to submit the report within 15 days. The draft report said oil was first spilled into the blast tank from the cargo tank after developing a leakage in the cargo tank and later was mixed with seawater as the valve of the blast tank was not blocked properly, the report says. It also found evidence that the oil spillage caused marine pollution on a vast area at the outer anchorage and the port channel of the Bay, the report said adding though the pollution didn't put any negative impact initially but it might be harmful to the marine environment in the long run. The draft report held the chief master (captain), the chief engineer and the second officer of the vessel responsible for the oil spill incident. It also placed 10-point recommendations, including proper repair of the old vessels and tankers before loading to avoid such incident.—Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **KATERINA (Malta)**

London, Sep 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The master and two

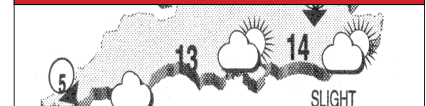
crew members of bulk *Katerina* (16320 gt, built 1983), that arrived at the Port of Long Beach on Sep 10, were arrested this morning on federal pollution charges for allegedly dumping oil-contaminated waters into the Pacific Ocean. A criminal complaint filed yesterday evening in United States District Court in Los Angeles specifically charges the trio with attempting to conceal the water pollution by maintaining log books that failed to note the tainted discharges. The three arrested this morning are: Ioannis G. Kallikis, of Greece, who was the master of *Katerina*; Edgardo A. Guinto, of the Philippines, the chief engineer and Rolan P. Sullesta, of the Philippines, the second engineer on the vessel. All three defendants are scheduled to make their initial court appearances this afternoon in federal court in downtown Los Angeles. *Katerina*, which was carrying steel products, berthed on Sep 14. According to the affidavit in support of the criminal complaint, crew members contacted dock workers and reported that they had been directed to throw trash, as well as to discharge sewage and oil, into the ocean. A transport workers union representative contacted the Coast Guard and asked for an inspection of the vessel. On the night of Sep 14, Coast Guard inspectors boarded *Katerina* and saw evidence that the vessel's oil-water separator was not being used. Pursuant to United States law and international treaties, all large vessels are required to operate an oil-water separator to remove oil from bilge water that is discharged into the ocean. All vessels are also required to maintain a "Oil Record Book," which is signed by the master and documents discharges. A second inspection on Sep 15 revealed a pipe system to bypass the oil-water separator, according to the affidavit, and inspectors found evidence that oil had recently been discharged. In all, inspectors found 23 deficiencies or violations on the vessel, including no operating toilets and no hot water. The criminal complaint charges all three defendants with failing to properly maintain *Katerina*'s Oil Record Book, making false statements to Coast Guard investigators and obstructing justice by falsifying records. Additionally, Kallikis is charged with obstruction of justice for instructing Guinto not to answer questions posed by Coast Guard investigators. If convicted of the charges, Kallikis could be sentenced to as much as 20 years in federal prison, and Guinto and Sullesta each would face maximum prison terms of 15 years. This case is the result of an investigation by the United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Office, the Coast Guard Investigative Service and the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Criminal Investigation Division.

#### **KWINANA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

London, Sep 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Crews at BP's Kwinana oil refinery, south of Perth, will today continue cleaning up after a massive petrol leak from a storage

tank. BP has launched an internal investigation into the spill, which involved more than 2 million litres of petrol. The company says the fuel has not spread beyond the boundaries of the refinery at this stage and is unlikely to reach Cockburn Sound. BP spokesman Peter Metcalfe said every effort is being taken to deal with the problem. "Over the next couple of days we will be continuing the recovery process, there is no more leaking occurring at the refinery," he said. "What we are doing is digging bores and trenches to recover the oil and make sure no more can move further away from the tank."

### Weather & Navigation



#### **CHINA**

Beijing, Sep 23 — Floods in China killed more than 1,000 people this year, destroyed 650,000 village homes and caused 64.7 billion yuan (\$7.82 billion) in direct economic losses, the official Xinhua News agency said. This year's floods killed 1,029 people and affected about 114.7 million people, Xinhua said. China put the Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest hydro-electric project, on alert earlier this month as floods upstream on the Yangtze River in Sichuan province and in the huge Chongqing municipality killed more than 100 people. The dam was built to stop centuries of flooding on the world's third-longest river, which did not overflow as much as in previous years, state media said. — Reuters.

#### **HURRICANE "IVAN"**

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Ivan" was the deadliest hurricane to hit the United States since Floyd in 1999, but it could have been worse. It spared New Orleans and left millions feeling lucky in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. But storm-battered Florida was less fortunate. "Ivan" flattened homes, swamped streets and spun off at least a dozen tornadoes in the Panhandle. In all, the hurricane killed 70 people in the Caribbean and at least 23 along the Gulf Coast, most of them in Florida. More bad news could await: Tropical Storm "Jeanne" looms in the Atlantic on a track toward the south-eastern United States, and, possibly, Florida. "Ivan" quickly weakened to a tropical depression after coming ashore yesterday, but it continued to spin off tornadoes and cause flooding across the South. Seven inches of rain fell on parts of Georgia, and forecasters warned that "Ivan" could bring twice that amount before it was through. "Ivan" came ashore with 130 mph winds near Gulf Shores Beach, Ala., around 0300, yesterday, but it was the Panhandle, squarely in the north-east quadrant of the storm, where the winds are most violent, that took the brunt. In Escambia County, home to Pensacola

and some 300,000 residents, at least seven people died in the storm, including one who suffered a heart attack at a shelter. Search and rescue operations were to continue today in hard-hit coastal communities. Off Gulf Shores Highway, in a neighbourhood nestled along Pensacola's Grand Lagoon, at least a half dozen homes and businesses were demolished - some swept clear off their foundations. A storm surge of 10 to 16 feet spawned monster waves. A portion of a bridge on Interstate 10, the major east-west highway through the Panhandle, was washed away. Hundreds of thousands of people were without power, including 90 percent of Gulf Power Co.'s customers in Florida. Insurance experts put Ivan's damage at anywhere from \$3 billion to \$10 billion. Hurricanes "Charley" and "Frances" had combined estimated insured damages between about \$11 billion and \$13 billion after striking Florida in the past month. The troika of hurricanes, "Charley", "Frances" and "Ivan", have the potential to give Florida's \$50 billion tourist industry a "black eye" in the long term, said Abraham Pizam, dean of the University of Central Florida Rosen College of Hospitality Management. If next year's hurricane season is anywhere near as busy, "then people will definitely not come here during the summer time, and that means great losses," Pizam said. "Florida might go back to where it was 35 to 40 years ago, which was as a winter destination." More than 2 million residents along a 300-mile stretch of the Gulf Coast from New Orleans to Panama City, Fla., cleared out as "Ivan" closed in. Along the Alabama coast, surf pounded beachfront resorts for hours, leaving condominium towers standing in a lake of floodwaters, at least one five-story building crumbling in sand, and sending some island homes into the Gulf of Mexico. In the oceanfront community of Gulf Shores, the storm gutted shops, buckled concrete parking lots and buried beach-front roads deep in sand. A new pass was cut through Pleasure Island, Alabama's prime coastal vacation spot, and scores of homes suffered major damage. President Bush planned to visit Alabama and Florida to survey the damage on Sunday (Sep19), the White House said. In Louisiana, boats broken from their moorings found new resting places crashed against other watercraft or toppled onto their sides. "Ivan's" death toll included 14 in Florida, two in Mississippi, two in Georgia and one in Alabama. In Louisiana, four evacuees died after being taken from their storm-threatened homes to safer parts of the state.

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico is missing in the aftermath of Hurricane "Ivan". A spokesman for Houston-based Transocean says its 115-member crew was evacuated and the Panamanian flagged *Deepwater Nautilus* (built 2000) rig was secured before the storm hit, but there was no sign of it after "Ivan" passed. The *Deepwater Nautilus* is a

mobile drilling platform with floats or pontoons that provide stability. The spokesman says aircraft and boat searches are under way.

London, Sep 19 — A press report, dated Sep 18, states: World oil prices rose rapidly yesterday amid fears that the ongoing storm season in the US Gulf would continue to have an impact on energy production and imports, and prevent the build-up of inventories. US light crude gained US\$1 to \$44.88 a barrel, as London Brent crude rose \$1.69 to \$42.90 a barrel. Hurricane "Ivan" largely bypassed oil facilities on the US Gulf coast, home to 25% of US production and 5 per cent of world oil output, but Tropical Storm "Jeanne" is following and is also likely to disrupt some production and imports. "We expect upside price pressure to persist," Barclays Capital said in a report. "Although "Jeanne" is expected to miss the Gulf coast, it could disrupt tankers." Oil companies are thought to have shut in about four million barrels per day of production this week as a precautionary measure against "Ivan," although Shell has already started returning workers to its platforms. Over 11 billion cubic feet a day of gas production and 13 per cent of total US refining capacity has also been shut this week, while the closure of Gulf ports has prevented millions of barrels of oil imports from entering the country. Prices were also driven up by news that a Moscow court has upheld a decision to seize five refineries belonging to oil firm Yukos.

London, Sep 20 — A press release from Ensco International Corp, dated Dallas Sep 16, states: Ensco International Inc announced today that one of the Company's jackup drilling platforms, *Ensco 64* (5451 gt, built 1973, upgraded 2002) was directly in the path of hurricane "Ivan" and has sustained damage. The platform is now afloat in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico approximately 80 miles southeast of Venice, Louisiana. The platform was operating in Main Pass Block 280 for Dominion Exploration and Production Inc, and all personnel had been safely evacuated ahead of the storm. Appropriate regulatory agencies have been notified. A report of visual inspection from a fixed-wing aircraft has indicated *Ensco 64* is floating approximately 40 miles south of its drilling location. Company personnel will be deployed to assess the extent of damage and determine appropriate remedial action to secure the platform as soon as practicable. The platform is insured for \$65 million. Unless the rig is declared a total loss, Ensco anticipates the cost of repairs will be recoverable in excess of policy deductibles which are limited to \$5.5 million. The Company also has received a preliminary report from a third-party of damage to the helideck on one of the Company's platform *Ensco 25*, which was adjacent to the path of the storm. The Company has commenced inspection and re-boarding operations of its Gulf of Mexico rig fleet and is unaware of any further damage at this time.

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated Sep 16, states: Transocean, after a frantic search for drilling platform *Deepsea Nautilus* blown off location by Hurricane "Ivan," said late today it found the structure drifting along 70 miles from the well it had been drilling, upright and apparently undamaged. "We found it 70 miles off position. It appears to be in good shape, at least what we can see above the waterline," Transocean spokesman Guy Cantwell said. Cantwell said three boats were standing by *Deepwater Nautilus*, which had been safely evacuated ahead of the storm. "We expect to have people board it tomorrow. There's no danger of it running aground," he added. Transocean said the rig was anchored about 160 miles south of Mobile, Alabama, when the storm struck. Diamond Offshore Drilling, another Houston-based rig operator, also had a big semisubmersible rig tear loose from its deepwater position during the storm. The company said an aircraft spotted the rig earlier today drifting about 12 miles from the well it had been working on, apparently undamaged. Diamond Offshore said it was working with the Coast Guard to get a crew back onboard the evacuated structure to return it to its work station.

London, Sep 20 — A press release from Diamond Offshore Drilling Inc, dated Houston, Sep 16, states: Diamond Offshore Drilling Inc today reported that drill platform *Ocean Star* (19466 gt, built 1969) drifted from its moored location in the Gulf of Mexico at approximately 1700, Sep 15. However, a visual inspection of the unit by fixed-wing aircraft earlier today has confirmed *Ocean Star* is afloat with no apparent damage. A visual inspection by aircraft of four additional Diamond Offshore rigs operating in the path of hurricane "Ivan" also indicated no apparent damage or pollution. All of the well operations being conducted by the rigs situated directly in the path of the storm had been secured and personnel evacuated in accordance with normal operating and safety practices prior to hurricane "Ivan" passing through the area. *Ocean Star*, which is being monitored via a satellite tracking mechanism, is currently situated approximately 12 miles from its pre-storm location, which was in 2,423 ft. of water in the Viosca Knoll area. The Company has notified and is cooperating with all appropriate regulatory authorities. The Company has initiated actions to re-board *Ocean Star* in order to restore power and further assess its condition prior to moving the rig back to its operating location. All of the Company-owned rigs in the Gulf of Mexico that were evacuated prior to the storm will be re-boarded as soon as practicable in order to recommence normal operations.

London, Sept 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A dredger, owned by Weeks Marine, working in Oregon Inlet (North Carolina) broke loose from some of its moorings yesterday, prompting officials to close the Herbert C. Bonner Bridge for most of the afternoon. The dredger got within 1,000 feet of the



bridge before it stopped, said Dare County Emergency Management Director Sandy Sanderson. Seas at the inlet were pumped up to 13 feet by the remains of Hurricane "Ivan", and winds were blowing at 30 to 45 knots, said Krys Hannum, a Coast Guard spokeswoman. About 1100 hrs the 50-foot tug *Delta Ranger* went aground while it was pushing the dredger, setting the 250-foot vessel adrift with 17 people onboard. At that point, Hannum said, the Coast Guard ordered the bridge closed. A second tug was sent to regain control of the dredger. Meanwhile, a rescue crew from Coast Guard Station Oregon Inlet tried to reach the four people stranded in the grounded tug but was unable to reach them because of the rough conditions and shallow water. A rescue helicopter from Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City arrived at 1217 hrs and hoisted the crew, unharmed, from the stranded tug. Sanderson said the dredger had been secured by multiple anchors when the force from the powerful northeast winds pummeling the vessel broke some of the moorings. The current was running near six knots, he said. The barge then turned 180 degrees toward the bridge, held only by the back moorings. That's when the dredger master got concerned about the vessel drifting toward the bridge, Sanderson said. The dredger, which Sanderson said weighs about 2,000 tons, was doing routine maintenance of the inlet and was located in the inlet's navigational channel due east of the bridge on the ocean side. The Coast Guard said the vessel has been anchored 1,800 feet away from the bridge. The people on the barge declined Coast Guard assistance. "The owner of the dredge has not requested the Coast Guard to get them off," Hannum said. "Obviously, the Coast Guard is keeping an eye on this." Yesterday, the moorings held after the dredger shifted and turned, Sanderson said. The tug, also owned by Weeks Marine, was staying at the stern of the barge to keep it pushed up against a shoal. "The bridge wasn't touched," Sanderson said. Shortly after 1630 hrs, the Bonner Bridge was reopened. The situation will continue to be monitored by the Coast Guard and the county, Sanderson said, and an emergency plan is in place to divert traffic and close the bridge. If the dredger did break free, it would take "probably 45 minutes to an hour" to reach the bridge, he said. The danger is expected to diminish once the weather improves late tomorrow or early Tuesday, he said.

London, Sept 20 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 1115, UTC: Tug *Delta Ranger* is still aground.

Mobile, Sep 20 — The channel at Mobile has been re-opened and vessels are entering the port. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Concerns about dredge *Beachbuilder* (2435 gt, built 1982) breaking free from its moorings in Oregon Inlet were alleviated by yesterday, with the 250-foot vessel anchored securely as weather began improving, Coast Guard and Dare

County Emergency Management officials said. The Herbert C. Bonner Bridge had been closed as a precaution for most of the afternoon Sunday after the barge lost at least one of its six anchors in 13-foot seas and 30- to 45-knot winds. Tug *Delta Ranger* ( 92 gt, built 1995 ) that had been pushing it went aground, leaving the dredge with less support, but the situation was not as dangerous as it might have sounded, said Steve Lane, vice president of Cranford, N.J.-based Weeks Marine Inc., the owner of the dredger. "It was never completely out of control or adrift with no anchors on it," he said yesterday. Lane said that the dredger had arrived in the inlet on Thursday, and the crew was in the process of setting up to start dredging over the weekend when the weather worsened. As the anchors were being set, he said, the bow wires broke and the barge swung around to the west until it became tight on the stern wires and held. "Any anchors that broke have been redeployed," Lane said. Weeks Marine contracted to do the two-week project for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The dredger was towed to the inlet by tugs, but once it is digging, it self-propels via anchor winches, pulling itself back and forth. After *Delta Ranger* went aground on Sunday, its four-member crew was rescued by a Coast Guard helicopter. The tug was refloated at 1545, yesterday, Coast Guard spokes woman Krys Hannum said. The vessel is owned by Delta Towing in Houma, La. , Lane said. The Coast Guard had previously reported that it was owned by Weeks Marine. After *Delta Ranger* was refloated, the tug left for repairs at a dry dock in South Carolina. At about the same time, he said, another tug owned by Weeks Marine arrived at Oregon Inlet from Norfolk. Lane said that with the improved conditions, the dredger is expected to be moved back into start-up position today.

London, Sep 21 — A press release from Nabors Industries, dated St. Michael, Barbados, Sep 20, states: Nabors Industries Ltd, today announced that one of its offshore platform rigs sustained extensive damage during hurricane "Ivan". The rig involved was 1,000 horsepower platform workover/reentry rig *MODS 141*. The rig had been secured and abandoned prior to the storm and there were no personnel on board at the time. The rig was working for Murphy Exploration and Production Company on its Medusa SPAR Platform in the Gulf of Mexico. The rig is covered by both property and business interruption insurance to the extent that the company expects only a modest impact to its results. Preliminary indications are that there is no significant damage to the platform. Nabors personnel are making a more comprehensive assessment of the extent of the damage and instituting plans to remove the rig from Murphy's platform as expeditiously as possible so that full production capability can be restored.

London, Sep 22 — A press release from Diamond Offshore Drilling Inc, dated

Houston Sep 20, states: Diamond Offshore Drilling Inc today reported preliminary results of inspections on board five company rigs that were operating in the path of Hurricane "Ivan". Examination of drill platform *Ocean Warwick* (3621 gt, built 1971) revealed damage to the unit's legs and jacking system. Crews are currently making initial repairs before moving the rig to a shipyard to complete the inspection and perform any necessary work. Total downtime for *Ocean Warwick* cannot be determined until the inspections are complete. Four additional units were also in the storm's path. The semi-submersible drill platform *Ocean Star* and *Ocean America* (26692 gt, built 1989), which parted their mooring during the height of the hurricane, have both been moved to a shallow-water location where crews are working to replace anchor chain and wire lost during the storm. All necessary materials are on hand and estimated downtime for each rig is approximately 10 to 21 days, depending on weather and other conditions. Efforts to recover the lost anchor chain and wire are expected to commence as soon as weather and other conditions permits. Drill platform *Ocean Drake* (5990 gt, built 1983) experienced essentially no damage to the unit, but wave action from the storm destabilized the drill site, and the Company is currently working with the operator to develop a course of action. Drill platform *Ocean Columbia* was essentially undamaged and is proceeding to its next drilling location.

London, Sept 22 — A press release from Noble Corporation, dated Sugar Land, Texas, Sept 17, states: Noble Corporation reported that its semi-submersible drill platform *Noble Jim Thompson* (13720 gt, built 1982), contracted to BP America Production Company and on location offshore Louisiana at Mississippi Canyon block 383, was in the main path of Hurricane "Ivan". The unit had been secured and all personnel safely evacuated prior to the storm's arrival. The unit broke away from its mooring lines and has moved to Mississippi Canyon block 656, approximately 30 miles southeast from its original location. A Noble assessment crew of seven personnel safely boarded the unit by helicopter at approximately 1000 today and has restored power and operating capabilities. The Company reports that the unit is level and stable and that the assessment team has commenced surveying its condition. The only damage of a significant nature is reported to be the starboard crane boom, based on the initial preliminary survey. One tug is in the process of securing the unit, and an anchor handling vessel is in route to assist. After towing lines establish connection with the unit, it will be towed to a shipyard in Mississippi to complete damage assessment and necessary repairs. The Company has not yet projected when the unit can return to operation.

London, Sep 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Ivan" is



making an encore appearance in the Gulf of Mexico, this time as a tropical storm that could come ashore along the coasts of Texas or Louisiana. After hitting Florida on Sep 16 as a hurricane, "Ivan" weakened and broke apart as it traveled north, drenching southern and mid-Atlantic states before returning to sea. Its remnants then swung southward, growing slightly as it travelled over warmer waters. The regenerated storm was expected to make landfall in the Gulf of Mexico tonight, and could bring 50 mph winds and 5 to 10 inches of rain. In Louisiana, Cameron Parish leaders were keeping an eye on the storm, but hadn't issued any evacuation orders yet, said Emergency Preparedness Director Freddie Richard Jr. The swampy parish is located in the southwest corner of the state. The National Hurricane Centre issued a tropical storm warning for the Gulf of Mexico shoreline from the mouth of the Mississippi River in Louisiana west to Sargent, Texas. "Ivan" was upgraded to a tropical storm yesterday evening after sustained winds were measured near 40 mph. The Hurricane Centre said the storm could strengthen before landfall. Forecasters said the centre of the storm was poorly organized and was about 295 miles south-east of the upper Texas coast at 2200, yesterday. "Ivan" was moving toward the west-northwest at about 13 mph.

#### HURRICANE "JAVIER"

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.

London, Sep 17 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0900, UTC, today, the centre was of hurricane "Javier" located near lat 21.4N, long 111.7W. The position is accurate within 10 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 18, the centre is predicted to be near lat 23.6N, long 113.2W, with maximum sustained winds of 90 knots and gusts to 110 knots.

London, Sep 18 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0900, UTC, today, the centre

of hurricane "Javier" was located near lat 23.3N, long 113.0W. The position is accurate within 30 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the north-north-west or 340 degs at seven knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 975 mb. The maximum sustained winds are 65 knots with gusts to 80 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 30 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 50 nautical miles. At 0600, UTC, Sep 19, the centre is predicted to be near lat 26.8N, long 113.6W, with maximum sustained winds of 40 knots and gusts to 50 knots.

London, Sep 19 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of tropical depression "Javier" was located near lat 26.1N, long 113.0W. The present movement is toward the north-north-west. The maximum sustained winds are 55 knots with gusts to tropical storm force.

#### HURRICANE "JEANNE"

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Threatening to regain hurricane strength, Tropical Storm "Jeanne" headed for the Bahamas on a track for the south-eastern United States after killing three people and causing extensive damage in the Caribbean. The storm forced the evacuation of thousands yesterday as it slammed into the Dominican Republic after punishing Puerto Rico with flash floods and deadly winds. "Jeanne" made landfall on the Dominican Republic's eastern tip and then weakened from a hurricane to a tropical storm as it raked the north coast. But forecasters warned that it could strengthen before reaching the southern Bahamas today. It could then move toward the United States, anywhere from Florida to the Carolinas. "Jeanne's" heavy rains soaked the Dominican capital of Santo Domingo, where a 4-month-old died when a landslide crushed part of her family's house, said Jose Luis German, spokesman for the country's National Emergency Committee. At least eight people were injured as trees toppled and floods struck parts of the east and north-east, officials said. Crashing waves pounded the north coast and winds battered trees. Telephone service and electricity were out. Some flights were cancelled. More than 8,200 Dominicans were evacuated and took refuge in shelters set up in schools and churches, officials said. Beachside hotels and restaurants closed along the north coast, while authorities ordered boats into port. "Jeanne" hit the Dominican Republic with winds of near 80 mph. It was at 70 mph, just 4 mph shy of a hurricane, when it raged across Puerto Rico on Wednesday, dumping up to two feet of rain on the US territory, flooding hundreds of homes, snapping trees and downing power lines. "It left a wake of destruction that we now have to face," Puerto Rican Gov. Sila Calderon said yesterday. She asked President Bush to declare a disaster to speed the release of federal aid. Heavy rains continued to soak parts of Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, threatening flash floods and mudslides. Landslides

have caused a large amount of damage to the exotic vegetation in the Caribbean National Forest. About 3,600 Puerto Ricans remained in shelters yesterday, dozens of roads were blocked, most of the 4 million islanders were without power and some 600,000 without running water for a second day, Calderon said. One Puerto Rican woman was killed Wednesday (Sep 15) when winds flung her from a hammock and smashed her into a neighbour's house, and a man putting up storm shutters died when he fell from a roof, police said. At 0200 "Jeanne's" eye was over the north-east Dominican Republic, about 65 miles north-northeast of Santo Domingo. The storm was drifting, with storm-force winds stretched out 70 miles, and expected to remain near the Dominican coast through today. A slow west-north-west turn was expected in 12-24 hours. A hurricane warning was posted for the south-eastern Bahamas and the British Turks and Caicos Islands, and a watch for the central Bahamas. Haiti's north coast was under a storm warning.

London, Sep 17 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Jeanne": A tropical storm warning remains in effect for the island of Hispaniola from Le Mole St. Nicolas, Haiti, eastward to Danto Domingo. A hurricane warning 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. A hurricane watch remains in effect for the central Bahamas, including Cat Island, the Exumas, Long Island, Rum Cay and San Salvador. At 0900, UTC, today, the centre was located near lat 19.5N, long 70.1W. The position is accurate to within 15 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the west north-west or 300 degs at five 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: 15 nautical miles in the south-west quadrant and 30 nautical miles elsewhere. At 0600, UTC, Sep 18, the centre is predicted to be near lat 17.2N, long 133.8W, with maximum sustained winds of 25 knots and gusts to 35 knots.

London, Sep 18 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Jeanne": A tropical storm warning 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. A tropical storm watch remains in effect for the central Bahamas, including Cat Island, the Exumas, Long Island, Rum Cay and San Salvador. At 0900, UTC, today, the centre was located near lat 20.7N, long 72.6N, the position is accurate to within 20 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the north-west or 315 degs at four knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 999 mb. The maximum sustained winds are 40 knots with gusts to 50 knots. The radius

of 34-knot winds: 75 nautical miles in the north-east quadrant, and 20 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. At 0600, UTC, Sep 19, the centre is predicted to be near lat 22.4N, long 73.0W, with maximum sustained winds of 40 knots and gusts to 50 knots.

Santo Domingo, Sep 18 — Tropical storm “Jeanne” headed for the Bahamas today after an assault on the Dominican Republic that killed 10 people, destroyed hundreds of houses and forced thousands from their homes. “Jeanne,” which also killed two people in the US territory of Puerto Rico earlier in the week, prompted storm warnings in parts of the Bahamas, a 700-island chain with a population of 300,000. President Bush declared a disaster in Puerto Rico today, a move that releases federal aid. At 1100, EDT, the centre of “Jeanne” was near Great Inagua Island in the south-eastern Bahamas, moving north-north-west at about 7 mph with top winds of 50 mph, the US National Hurricane Centre said. The longer-term forecast, which has a wide margin of error, forecast “Jeanne” staying well to the east of the United States in the coming days. Roads in and out of badly hit Pensacola, Florida, were clogged on Saturday with National Guard troops, emergency workers, electrical repair crews and residents returning to the area. The routes were complicated by roads cut by smashed bridges and strewn debris. In the Dominican Republic, which shares the Caribbean island of Hispaniola with Haiti, authorities said the death toll in the storm had risen to 10, while 146 people were injured after Jeanne lashed the north of the country for two days with high winds and torrential rains. — Reuters.

London, Sep 19 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm “Jeanne”: The government of the Bahamas plans to discontinue all watches and warnings at 1000, UTC. At 0900, UTC, today, the centre was located near lat 23.2N, long 72.5N, the position is accurate to within 30 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the north-west or 340 degs at six knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 1001 mb. The maximum sustained winds are 40 knots with gusts to 50 knots. The radius of 34-knot winds: 75 nautical miles in the east semicircle. At 0600, UTC, Sep 20, the centre is predicted to be near lat 25.5N, long 72.2W, with maximum sustained winds of 50 knots and gusts to 60 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds: 25 nautical miles east semicircle.

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 90 people in Haiti have died as a result of floods in the wake of tropical storm “Jeanne”, which swept through the Caribbean in recent days. Several people are also reported missing after torrential rains fell on the north-west of the country. UN peacekeepers, who came to Haiti following a coup in February, have been deployed to help survivors. “Jeanne” had earlier caused extensive flooding and a number of deaths in the neighbouring Dominican

Republic. Two days of steady rain sent torrents down the mountains of northern Haiti, causing a river to burst its banks, officials said. A UN official in Haiti said there were 50 confirmed deaths, but the numbers could rise. “We don’t know how many dead there are,” Prime Minister Gerard Latortue said. “2004 has been a terrible year,” he added. The disaster came four months after floods killed more than 3,000 people in the border area between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. At its strongest, “Jeanne” killed at least eight people in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. In the Bahamas the government on Sunday called off all warnings as “Jeanne” took a north-westerly turn out into the sea.

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane “Jeanne” attacked the northeastern region of the Dominican Republic yesterday, injuring at least eight people, after hitting Puerto Rico where hundreds of homes were destroyed and two people killed, according to reports reaching here. Floods caused by heavy rains submerged main streets in the northeastern Dominican city of Samana and the southeastern city of Romana, cutting off transportation and power. The eastern Dominican city of Higuey was the worst hit, with hundreds of houses washed away by floods, thousands of people displaced and at least eight injured. According to forecasts, the eye of Jeanne has reached the Samana bay and is moving northwest at a speed of 12 km per hour. The Dominican government has declared a state of emergency. By now, some residents have been evacuated from five cities in the eastern area, all schools in the country closed and sea transportation and fishing halted.

Port-au-Prince, Sep 21 — Floods and mudslides from Tropical Storm “Jeanne” have killed about 90 people in Haiti and more are missing in the Caribbean nation, as the storm swirls in the Atlantic east of the Bahamas. “Jeanne” previously killed 11 people and destroyed hundreds of houses in the Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti. Two days of steady rain sent torrents down the mountains in the Artibonite and north-west provinces of Haiti, causing rivers to burst their banks and triggering mudslides, civil defence officials said. UN resident coordinator Adama Guindo said about 50 people were killed around Gonaives. The city of 200,000 people was covered with mud and a delegation of officials could not leave the high ground to enter. Many people had climbed onto roofs to escape the floodwaters and were stranded there, the officials said. The island of La Tortue, off Haiti’s north coast, was barely visible under the water, according to officials who flew over it in a helicopter. Homes were washed away, cars were caught in the rising water and telephone service was cut off, making it difficult to communicate with emergency officials in the region. Officials with the Office of Civil Protection said about 30 people were also killed in flooding in the north-west

province of Haiti and others are believed missing. About 10 deaths were reported in other areas and at least 380 were injured, officials said. Interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue said he would declare a state of emergency, and the World Health Organisation was sending a team to distribute medical kits. “Jeanne” swept north of Hispaniola during the weekend. On Sunday (Sep 19), it was spinning northward in the Atlantic Ocean about 230 km east-north-east of San Salvador and had top sustained winds of 80 kph. The US National Hurricane Centre in Miami expected it to turn to the northeast, away from the Bahamas by late yesterday. — Reuters.

London, Sep 21 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 250 people have died in massive floods that raged across northern Haiti after Tropical Storm “Jeanne” hit the Caribbean nation over the weekend (Sep 18/19), a UN spokesman said, while 18 people were killed in other Caribbean islands. The death toll in Haiti was based only on the bodies counted early yesterday at the public hospital in the northern city of Gonaives, and the total number could still rise as local officials in other parts of the country grapple with the enormity of the floods. Prime Minister Gerard Latortue, who declared three days of national mourning, flew over a flooded area by helicopter on Sunday. He described the area as a “vast sea.” “There is not one house in the city of Gonaives that is not flooded,” Latortue said, adding that 80 per cent of the population there, or 80,000 people, need food. Meanwhile, authorities were without news from the country’s second largest island, La Tortue. The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) could not find the island of 26,000 people while flying over the region by helicopter on Sunday. MINUSTAH resumed its emergency helicopter flights carrying food and medicine to Gonaives, the mission’s spokesman Toussaint Kongo-Doudou said. “All humanitarian agencies have mobilized to assist in the devastated regions,” including medical teams dispatched by the United Nations and Doctors Without Borders, he said. One tonne of medicine will be airlifted to Gonaives, while the UN’s World Food Program will send convoys of food and water to the city about 110 kilometres north of the capital, Kongo-Doudou said.

London, Sep 21 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 573 were killed by Tropical Storm “Jeanne” and officials said they expected the toll to rise. More than 500 people had died in Gonaives, according to Toussaint Kongo-Doudou, a spokesman for the UN mission. Another 17 died in the nearby town of Terre Neuve, agriculture official Madiro Morilus said, and another 56 were recovered in the northern city of Port-de-Paix, according to Kongo-Doudou. The toll has been largest in Haiti where deforestation has made even light rain deadly. More than 90 per cent of Haiti’s trees have been chopped down, mostly to make charcoal.



Without roots and foliage, there is nothing to hold water back from low-lying towns.

London, Sep 21 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of hurricane "Jeanne" was located near lat 27.6N, long 70.2W. The position is accurate to within 20 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the east-north-east or 70 degs at five knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 972 mb and the eye diameter is 45 nautical miles. The maximum sustained winds are 80 knots with gusts to 100 knots. The radius of 64 knot winds is: 30 nautical miles in the north-east, south-east and south-west quadrants and 45 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. At 0600, UTC, Sep 22, the centre is predicted to be near lat 27.1N, long 69.3W, with maximum sustained winds of 80 knots and gusts to 100 knots.

Port-au-Prince, Sep 21 — According to the most recent information, Cap Haiti was not affected by hurricane "Jeanne". Gonaives was not hit directly by the storm but was affected by flooding due to the complete erosion of the land. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port-au-Prince, Sep 21 — The town of Gonaives has been completely destroyed by hurricane "Jeanne". The hospital does not exist anymore. All patients drowned. There is no government building, as well as most private ones, standing, following a rise in the flood water of 15 feet. There have been more than 1000 deaths and all people there have no food no water whatsoever. The town does not exist anymore. The road to Cape Haiti does not exist anymore either for it goes through Gonaives. Cape Haiti, Port-de-Paix and all the coast line suffered great casualties. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescuers dug through mud and ruined homes for bodies today, expecting the death toll of more than 600 from Hurricane "Jeanne" to rise even further, with half the crowded northern city of Gonaives still under water from the weekend's devastating winds and rain. Bodies, including many children, were stacked at the city's main morgue. At least 500 people were killed in Gonaives, according to Toussaint Kongo-Doudou, a spokesman for the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Haiti. Aid workers were struggling to get relief to victims amid worries over looting and crime, said Hans Havik from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Three trucks carrying Red Cross relief supplies rolled into Gonaives yesterday, but before they could reach their destination at the mayor's office, two of them were mobbed by people who grabbed blankets and towels. U.N. troops stood by watching. People tripped over each other to grab tiny bags of water thrown from a Red Cross truck in front of City Hall, where officials said about 500 injured were treated yesterday. Dieufort Deslorges, a spokesman for the government civil protection agency, described the situation in Gonaives as

"catastrophic." He said survivors need everything from potable water to food, clothing, medication and disinfectants. "We expect to find dozens more bodies, especially in Gonaives, as ... floodwaters recede," Deslorges said. Floodwaters destroyed homes and crops in the Artibonite region that is Haiti's breadbasket. Elsewhere, 56 people were killed in northern Port-de-Paix and 17 died in the nearby town of Terre Neuve, officials said. Deslorges reported another 49 bodies recovered in other villages and towns, most in the north-west. "Jeanne" regained hurricane strength over the Atlantic yesterday, but posed no immediate threat to land. At 0500 hrs, today, it was moving east-north-east with 90 mph winds, about 445 miles east of Great Abaco Island in the Bahamas.

London, Sep 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll across Haiti from the weekend deluges brought by Tropical Storm "Jeanne" rose to more than 700 yesterday, with about 600 of them in Gonaives, and officials said they expected to find more dead and estimated tens of thousands of people were homeless. Waterlines up to 10 feet high on Gonaives' buildings marked the worst of the storm that sent water gushing down denuded hills, destroying homes and crops in the Artibonite region that is Haiti's breadbasket. Floodwaters receded, but half of Haiti's third-largest city was still swamped with contaminated water up to two feet deep. Not a house in the city of 250,000 people escaped damage. Rescue workers reported recovering 691 bodies by Tuesday night, about 600 of them in Gonaives and more than 40 in northern Port-de-Paix, Deslorges said. In addition, at least 51 were recovered in other areas. But Deslorges said there were dozens more dead still unaccounted for, which would bring the toll past 700. More than 1,000 people were missing, said Raoul Elysee, head of the Haitian Red Cross, which was trying desperately to find doctors to help. The international aid group CARE said 85 of its 200 workers in Gonaives were unaccounted for. Brazilian and Jordanian troops in the UN peacekeeping mission sent to stabilize Haiti after rebels ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in February struggled to help the needy as aid workers ferried supplies of water and food to victims. CARE spokesman Rick Perera said the agency had about 660 tons of dry food in Gonaives, including corn-soy blend, dried lentils and cooking oil and was trying to set up distribution points. Several nations were sending aid including \$1.8 million from the European Union and \$1 million and rescue supplies from Venezuela. The US Embassy announced \$60,000 in immediate relief aid Monday (Sep 20). Yesterday, "Jeanne" was posing no threat to land, about 515 miles east of Great Abaco island in the Bahamas.

London, Sep 22 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of hurricane "Jeanne" was located near lat 26.8N, long 68.6W. The position is accurate to within 20 nautical miles.

The present movement is toward the south or 180 degs at three knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 968 mb and the eye diameter is 25 nautical miles. The maximum sustained winds are 80 knots with gusts to 100 knots. The radius of 64 knot winds is: 30 nautical miles in the north-east, south-east and south-west quadrants and 40 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. At 0600, UTC, Sep 23, the centre is predicted to be near lat 26.1N, long 69.5W, with maximum sustained winds of 85 knots and gusts to 105 knots.

London, Sep 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Authorities yesterday readied mass graves for the putrefying bodies of northern Haiti's flood victims, feared to number as many as 1,700, as calls went out for international relief to aid the Western Hemisphere's poorest country. "Because of the situation of the bodies, we have decided to bury the dead in mass graves," said Interior Minister Herard Abraham.

Port au Prince, Sep 23 — Haiti began burying hundreds of flood victims in mass graves yesterday while emergency food was distributed to some of the thousands of people made homeless by Tropical Storm "Jeanne". The death toll rose to 1,008 in the Artibonite region around the northern coastal city of Gonaives and 72 in Haiti's Northwest province, said Dr. Carl Murat Cantave, a government official. Another 1,000 people were missing and the final death count was likely to hit 2,000, he said. The U.N.'s World Food Programme said its first convoy of trucks carrying 40 metric tons of food arrived Tuesday night (Sep 21) and aid agencies were distributing rice, beans, cooking oil and loaves of fresh bread. "At this point we think at least 175,000 people are affected across the country. Many of them were already very vulnerable and now, they have lost their homes, their entire crops, their animals and the few belongings they had," said the WFP country director, Guy Gauvreau. U.N. forces maintaining the peace after Aristide's departure were helping with rescue and relief efforts. The international Red Cross, meanwhile, launched a worldwide appeal for \$3.3 million to help the flood victims. By 1700 hrs, yesterday (2100, UTC) "Jeanne" was 500 miles east of Great Abaco island in the northeastern Bahamas and moving slowly west-south-west. Packing winds of 100 mph, the storm was expected to swing to the west eventually and may threaten the east coast of the United States next week, the U.S. National Hurricane Centre said. — Reuters.

#### HURRICANE "KARL"

London, Sep 17 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Karl" was located near lat 11.5N, long 35.3W, position accurate within 30 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west or 280 deg at 10 knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 994 mb Maximum sustained winds of 55 knots with gusts to 65 knots. Radius



of 50-knot winds: 20 nautical miles. At 0600, UTC, the centre is predicted to be near lat 12.2N, long 38.8W with maximum sustained winds of 75 knots and gusts to 90 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 25 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 40 nautical miles.

London, Sep 18 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of hurricane "Karl" was located near lat 14.9N, long 38.6W, position accurate within 30 nautical miles. Present movement toward the north-west or 310 deg at 13 knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 981 mb. Maximum sustained winds of 75 knots with gusts to 90 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 15 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 30 nautical miles. At 0600, UTC, Sep 19, the centre is predicted to be near lat 16.8N, long 42.4W with maximum sustained winds of 100 knots and gusts to 120 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 25 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 50 nautical miles.

London, Sep 19 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of hurricane "Karl" was located near lat 16.3N, long 42.2W, position accurate within 20 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west north-west or 285 deg at 10 knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 960 mb. Maximum sustained winds of 100 knots with gusts to 120 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 20 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 30 nautical miles west semicircle and 50 nautical miles east semicircle. At 0600, UTC, Sep 20, the centre is predicted to be near lat 17.7N, long 45.7W with maximum sustained winds of 105 knots and gusts to 130 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 20 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 30 nautical miles west semicircle and 50 nautical miles east semicircle.

London, Sep 20 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Following received from National Hurricane Centre, timed 0900, UTC, today: Hurricane "Karl" centre located near lat 17.3N, long 45.5W at 0900, UTC, position accurate within 20 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west-north-west or 285 degrees at eight knots. Maximum sustained winds 110 knots with gusts to 135 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 20 nautical miles NE, SE, SW and NW. Radius of 50-knot winds 50 nautical miles NE and SE and 30 nautical miles SW and NW. Forecast: At 0600, UTC, Sep 21: Position lat 19.3N, long 48.4W. Maximum sustained winds 120 knots, gusts 145 knots. Radius of 64-knots 30 nautical miles NE, SE, SW and NW.

London, Sep 21 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of hurricane "Karl" was located near lat 19.6N, long 47.3W. The position is accurate within to 20 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the north-north-west or 340 deg at 10 knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 940 mb. The maximum sustained winds are 120 knots with gusts to 145 knots. The radius of 64

knot winds: 60 nautical miles in the north-east, south-east and north-west quadrants and 45 nautical miles in the south-west quadrant. At 0600, UTC, Sep 22, the centre is predicted to be near lat 23.9N, long 49.5W, with maximum sustained winds of 120 knots and gusts to 145 knots.

London, Sep 22 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of hurricane "Karl" was located near lat 25.0N, long 49.4W. The position is accurate within to 20 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the north or 350 deg at 15 knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 955 mb. The maximum sustained winds are 100 knots with gusts to 120 knots. The radius of 64 knot winds: 75 nautical miles in the north-east and south-east quadrants, 60 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant and 45 nautical miles in the south-west quadrant. At 0600, UTC, Sep 23, the centre is predicted to be near lat 30.4N, long 47.4W, with maximum sustained winds of 95 knots and gusts to 115 knots.

#### INDIA

London, Sep 23 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Rain has killed at least 36 people and washed away houses and farms in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, officials said today. Thirty-five of the people including a number of women and children died when flash floods submerged homes yesterday in Sitapur district near the border with Nepal, local magistrate Amod Kumar said. "Most of the casualties took place last night when people were sleeping and were caught unawares when their houses collapsed," Mr Kumar said, adding Sitapur had seen heavy rain since yesterday. Police in the state capital Lucknow said heavy rain killed at least one person in the city yesterday. Rain also lashed the Himalayan state of Himachal Pradesh today but there were no immediate reports of serious damage or casualties, officials said. They said the downpour disrupted traffic in the state capital Shimla and other towns and that the mountains saw unseasonal snowfall.

#### NEW ZEALAND

London, Sep 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Farmers across New Zealand say a cold snap has caused serious stock losses. Some woolgrowers have lost more than half of their spring lambs. The worst affected areas are in the country's far south, with a week of spring snow and icy winds severely affecting newborn lambs. It is estimated around 100,000 have died, costing farmers millions of dollars. The feed situation is also worsening in Otago and Southland after recent rain has turned pastures into bogs. The weather service says the wintry conditions should ease by the weekend.

#### PANAMA

London, Sep 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Nine people have been killed and 13 declared missing after strong rains triggered flooding and

mudslides in Panama, civil defence authorities say. Roberto Velasquez, head of the National System for Civil Protection, says seven of the dead are children, three of whom died in a mudslide in San Miguelito district. President Martin Torrijos has visited flooded areas and ordered the ministries of health, housing and public works to assist victims and repair damages to roads and public buildings. "It's a tragic, sad situation," Mr Torrijos said. Mr Velasquez says rescue personnel are hunting for 13 people declared missing after the Cabra River overflowed its banks some 40 kilometres south-east of the capital.

#### TROPICAL STORM "ISIS"

London, Sep 17 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of tropical depression "Isis" was located near lat 17.7N, long 132.9W. 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 1007 mb. The maximum sustained winds are 30 knots with gusts to 40 knots. At 0600, Sep 18, the centre is predicted to be near lat 17.2N, long 133.8W, with maximum sustained winds of 25 knots and gusts to 35 knots.

#### TROPICAL STORM "LISA"

London, Sep 21 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Lisa" was located near lat 13.9N, long 38.4W. The position is accurate to within 30 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the west or 280 degs at 10 knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 998 mb. The maximum sustained winds are 50 knots with gusts to 60 knots. The radius of 50 knot winds: 15 nautical miles in all four quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Sep 22, the centre is predicted to be near lat 14.9N, long 42.0W, with maximum sustained winds of 50 knots and gusts to 60 knots.

London, Sep 22 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Lisa" was located near lat 14.5N, long 40.9W. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the west-north-west or 285 degs at six 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: 20 nautical miles in all four quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Sep 23, the centre is predicted to be near lat 15.2N, long 43.2W, with maximum sustained winds of 55 knots and gusts to 65 knots.

#### TROPICAL STORM "MEARI"

London, Sep 21 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Meari" was located near lat 13.5N, long 141.4E, approximately 300 nautical miles north-east of Yap and has tracked northwestward, or 315 degs, at six knots over the past six hours. The

position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. The present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 45 knots, with gusts to 55 knots. The radius of 34 knot winds: 70 nautical miles in the north-east quadrant, 50 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants and 60 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. The maximum significant wave height is 14 feet. At 0600, Sep 22, the centre is predicted to be near lat 15.3N, long 139.2E, with maximum sustained winds of 70 knots and gusts to 85 knots.

London, Sep 22 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Meari" was located near lat 15.6N, long 138.9E. Movement over the past six hours: 315 degs at eight knots. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. The present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 60 knots, with gusts to 75 knots. The radius of 50 knot winds: 15 nautical miles in all four quadrants. At 0600, Sep 23, the centre is predicted to be near lat 17.8N, long 136.1E, with maximum sustained winds of 80 knots and gusts to 100 knots.

#### TYPHOON "CHABA"

Yokohama, Sep 21 — General cargo *Winner 1* remains at Shikama for repairs. Further schedules have not been fixed. — Lloyd's Agents.

## Earthquakes



#### ALEUTIAN ISLANDS, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated Sep 19, states: A powerful earthquake shook the Aleutian Islands today, but there were no reports of damage on the sparsely populated island chain. The magnitude-6.1 quake hit just before 1230, said Coast Guard Petty Officer Jamal Daniels, at the Coast Guard's long range navigation station on Attu. The 20 people at the Coast Guard station are the only inhabitants of Attu, Alaska's westernmost point more than 1,500 miles southwest of Anchorage. The temblor, which was centred 90 miles south of Attu in the Pacific Ocean, did not generate a tsunami, according to the West Coast Alaska Tsunami Warning Centre.

London, Sep 20 — A report, dated Sep 19, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 2026, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.1 event has been located near the Aleutian Islands, Alaska, lat 52.264N, long 173.948E, depth 21 km.

#### EASTER ISLAND REGION

London, Sep 22 — A report, dated Sep 21, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1755, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.5 event has been located

south-east of Easter Island in lat 36.188S, long 101.392W, depth 10 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.

#### KERMADEC ISLANDS, NEW ZEALAND

London, Sep 20 — A report, dated Sep 19, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0409, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.7 event has been located south of the Kermadec Islands in lat 32.571S, long 179.759W, hypocentral depth was estimated to be 120 km.

#### NORTH ATLANTIC

London, Sep 20 — A report, dated Sep 18, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0707, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.5 event has been located in north Atlantic Ocean in lat 23.107N, long 67.575W, depth 10 km.

#### PHILIPPINES

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.

#### UNITED STATES

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated Sep 19, states: An earthquake swarm continues to shake a sparsely populated area along the eastern Sierra Nevada. Mono County sheriff's dispatchers have reported no injuries or damage from the temblors centered along the California-Nevada line 30 miles north-east of Mammoth Lakes. Seismologist David Oppenheimer of the US Geological Survey says there were 275 quakes Saturday (Sep 18) and 206 temblors today as of 1700. A magnitude 5.5 temblor Saturday afternoon was the most powerful in the swarm. Two magnitude-three quakes, one at 0506 am and the other at 0629, were the strongest today. Oppenheimer says it's uncertain how much longer the quakes will continue, and it's premature to say whether the swarm is related to volcanic activity.

London, Sep 20 — A report, dated Sep 18, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 2302, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.5 event has been located in central California in lat 38.009N, long 118.679W, depth 7.6 km.

## Volcanic Activity



#### 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 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.

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Mount Asama in central Japan has erupted for a fourth straight day, with experts warning that eruptions may continue and possibly grow in scale. Japan's Meteorological Agency says Mount Asama is spewing smoke mixed with ash about 1,000 metres into the air, and monitoring cameras have detected molten rock being thrown a distance of 200 to 300 metres from the summit. Late yesterday night, prevailing winds carried ash from the peak as far as central Tokyo.

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A radar analysis of Mount Asama, which has been showing activity since a medium-scale eruption Sep 1, has confirmed there is magma at the bed of its crater, the Japan Meteorological Agency and Geographical Survey Institute said yesterday. The agency and the institute said magma emerged as a result of the eruption. The volcano is located some 150 kilometres north-west of Tokyo.

## Political & Civil Unrest



#### AFGHANISTAN

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. (See issue of Sep 15.)

Kabul, Sep 20 — An Afghan vice-president survived an assassination attempt today when a remotely controlled device was detonated near his convoy, while two soldiers from the U.S.-led coalition were killed in a separate gunbattle. Nematullah Shahrani, one of four vice-presidents in the interim government of President Hamid Karzai, was in a convoy with other officials in the northern province of Kunduz when it was attacked, said provincial governor Mohammad Omar Khan. Two soldiers from the U.S.-led coalition hunting al Qaeda and Taliban fighters were killed in a gunbattle in the southeastern province of Paktika, a traditional heartland for Islamic militants, the U.S. military said. Six Afghan soldiers had to be evacuated from the scene of the battle, although the U.S. military which leads a 17,000-strong multinational force in Afghanistan, did not give details of their wounds. Two soldiers from the U.S.-led force were slightly wounded. Other clashes erupted today between the U.S.-led force and suspected militants in the central province of Uruzgan and the southern province of Zabul. Over the weekend, suspected Taliban militants beheaded three Afghan soldiers in Zabul, a local official said today. Zabul security chief Jailani Khan said the soldiers, who were not in uniform, were travelling in a taxi from Naubahar district to the provincial capital of Qalat when they were stopped by a group of men that included two Pakistanis and an Arab. The three passengers were beheaded in an attack claimed by a breakaway Taliban faction. "We have already announced that anyone in the government or aiding the infidels will be killed," said Sabir Momin, a commander of the Taliban Jamiat Jaish-e-Muslimeen (Muslim Army of the Taliban) faction. The faction announced in August it had broken away from the main Taliban movement. Also in Zabul, U.S.-led forces killed one suspected militant in the Dai Chopan district on Saturday (Sep 18) when their convoy came under small arms fire. — Reuters.

#### ALGERIA

Algiers, Sep 19 — Four Algerian civilians have been killed by Islamic rebels at a fake roadblock in northern Algeria, local residents said today. The attack occurred yesterday evening near the city of Bouira, some 90 km south-east of the capital Algiers, said residents, who declined to be named. Authorities were not immediately available for a comment. About 13 civilians and soldiers have died in rebel attacks this week, most blamed on the

al Qaeda-aligned Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC). A similar number of militants have been killed in recent days as the armed forces continue a sweep on rebel hideouts in western and eastern Algeria. It was unclear if yesterday's attack was carried out by the GSPC or smaller rival groups. — Reuters.

#### COLOMBIA

Bogota, Sep 20 — A far-right Colombian warlord participating in peace negotiations with the government has been killed by his own men, police said today, in another bloody incident that could undermine the shaky talks. Miguel Arroyave and four of his bodyguards were killed in a gunfight with fellow members of the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia, or AUC, in the southern province of Meta yesterday, an official from the DAS detective force said. Arroyave was a top AUC negotiator in struggling peace talks, which the government hopes will lead to the disbanding of the 20,000-member outlaw force. He commanded about one-third of the AUC's illegal army. He was the third prominent far-right outlaw to be killed by former comrades this year. AUC founder Carlos Castano's execution-style killing in April pushed the talks to the breaking point. The negotiations are key to Colombian President Alvaro Uribe's plans to pacify a nation locked in a 40-year-old war claiming thousands of lives a year, and officials fear failure could spark a surge of violence. Cocaine smuggling is a major source of AUC income, according to the United States, which says it supports the peace negotiations but wants to make sure paramilitary leaders go to prison. The talks, which formally began midyear, have struggled due to the insistence by paramilitary leaders that they will not serve time behind bars. The government wants them incarcerated for five to 10 years. But officials privately acknowledge that AUC chiefs may get to keep some of their illegally earned fortunes in the name of peace. — Reuters.

#### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, Sep 21 — A press report, dated Sep 20, states: Some 14 people have been killed when 300 militiamen attacked a town in north-eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, the UN says. Four people were shot dead and another 10 burnt in Lengabo town, UN spokeswoman Rachel Eklou said. Lengabo is in Ituri, one of DR Congo's most volatile districts, where UN peacekeepers were deployed last year to quell clashes between ethnic militias. Ms Eklou said that an ethnic Lendu militia had attacked the town, populated by the Bira community and that some 91 houses were burnt in Lengabo. Some 150 UN troops have been sent to Lengabo, she added. The Lendus have been fighting their Hema rivals for many years in Ituri but Ms Eklou said they had not previously had any problems with the Biras. Some 50,000 people have been killed in Ituri

since 1999, but the level of violence has been reduced since 4,000 UN peacekeepers were deployed in the region last year.

#### INDIA

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A 16-day protest strike has been called in the north-eastern Indian state of Manipur to push for the repeal of a controversial anti-terror law. Reports say no buses and trucks can be seen on key highways leading into the mountainous state as a body of activists enforce a blockade. The government says it needs the anti-terror law to fight separatists, but an alleged rape and death of a Manipuri woman held by Indian soldiers sparked off widespread protests. A group of student bodies and rights activists, Apunba Lup, says it will not end the protest until the Armed Forces Special Powers Act is lifted. The act gives the armed forces wide-ranging powers to arrest and shoot suspected rebels and search their homes. The protest means that landlocked Manipur will be blocked off from the rest of India. "Transporters have kept their vehicles away out of fear," police superintendent T. Muivah told Reuters. Students groups have also called for a ban on the Hindi language being taught in schools and colleges across Manipur.

#### INDONESIA

London, Sep 19 — A press report, dated today, states: The Indonesian military said separatist rebels had killed seven civilians in the province of Aceh. The bodies of the seven men, aged 22 to 50 years, were found in a riverside in Aceh Singkil district on Thursday (Sep 16). A local military chief Jamhur Ismail was quoted as saying the dead, all of whom were fishermen, had been abducted by the Free Aceh Movement rebels. Elsewhere in the region on Friday, police shot dead a 26-year old man for trying to throw a grenade into a group of policemen conducting a search operation in Aceh Besar district.

#### IRAQ

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.

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An oil pipeline feeding the Al-Dura refinery on the outskirts of Baghdad was ablaze late today after a suspected act of sabotage northeast of the Iraqi capital. Local residents near the restive city of Baquba said they heard a loud explosion in the afternoon and rushed to help extinguish the flames that

continued to rage as dusk set in. The pipeline links the Kurdish town of Qanaqin, about 100 kilometres from Baghdad, to Al-Dura refinery. Sabotage of oil infrastructure is common in Iraq where a fire which raged on a strategic northern pipeline, stalling exports through Turkey, was brought under control early on yesterday. An official at the Northern Oil Company said the repair work would take "three days to a week to complete".

Kirkuk, Sep 17 — Islamic militants today released a Syrian truck driver they had taken hostage in Iraq, a security official said. Amar Dakmak, who was driving a truck loaded with commercial goods, was taken hostage on a road between the northern Iraqi cities of Mosul and Kirkuk yesterday. Dakmak told police the kidnappers had released him because they said he was working for the good of the Iraqi people and because of what they saw as Syria's support for Iraq. — Reuters.

Falluja, Sep 17 — U.S. warplanes launched fresh air strikes overnight around the rebel-held city of Falluja, killing about 60 foreign fighters loyal to Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the U.S. military said today. The strikes, along with an assault today against a rebel stronghold in Baghdad, were part of a push to quell insurgency and lawlessness enough to hold a national election next January. More than 200 Iraqis have died over the past few days alone in bombings and other violence. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said U.S. diplomats and military commanders recognised the vote could not go ahead nationwide under the current security conditions, and that areas in rebel hands had to be brought back under government control. But he told the Washington Times, in an interview published today, that "we don't expect the security situation as it exists now on the 16th of September to be the security situation" on the day Iraqis vote. In his interview, Powell disputed U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan's assertion that the U.S.-led war in Iraq was illegal, saying it was "not a very useful statement to make at this point". The United Nations has played down Annan's statement, which spokesman Fred Eckhard said Annan felt was no different from what he had been saying for more than a year. Iraqi police said an air strike yesterday night near the village of Qurush, between Baghdad and Falluja, had killed 20 civilians and wounded 43. The Health Ministry said attacks in and around Falluja had killed at least 44 people. A U.S. military statement said U.S. warplanes had mounted a "precision strike" at 2145 hrs (1745, UTC) on a compound used by militants loyal to Zarqawi, a man Washington says is allied to Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network. "The number of foreign fighters killed during the strike is estimated at approximately 60," the military said. Early today, U.S. warplanes destroyed a compound in south central Falluja which the U.S. military said was also used by Zarqawi's militants. There was no word of casualties but the U.S. military said

the militants targeted were believed to be linked with recent bombings that have killed scores. In central Baghdad, fighting erupted as U.S. and Iraqi security forces moved in to a rebel stronghold to flush out insurgents, witnesses and government sources said. Loud explosions and gunfire were heard around Haifa Street, close to the Green Zone complex where the U.S. embassy and interim government are based. There was no immediate word on casualties. Three U.S. marines were killed yesterday in separate incidents in al-Anbar province, which includes Falluja and Ramadi, the U.S. military said. — Reuters.

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Two suicide car bombs have today hit central Baghdad within an hour of each other, killing at least five people. The dead are reported to be from a police convoy targeted in the Rashid Street shopping district, after an earlier blast near a checkpoint. Witnesses near Rashid Street said an attacker drove up to a convoy of six police vehicles before blowing up his car at about 1230 hrs (0830, UTC). The earlier car-bomb blast came as suspected suicide attackers drove towards a security checkpoint near the Tigris river that flows through the heart of Baghdad. Reports say the car blew up when it was fired on.

London, Sep 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Nine people have been wounded in a mortar shell attack on a crowd of students and parents awaiting exam results in front of a school in the Iraqi city of Baquba, police and hospital sources say. "A mortar shell exploded near the secretary's office, wounding several people," local police chief General Walid Khaled Abdelsalam said. Hospital officials say nine people have been brought in with shrapnel wounds.

London, Sep 18 — A suicide car bomb attack on the Iraqi national guard headquarters in Kirkuk today killed 23 people, according to officials. The victims in the northern city were queuing to apply for jobs, said a general in the national guard. Elsewhere, there were repeated attacks on US soldiers near Baghdad airport and US aircraft carried out fresh strikes on the restive city of Falluja. Two US soldiers were killed and eight injured when their military convoy was hit by a car bomb on the main road to Baghdad airport. They had been travelling to the scene of another car-bombing 30 minutes earlier, in which three soldiers were hurt. The attack on Kirkuk caused devastation and heavy casualties. "I saw a speeding car crossing an open field heading toward the would-be recruits, then there was a huge explosion and a big fire," said Asu Ahmed, a street trader. "There were many dead and injured people and I helped put them in ambulances."

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Gunmen killed a Sunni Muslim cleric as he entered a mosque in Baghdad to perform noon prayers today, the second slaying of a cleric from the influential Association of Muslim Scholars in as many days, the

group said. The cleric, Sheik Mohammed Jadoa al-Janabi, was killed in Baghdad's predominantly Shiite al-Baya neighbourhood, the association said. He was unarmed and had no security guards. Late yesterday, gunmen attacked the car of another cleric from the association as he was leaving a mosque in another largely Shiite neighbourhood of Baghdad, Sadr City. The cleric, Sheik Hazem al-Zeidi, was killed and two of his bodyguards were briefly taken hostage, said Sheik Abdul-Sattar Abdul-Jabbar, a senior member of the association. The bodyguards were released today. "After performing the night prayers at al-Sajjad Mosque in Sadr City (al-Zeidi) left in his car with two bodyguards," Abdul-Jabbar said. "A group of masked gunmen followed him in a private car and opened fire." Bloodshed - which has already claimed more than 400 lives this month - showed no signs of abating as an Iraqi male was killed and his wife and son seriously wounded by a roadside bomb near the oil refinery town of Baiji, north of Baghdad. The blast was meant for a US military convoy, police said. Bullet-riddled corpses of two Iraqis who worked on the US military base were found near the northern city of Mosul today, police said. Three Iraqi national guardsmen around Baiji were seriously injured overnight when US soldiers mistakenly opened fire on them, said a member of the Iraqi national guard. In addition, a rocket and small arms attack on a chemical factory in the area wounded three security guards. In other developments, two loud explosions shook Baghdad today. The first took place early this morning, when a roadside bomb exploded in Suq Hamada Street, near the insurgent stronghold of Haifa Street, Interior Ministry official Col. Adnan Abdul-Rahman said. No one was hurt in the blast. Around noon, a second blast rocked the city. U.S. military and Iraqi authorities had no immediate information on the second blast. Police in the northern city of Kirkuk said about a dozen Turkish truck drivers had been either killed or abducted in insurgent strongholds north of Baghdad over the past 24 hours. Three Lebanese and their Iraqi driver were also reported missing. Meanwhile, the threat of execution hung over a Briton and two American hostages as their Islamic militant captors' 48-hour deadline for the US-led coalition to free all Iraqi female detainees was due to expire at 1100 hrs, today. US and British officials were silent today about the fate of the three. Purported loyalists of suspected Al-Qaeda operative Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi served a two-day deadline on Saturday to release Iraqi women from prison or see Americans Jack Hensley and Eugene "Jack" Armstrong and British engineer Kenneth Bigley executed. The US military has said only two Iraqi women, both of them high-security detainees believed to have been instrumental in Saddam Hussein's alleged biological weapons programmes, were being held in the country. Britain's Foreign Office yesterday launched a

televised appeal on an Arab satellite channel for Iraqis to help rescue the hostages. In other reported kidnapping incidents, yesterday, the Turkish Embassy in Baghdad said that 10 employees of a U.S.-Turkish company had been kidnapped. Arabic-language television news network Al-Jazeera broadcast video yesterday showing kidnappers who threatened to kill the 10 hostages if their company does not withdraw from Iraq within three days. The Turkish Embassy did not release any information about the hostages or the company. Al-Jazeera also broadcast video Sunday from a previously unknown group that said it had captured 15 members of the Iraqi national guard. The group — calling itself Mohammed ben Abdullah — gave the authorities 48 hours to release Hazem al-Aaraji, an aide to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr who was detained Saturday (Sep 18) night during a raid on his home in Baghdad. The 15 men in the video were wearing uniforms and had their heads bowed. In Baghdad, Iraqi government officials were not able to confirm that any of their soldiers were missing. A spokesman for the political wing of al-Sadr's office said neither his Mehdi Army militia nor any other group allied with al-Sadr were linked to the kidnappings, which he denounced as attempts to "tarnish" al-Sadr's image. "This is a fringe group known by the fact that we have always denounced kidnappings and therefore they are merely fabricating their association to us," spokesman Sayid Ali al-Yasseri said. An Islamist militant Web site posted video yesterday purportedly showing the decapitation of three members of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP). In the video, a group calling itself Ansar al-Sunna — the same group that released video last month showing the purported killings of 12 Nepalese hostages — said that members of the KDP and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) were traitors serving "Zionists" and "Christian crusaders" fighting against Islam. The video statement said the three men, all truck drivers, were captured as they were driving military vehicles near the town of Taji, about 15 miles north of Baghdad. The group said it killed the men "to teach them a lesson they will never forget." Meanwhile, Iraqi National Guard forces backed by U.S. occupation troops have freed a Jordanian hostage seized a few weeks ago in the southern city of Nassiriya, Al Arabiya television reported today. It aired footage showing the freed Jordanian and said Iraqi and U.S. forces had detained 16 people suspected of kidnapping him and demanding a ransom of \$250,000 for his release.

Baghdad, Sep 21 — Militants said they would kill American Jack Hensley and Briton Kenneth Bigley unless their demands were met, a day after they released footage showing them severing the head of another U.S. hostage, Eugene Armstrong. President Bush, in comments made before the release of the video on an Islamist Web site yesterday, said the United States would

not negotiate and would stay on the offensive. Negotiations to save the two hostages are made even more unlikely by the very nature of the demands by the Tawhid and Jihad group led by al-Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. The group said in the video of Armstrong's killing it would behead the other two hostages within 24 hours unless female inmates were released from the Abu Ghraib and Umm Qasr jails. The U.S. military says it does not hold any female prisoners in either of those two jails, and that only two women are in U.S. detention in Iraq. The two, dubbed "Mrs Anthrax" and "Dr Germ" by U.S. forces, are accused of working on Saddam Hussein's weapons programmes and held at a secret high-security camp. Washington says Zarqawi, a Jordanian, is its number one enemy in Iraq. His group has claimed responsibility for most of the bloodiest suicide attacks in Iraq since Saddam was overthrown. Zarqawi's group also beheaded U.S. telecoms engineer Nicholas Berg in May and South Korean driver Kim Sun-il in June. The United States has offered \$25 million for information leading to the death or capture of Zarqawi, and has launched a series of air strikes on the rebel-held city of Falluja, west of Baghdad, targeting suspected hideouts used by his followers. More than a dozen hostages are being held in Iraq and threatened with death unless their captors' demands are met. Two French journalists were seized a month ago, and two female Italian aid workers were kidnapped in broad daylight in central Baghdad earlier this month. A statement purportedly from the group holding the Frenchmen said at the weekend they were no longer captives but had agreed to stay with the group for some time to cover its activities. French President Jacques Chirac issued a fresh plea yesterday for their release. He said his reaction to the killing of Armstrong was one of "horror and incomprehension." There has been no word on the fate of the Italians. An Internet statement purportedly from Zarqawi's group said yesterday that it was not holding them. — Reuters.

London, Sep 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Exports from Iraq's northern oil fields are back to normal after a spate of attacks earlier this month that crippled a key pipeline, the state-run Northern Oil Co. said today. The country is now pumping an average of 600,000 barrels of oil per day from Kirkuk's huge oilfield to an export terminal in Ceyhan, Turkey, a senior company official said on condition of anonymity. Saboteurs wrecked a recently repaired pipeline junction at the northern city of Beiji last week, shutting down the line to Ceyhan. The burning oil also melted power cables, setting off a cascade of power blackouts. The sabotage came just two days after Northern Oil engineers had completed a two-month replacement of critical valves destroyed by a previous bombing. With crude oil selling above \$40 a barrel, the frequent sabotage has cost Iraq more than \$2 billion, interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi has said.

Baghdad, Sep 22 — A car bomb exploded outside a restaurant in a busy commercial area of Baghdad today, killing at least five people and wounding 40, police said. The blast destroyed several stores and sent thick black smoke spiralling into the sky. Shards of glass and debris littered the street in western Baghdad. U.S. soldiers cordoned off the area and firefighters doused water on burning cars. At least 10 cars were destroyed. In other developments, militants said they had beheaded a second American hostage and would kill a Briton unless Iraqi women were freed from jail. The renewed threat came as a senior Iraqi justice official said the case of at least one of two Iraqi women in U.S. detention was being reviewed and she could be released. The militants, led by al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, said in an Internet statement they had killed American Jack Hensley because their demands had not been met. "Lions of the Tawhid and Jihad have slaughtered the second American hostage after the deadline," a statement from Zarqawi's group said, adding that footage of the killing would be posted on the Internet. "The British hostage will meet the same fate if the British government does not do what must be done to release him." U.S. forces say they only hold two female Iraqi prisoners. The women, dubbed "Dr Germ" and "Mrs Anthrax" by U.S. forces, are held in a prison for high-level suspects. A senior Iraqi justice official told Reuters the case of Rihab Taha, a biological scientist held at a secret high-security facility near Baghdad, was under review and she could be freed as early as today. Britain's Guardian newspaper quoted the justice minister as saying the cases of Taha and a second female scientist, Huda Ammash, were both being reviewed, but the minister said it had nothing to do with the hostage situation. Meanwhile, in fighting overnight, U.S. tanks raided the Baghdad Shi'ite Muslim stronghold of Sadr City as aircraft bombed the area and helicopters flew low overhead, witnesses said. Hospital sources said 22 people had been killed and 71 wounded, but there was no word from the Americans on a toll. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Sep 23 — Britain said today it would not negotiate with militants threatening to kill Kenneth Bigley, a British captive in Iraq, despite a video message from the hostage pleading for his life. British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the government could not negotiate with hostage-takers. "Of course our hearts go out yet more to him and to his family," Straw said. "But I'm afraid to say it can't alter the position of the British government. It's adding torture to the appalling situation in which these evil terrorists have placed Mr Bigley." The U.S. military says it only holds two female prisoners in Iraq. Rihab Taha and Huda Ammash, dubbed "Dr Germ" and "Mrs Anthrax" by U.S. forces. Iraq's Justice Ministry said yesterday Taha's case was under review and she could be released later in the day, but the U.S. embassy

later said that neither Taha nor Ammash would be released imminently. The Baghdad government said today Taha was among three high-profile prisoners who had been recommended for possible release after a review by U.S.-led forces in Iraq. "The Iraqi government has not yet completed its deliberations on the matter, but the prime minister has indicated that he is not willing to agree to the release of Rihab Rashid Taha at this time," it said in a statement. Discussions on her possible release were unrelated to the kidnappers' demands, it added. Meanwhile, the Italian government sources urged "utmost caution" over an Internet statement saying two female Italian aid workers kidnapped in Iraq had been killed, as there was no evidence to confirm the report. The Internet statement said the women had been killed because Italy had not pulled its troops out of Iraq. — Reuters.

#### IRAQ-KUWAIT

Rijeka, Sep 20 — *Ro/ro Star*, ex *Boka Star*, is still under arrest at Rijeka. Court proceedings are in progress. The proceedings might take a long time and it is too early to predict vessel's release. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### ISRAEL

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated Sep 19, states: The Israel Defence Forces said today its air force attacked a car in Gaza City, killing a Hamas field commander. The IDF identified the dead man as Khalid Abu Salmiya, a member of Hamas' military wing, Izzedine al Qassam. The explosion was in the Nasser neighbourhood near a Hamas stronghold.

London, Sep 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A Palestinian suicide bomber blew herself up in Jerusalem today, killing two Israeli policemen who had stopped her as she approached a crowded bus stop, authorities said. At least 16 people were wounded. Israel has imposed a closure on the West Bank since last week. The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, a militant group linked to Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility for the attack. The group identified the bomber as Zainab Abu Salem, a woman from the Askar refugee camp near Nablus in the West Bank. The blast destroyed the bus stop, killing the two policemen. Police said the woman was carrying seven to 11 pounds of explosives in a bag. In other violence today, a Palestinian militant was killed by Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip, while three Palestinian civilians were wounded in clashes with troops in the West Bank.

Gaza, Sep 23 — Palestinian gunmen killed at least three Israeli soldiers at a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip today, one of the militant groups that claimed joint responsibility for the attack said. "Our fighters killed three or more Israeli soldiers," a spokesman for the Popular Resistance Committees (PRC) said. He said two gunmen were killed by Israeli fire at Morag settlement and that a third survived the initial clash. Israeli security sources

said there were Israeli casualties at the scene. The army declined comment. The PRC shared responsibility for the morning attack with Islamic Jihad and the Abu Rish Brigades, an armed group inside Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction. — Reuters.

#### NEPAL

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 22 — Islamic militants launched their first attacks since January, assaulting two police stations in the north-east and killing six people, police said today. At least 20 armed men attacked the two stations Monday night (Sep 20) in Bama and Gwoarza, towns 25 miles apart in Borno state, said state police commissioner Ade Adekanye. Two civilians and four police officers, including the commander of the Bama station, were killed. In Gwoarza, assailants also took four civilians hostage, Adekanye said. Local vigilantes rushed to assist outnumbered policemen during the attack on Gwoarza, forcing militants to retreat to hills near the border with neighboring Cameroon. Security forces were tracking them, Borno state spokesman Adamu Jiri said. Militants of Nigeria's radical Al-Sunna wal Jamma sect, comprised mainly of university students seeking to create a Taliban-style state in Africa's most populous nation, launched their first wave of attacks on New Year's Eve, targeting several police stations in north-eastern Yobe state.



**PHILIPPINES**

Manila, Sep 23 — Philippine security forces have raided a communist guerrilla base in the south, killing nine rebels, an army spokesman said today. Lieutenant Colonel Buenaventura Pascual said half a dozen assault rifles and a light machine gun were seized after a fierce hour-long gun battle in Pantukan town in Compostela Valley on Mindanao island. "Our troops did not suffer any casualty," said Pascual. The troops attacked a position of the New People's Army (NPA) rebels after foiling an attempt yesterday by the communists to take over a police station near a farming town. Pascual said the raid was preceded by three minor skirmishes since Sunday morning when soldiers chanced upon rebels harassing civilians by demanding money and food. — Reuters.

**RUSSIA**

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated Sep 16, states: Chechen terrorist leader Samil Basayev has claimed responsibility for several recent terrorist attacks in Russia, including a school hostage siege that left more than 300 adults and children dead, according to a Chechen rebel Web site. In a ranting and rambling e-mail message posted on Kavkazcenter.com, Basayev said his "Shahid Brigade Riadus-Salahina" carried out a series of "successful militant operations." In addition to the siege in Beslan, he claimed responsibility for a Moscow metro bombing that killed 10 people and explosions that downed two passenger jets, killing 90. It was impossible to confirm whether the message was genuine. The terrorist leader said he has passed on a personal message to Putin through two local governors. In it, he said, he offered Putin "independence in exchange for security." According to Basayev, the rebels would stop financing any groups fighting the Russian Federation and stop the formation of any "military bases" on Russian territory. He also said he guaranteed that all Muslims in Russia would not take any armed action against the nation for 10 to 15 years. Basayev said he personally trained the Beslan hostage-takers in a forest 12 miles from the town over a 10-day period. There were 33 hostage-takers, including two women and two Arabs, he said. Revealing the cost of the terrorist operations, Basayev said he spent \$4,000 on the airliner bombings, \$7,000 for the Moscow bombing, and 8,000 euros on the Beslan siege. Basayev denied knowing al Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden. "I do not get money from him, but I would not refuse such money," he wrote. Basayev said he has received "only \$10,000 and 5,500 euros from foreigners."

**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.

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Several people have been killed in fighting between rival militias in southern Somalia. Militiamen from the Jubba Valley Alliance, which controls Kismayo port, clashed with fighters loyal to warlord General Morgan for a second day. Local sources have said that the battled raged for more than an hour yesterday morning in the pouring rain. Gen Morgan is the only major warlord outside a peace process soon to choose Somalia's first leader in 13 years. Some 800 fighters, using 100 vehicles, were reportedly involved. The newly elected speaker of Somalia's parliament, Shariff Hassan Sheikh Adan, has urged both sides to stop fighting and find a peaceful solution to the conflict. The area around Kismayo has been tense in recent weeks, as Gen Morgan's forces have advanced on the port. He had promised to return to take part in the peace process in neighbouring Kenya, after mediators agreed to pay off the bill he had run up there in a luxury hotel before returning to Somalia. Both sides accuse each other of starting the fighting on Wednesday (Sep 15) in Halimaa Adey, 100km south-west of Kismayo. Juba Valley Alliance fighters say Gen Morgan's troops have retreated to Hoosingo, 30km from Kenya's border, after yesterday's battle.

**SUDAN**

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.

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Sudan has confirmed that it will comply with a new UN Security Council resolution on ending the conflict in the western region of Darfur. However ministers yesterday condemned the threat of sanctions contained in the resolution as "unfair". Sudan's ambassador to the UK said that the UN vote sent the "wrong message" to the rebels. The resolution calls for an end to killings in Darfur. The US-sponsored resolution - approved on Saturday (Sep 18) - asks UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to set up a commission to investigate whether the violence amounts to genocide. It also threatens measures against Sudan's oil industry, if Khartoum fails to carry out its pledge to disarm the militias. After yesterday's cabinet meeting, Vice-President Ali Osman Taha said Sudan was committed to implementing the resolution and to improving "the humanitarian and security situation". However he said the vote was "unfair" and contradicted the African Union's efforts to resolve the issue "in an African context". Peace talks between the Sudanese government and rebel groups from Darfur ended without agreement on Friday (Sep 17). The rebels refused to sign an accord on greater access for aid agencies, saying pro-government militias must lay down their weapons first. Sudan's parliamentary speaker Ahmad Ibrahim al-Tahir warned against intervention in his country, saying: "If Iraq opened one gate of hell for the West, we will open seven of its gates. We will not surrender this country." The resolution contains tough language, but does not impose a deadline for compliance. However, diplomats say the manoeuvring at the Security Council has kept the spotlight on Sudan, and maintained the pressure on Khartoum to fulfil its promises to end the violence in Darfur. The scrutiny continues this week during a visit by UN Human Rights Commissioner Louise Arbour. She will hold talks with government officials and meet displaced people and aid workers in Darfur. Ms Arbour is to assess the crisis, and find out what else the UN can do to protect more those driven from their homes.

**TURKEY**

Istanbul, Sep 19 — A bomb placed under a Turkish police car exploded today, wounding 14 people at a concert venue in southern Turkey, state-run Anatolian news agency reported. It said two police officers were among the wounded in the explosion in the southern Turkish port city of Mersin. — Reuters.

**UGANDA**

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated Sep 19, states: Uganda says its army has killed at least 25 fighters from the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in an operation to capture rebel leader Joseph Kony. Attack helicopters were used in the cross-border raid in southern Sudan, Ugandan President

Yoweri Museveni said. He said seven rebels were captured in the area, where the Sudanese government has permitted Uganda's army to operate.

## Kidnappings



### PAKISTAN

Karachi, Sep 20 — A strong contingent of Sindh Police from four districts of Sindh province and Rangers conducted raids in the Golodero area of Shikarpur district on Sunday (Sep 19), bulldozed several houses and picked up more than 25 people. The raids were conducted on the basis of information that Santosh Kumar, a rice trader who had been kidnapped near Larkana some 75 days ago, had been kept in the Golodero area. According to local media reports, Rangers and police surrounded the entire Golodero area, searched the villages of Sher Mohammad Brohi, Qadir Bux Brohi, Malik Dad Brohi, Sher Khan Brohi and Jhandeer Brohi and picked up some 25 suspects. Two Kalashnikov rifles were said to have been recovered from the house of Jhandeer Brohi. Police sources said the people who were picked up had been detained for interrogation. They said some kutchha (mud) houses were bulldozed which according to them were hideouts of bandits. The sources said they had received a credible information that Mr Kumar had been in the captivity of some wanted outlaws residing in the villages. However, no outlaws were arrested nor Mr Kumar recovered in the raids. Businessman and rice trader-Santosh Kumar abducted for ransom from interior of Sindh Province of Pakistan on Jul 4. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

## Labour Disputes



### 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.

### FRANCE

London, Sep 21 — SNCM workers terminated a two-week strike on Saturday (Sep 18), that had seen Corsican ports blockaded by seven ferries and is reported to have cost the ferry operators over £3 million in lost revenue. The return to work followed a 12-hour meeting between the line's managers and the Corsican workers' union STC in Ajaccio, at which SNCM agreed to increase the salaries of its Corsican workers, create more jobs in Corsica and give more authority and independence to the Corsican office.

### INDIA

See under "Political & Civil Unrest."

### ISRAEL

Jerusalem, Sep 21 — Israeli unions began a nationwide strike today expected to affect about 400,000 public sector workers and severely hamper international travel. The general strike was called by Israel's Histadrut labour federation and applied to government offices, banks, public hospitals, ports, postal services, trains, courts and financial markets. The strike was over a municipal workers' pay dispute. The Histadrut wants the government to pay salaries to municipal workers who have not been paid in many months due to a lack of funding and large debts. Commentators put the stand-off in the broader context of a Histadrut campaign to prevent Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu carrying out further free-market reforms to trim the public sector and restrain pay increases. Government offices closed and hospitals were operating on an emergency basis only. Most Israeli railroad routes shut down with sea ports and border crossings partially closed. Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport grounded outgoing travellers. An airport spokeswoman said incoming flights were being permitted to land but passengers would not be able to collect their luggage. "Israel has ceased to be a place to do business," said Oded Tyrah, head of Israel's Manufacturers Association. Finance Ministry officials failed yesterday to persuade union and local government leaders to accept proposed financial recovery programmes for municipalities and prevent the strike. "If a (municipal) council accepts a recovery programme, it could enforce the law. The banks...will allow money to arrive

because they will know there is hope that the council will pay its debt," ministry official Eitan Rob told Israel Radio. Histadrut chief Amir Peretz said workers should not be used as what he called "hostages in Netanyahu's populist power games." He said the minister had in the past failed to carry out promises to compensate them. "(The strike) will continue until a solution is found for municipal and religious council workers," he told Israel Radio. "We no longer agree that wages in Israel will be used as a vessel to promote the government's political goals." It was the third nationwide walkout since April 2003 in protest at the right-wing government's sweeping budget cuts, although unions have held smaller strikes that closed state offices and seaports for long periods in the past year. Some 7,000 members of various religious councils started a strike today preventing people registering for weddings and burying the dead. Corpses remained in morgues. Bank officials said offices would close but cash machines would continue to be filled. Petrol stations shut down as well, prompting hundreds of drivers to fill up their vehicles hours before the strike began. — Reuters.

London, Sep 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Histadrut chairman Amir Peretz announced the end of the general strike this afternoon, ending it less than 30 hours after it had begun. Banks are to resume work in the afternoon, and some will continue to be open after work hours. The seaports and trains will resume activity in the coming hours. Bezeq phone company said its 144 service is already operating. Municipal workers will start collecting garbage, which has piled up, during the afternoon. Peretz called off the strike after National Labour Court President Steve Adler ruled that striking workers must return to work by 0800 hrs, this morning. Adler also ruled that employers must pay all withheld wages to employees in local authorities, which have declared their willingness to sign recovery programs. During the morning hours, Peretz was said to be studying the ruling and therefore had not issued orders for the cancellation of the strike. The government has reportedly agreed to transfer funds for withheld wages to a special fund, which will be established by the Histadrut, from where workers will draw their wages directly, bypassing local authorities upon whose monies liens have been placed. However, a spokesman for the Finance Ministry told IBA that the government has not agreed to this arrangement, but would only agree to transfer the funds directly to the local authorities. The court ruling, he states, is that wages will be paid in parallel to the signing of recovery programs. At the first stage, employees will only receive their wages, and not compensation for withheld wages, such as interest. Workers employed by 30 local authorities who have not agreed to recovery programmes will not be paid. Twenty-six of these authorities belong to the Arab sector. At an overnight National



Labor Court session attended by the Histadrut chairman, the finance minister and the minister for internal affairs - it was agreed that these authorities will be dissolved, and the Internal Affairs Ministry will appoint administrating committees to run them. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon today warned that his government would deal harshly with local authorities that are not prepared to accept recovery plans. In a special interview to Israel Radio, Sharon explained that the withholding of wages from workers is unacceptable, and said he had instructed officials to solve the problem immediately, even though these workers are not directly government workers. The Manufacturers Association estimated that the strike, which closed down the sea and airports, leaving thousands of passengers and millions of dollars worth of goods, stranded, caused damages of NIS 960m (£120 million) in its first day. About 200 electrical malfunctions were left untreated and 75,000 pre-school children went home early. About 750,000 unionised workers, protesting delays of as much as two years in the payment of the salaries of 20,000 local authority workers, joined the strike.

#### JAPAN

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated today, states: The strike by Japanese baseball players over the weekend, the first in the 70-year history of the game in the country, is expected to cost the Japanese economy some two billion yen (\$31 million). The Japan Professional Baseball Players Association went on strike after failing to convince team executives to suspend the merger of the Osaka-based Kintetsu Buffaloes and Orix BlueWave of Kobe in the six-club Pacific League. It also demanded to no avail a new club be allowed to join the Pacific League next season. The union opposes the merger because it would not only cost the jobs of at least 100 players and club employees, but also possibly lead to a consolidation of the two professional leagues, with more indebted clubs being weeded out. The two-day walkout halted 12 weekend matches and cost baseball clubs and stadiums some two billion yen in gate takings, food and merchandise sales, and television rights.

#### 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 to 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.

#### NETHERLANDS

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Port workers in Rotterdam went on strike today over planned government changes to labour policies, causing disruption to operations at Europe's largest port. The 24-hour strike - which began at 2100, UTC, yesterday - mainly involved stevedores who work at container and dry-bulk terminals, while the impact on oil-related operations wasn't expected to be significant, a spokesman at the Port of Rotterdam said. Of the 60,000 people that work at the port, 4,000-5,000 dockers are involved in the strike, Tie Schellekens said. The strike was triggered by government plans to extend the age of retirement in the Netherlands from 61 to 65 years of age, he said. Some firms have negotiated with their employees to join strike action in Rotterdam for part of the afternoon, in the hope of causing as little disruption as possible, he added. Royal Dutch Vopak NV's Europoort terminal was among the facilities affected, though the tank storage operator said it hoped to lessen the impact on barge loadings of oil products. "We expect it to be limited since we knew of it beforehand and we were able to reduce (the strike time) to four-five hours," the spokesman said. "We were also able to reschedule with our customers who were supposed to load today." Officials said a second strike is planned for early October.

#### PAKISTAN

Karachi, Sep 22 — The Sindh Balochistan Rice Millers and Traders Association are observing a three-day strike with effect from today by closing entire businesses and as many as 750 rice mills of Sindh and Balochistan to protest against the reluctance of rice exporters to purchase Sugdasi rice worth Rs 200 million stocked with them, according to a press release of the association. The protest is also against the apathy of the Ministry of Commerce, Export Promotion Bureau and Trading Corporation of Pakistan for their failure to help them. The strike is being observed from today to Friday (Sep 24) and if no heed is paid to their grievance, the SBRMTA will announce a further strategy to force the concerned quarters to purchase and export 100,000 tonnes of long grain aromatic Sugdasi rice lying in godowns. In his letter to acting President Muhammadian Soomro and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, President SBRMTA Gada Hussain Mahessar,

appealed to them to solve this serious problem in the larger interest of rice cultivators and for the survival of the rice industry of Sindh and Balochistan. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Sep 22 — More than 200 representatives of oil mills' associations went on strike across the Punjab Province of Pakistan yesterday against the imposition of 15% general sales tax on cottonseed oil. Several mill owners and association representatives held a protest meeting in the district. Pakistan Oil Mills Association President Sheikh Fazal and Punjab's association chief Muhammad Ashiq Bhatti told local media after the meeting that various oil mills in the south Punjab had already gone on strike. They pledged to continue strike till the withdrawal of GST. After the decision, they said, the oil mills had stopped procuring cotton seed from ginners. The price of phutti has gone down at grain market from Rs1,000 per 40kgs to Rs925 per 40kgs. Similarly, cotton is now being sold at Rs2,150 per 40kgs instead of Rs2,350. With the decision of the oil mills to go on strike, over 80,000 labourers will be affected in the Punjab. Farmer all over the province will face equal agony in the face of reduction in phutti prices. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### SOUTH AFRICA

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Unions and government officials are meeting in South Africa today in an attempt to thrash out a pay deal to avert a new wave of strikes next week. This follows what was billed as the biggest strike in South Africa's history, when hundreds of thousands of public workers stayed away yesterday. Most of the country's schools were closed but officials said "essential services" were not affected. Eight public sector unions, including those representing teachers, nurses, police officers and prison wardens, have rejected a six percent pay offer, demanding a seven percent rise. "The... public service unions have agreed that they need to intensify this programme of action and... extend the stay-away to next Monday (Sep 20) and Tuesday (Sep 21) if the government does not heed their call for an improved offer within 48 hours," Zwelinzima Vavi, general secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) told Reuters news agency. South Africa has about 1.1 million public servants, of which 990,000 are union members, and there are fears the strike could cost as much as \$30m (£16.8m). Unions leaders said that 800,000 workers stayed away from work, which Professor Duncan Innes of the University of Witwatersrand says would make it the biggest strike in South Africa's history.

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated today, states: South African public servants have called off two days of strikes they had threatened for this week. The strikes, planned for today and tomorrow, were suspended while ordinary members are consulted on the government's latest pay offer. Union officials say the government has increased its pay offer to 6.2%, up 0.2%,

while eight public sector unions, including those representing teachers, nurses, police officers and prison wardens, were demanding seven percent. For the following two years, the government has offered to increase pay by 0.4% above the rate of inflation.

London, Sep 21 — A press report, dated Sep 20, states: Unrest broke out last week at Durban's multi purpose terminal involving the casual labour element and has since spread to other terminals including the container terminal. Two urgent court interdicts have been taken out preventing strikers from intimidating others but police have so far taken little or no action according to reports. Measures are being taken by stevedores to deal with personnel shortages but SA Port Operations expects delays in container handling to develop. Some violence and intimidation has been reported.

London, Sept 21 — Information received, dated Sept 20, states: The port of Durban has been hit by a series of strikes involving hundreds of casual dock labourers. Disruption to work at all terminals within the port is being reported and SA Port Operations (SAPO) reports that violence and intimidation of permanent workers both on and off the port premises has hampered SAPO's ability to put in place contingency plans. September is normally one of the busiest times in the port, which may have formed part of the strikers' plans. According to Mr Steven Matlou, SAPO executive manager Human Resources, the unrest which started at the Maydon Wharf terminal early last week (Monday, Sept 13) has spread to all the organisation's Durban terminals. "The strike does not include SAPO employees and is beyond our control. We have also served court interdicts on the strikers in an attempt to stop the intimidation but to no avail," he said. According to some reports violence last week included gunshots fired into the side of a light delivery vehicle at the port. Other claims talk of workers being forced out of warehouses and off ships. Several stevedore companies confirmed the strike was affecting their operations. "We're managing to work our ships but not at the normal pace," said one who asked to remain anonymous. P&O Nedlloyd shipping company issued a statement today advising that operations with one of their container vessels in port, *P&O Nedlloyd Accra* had been affected. "There is no firm indication when stability will be achieved," it stated. Fears are being expressed among port users that an escalation in violence may force the port to go to Level 2 of the recently introduced International Ships and Ports Security Code (ISPS), which would have serious international ramifications for Durban. The cost of the unrest is estimated to reach hundreds of thousands of rands daily. The port manager, Mr Basil Ndlovu told Ports & Ships this evening that apart from an incursion at Maydon Wharf last week strikers had since remained out of the harbour. He claimed the fenced off areas had not experienced any trouble, although a senior stevedore pointed out

that it only took a phone call from outside to have an affect on the labour force even within the safety of a fence. "They know where the workers catch their trains or buses, they know where they live. Of course workers feel intimidated," he said Matlou said that several meetings had been held this year with the unions to discuss the issues related to the difference in wages and working conditions set out by the various stevedoring companies which serviced SAPO. Further meetings with all industry players as well as the National Department of Transport were scheduled for Oct 4 and 5, but it seemed that the unions are trying to fast track the process and are using SAPO as leverage, he said. SAPO said that while business unit managers were continuing to work ships it was not at an optimum pace. Ship turnaround times were increasing while production and productivity was low. Ports & Ships spoke with one union, UTATU which said it was not involved and knew little about any strike action. The local representative for another union representing the majority of permanent port workers, SATAWU, could not be reached this afternoon or tonight (Monday). However Ports & Ships understands that the strike is the result of an unofficial union claiming to represent casual labourers who were formerly part of the National Dock Labour Scheme (NDLS). This union, led by Willy Cirah, wants the NDLS, which was closed in 2001 to be reinstated. The casual workers, who were using nearby Congella Park to assemble, claim that being forced to apply for work through labour brokers prevents them from having any job security. They say the levels of pay are poor and maintain that labour brokers tell them there are plenty of others seeking work if they are not satisfied. (Note — *P&O Nedlloyd Accra* arrived Durban Sept 18.)

London, Sep 23 — Information received, dated today, states: The strike by casual labourers employed by stevedore companies at the port of Durban was called off this morning following extensive negotiations between members of the stevedore association, SA Port Operations and the striking labourers. "We had a good attendance of lashing gangs this morning and the terminal anticipates full attendance of hatchmen as from the afternoon shift," said Joe Madlala, acting business unit manager for the Durban container terminal at midday today. Tomorrow is a South African public holiday but most of the port will remaining at work as normal.



#### LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INJURIES, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A former Lafayette

school custodian forced out of a job because of a debilitating car accident was awarded \$1.9 million by a Boulder County jury. Harold Smith, 58, won the award as part of a civil lawsuit Friday (Sep 17) after jurors deliberated for more than three hours at the conclusion of the weeklong trial. Smith's car was hit on Aug 30, 2001, by a truck at a Longmont intersection while Smith was on his way to work at Alicia Sanchez Elementary School. The driver of the Hillcrest Glass Company truck was ticketed for not stopping at a blinking red light. Smith sued the glass company. He suffered back and neck injuries so severe he could only work one-hour days for about a year, which the school allowed because of Smith's involvement there, said former principal Nancy Mervar.

#### 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.

#### **PATENT INFRINGEMENT, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 23 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A small San Jose-based firm is the big winner in a lawsuit against Sony. Immersion develops and licenses touch-related technologies. Yesterday a federal jury awarded Immersion 82 million dollars in a patent infringement lawsuit against Sony. The jury agreed that Sony's popular Playstation videogame consoles as well as its DualShock controllers and 47 games infringed on two Immersion patents. Sony disagrees with the decision and has promised to appeal.

#### **UNSAFE WORKING CONDITIONS AND UNFAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 23 — A press report, dated Sep 21, states: Two companies will pay Monterey County nearly \$2 million to settle civil charges of unsafe working conditions and unfair business practices stemming from last year's spectacular fire at Duke Energy's power plant in Moss Landing, the District Attorney's Office announced today. The settlement comes more than

a year after a worker's torch ignited the 1.2-million gallon oil fire, sending flames 100 feet into the air, and causing a column of black smoke to tower skyward. The settlement reimburses the agencies that fought the fire and requires the companies, Duke and its subcontractor Earth Tech, to give its workers better training in the handling of hazardous materials. The county charged that conditions on the site, where Earth Tech was dismantling old fuel oil tanks, violated the California Health and Safety Code, Labour Code and Business and Professions Code. One complaint said that the companies failed to report propane tanks at the site, endangering more than 100 firefighters who responded to the call. A worker was dismantling the metal roof of an oil tank with a 5,000-degree cutting torch when the fire started. Hot bits of metal, melted by the torch, dripped down onto the remaining fuel oil in the tank, setting it ablaze. But the permit that allowed the companies to dismantle the tank prohibited the use of such torches until all the oil was cleaned from the tanks. Earth Tech, a Tyco Inc. subsidiary that will pay the county \$1.2 million, did not admit or deny any wrongdoing by agreeing to the settlement. It did not contest the district attorney's charges. While Duke agreed to its \$750,000 portion of the settlement, the company disputed its responsibility for the fire. Work at the site, where Duke is dismantling oil tanks left over from its power plant's conversion from oil to natural gas, has continued since the fire. But Earth Tech is no longer performing the task.

#### **WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A woman who spent 16 years in prison before her murder conviction was set aside will get \$7.5 million in a settlement with the St. Louis suburb where the slaying took place. Ellen Reasonover, 47, sued the suburb of Dellwood over her 1983 murder conviction in the killing of a 19-year-old gas station clerk during an attempted robbery. Under the settlement, which will be funded by the community's insurers, Dellwood and its police chief admit no wrongdoing. In a statement, they said they "continue to have full confidence" in the murder investigation and declined to comment because of pending lawsuits. In the botched holdup and slaying, no witnesses saw Reasonover and no fingerprints were found. But when she called police with a tip and gave a phony name, she became a prime suspect. Two jail informants supplied key testimony against her. A jury convicted her of capital murder. It wasn't until 1996 that defence attorneys learned of a secret jailhouse tape in which Reasonover and a former boyfriend repeatedly denied involvement. A federal judge freed her in 1999.

## Railway Accidents



#### **BEDFORD HILLS, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Exit 38 of the Saw Mill River Parkway and an adjacent railroad crossing were expected to reopen this morning, two days after a commuter train smashed into a truck stuck on the tracks at Green Lane, injuring 29 passengers. Metro-North Railroad workers spent yesterday rebuilding the crossing's foundations, gate arm, mast pole, motor, lights, signs, cable and electronic equipment, all of which were destroyed in the 0837 hrs. crash. The repairs are expected to cost up to \$100,000, Metro-North spokesman Dan Brucker said. The truck driver, See Singchaichana, 43, of Federal Heights, Colo., got stuck at the crossing when his car trailer failed to clear the grade. He had been driving illegally on the parkway when he exited at Green Lane. He was issued four citations after the accident. The front two cars of the six-car train that smashed into the car carrier are unsalvageable, Brucker said. The railroad hasn't decided whether to replace them. Purchasing new cars would cost at least \$1.8 million apiece. The four rear cars, whose undercarriages were damaged, will be repaired at a total cost of about \$100,000, he said. The railroad was not notified about the disabled truck in its path in time to stop the train before the accident.

#### **BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND**

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated Sep 16, states: Fire crews had to help 15 passengers and staff to safety after a train caught fire on its way into north Belfast. The blaze, which started in the engine compartment this evening, was quickly put out by six fire crews. Passengers had to use ladders to dismount from the train and climb a steep bank onto the nearby motorway at Greencastle. One family had to be taken off the train by hoist.

#### **BENALLA, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA**

London, Sep 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A train derailment in Victoria's north-east early today was expected to disrupt the passenger train service between Sydney and Melbourne. Police said no-one was injured when the freight train left the tracks between the Yarrowonga Road Crossing and the Witt Street Crossing at Benalla about 0445, AEST. Four carriages at the back of the train ran off the tracks, Pacific National spokesman Stephen Baines said. He said the carriages, which were carrying concrete, did not tip over. Mr Baines said the train line had been closed and the XPT service would be disrupted. "It will take some time for us

to clear the line," he said. "It is not a simple job. It will be several hours." Mr Baines said Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) investigators were expected to arrive at the site by 1100, AEST. The derailment would be cleared after the ATSB had finished its investigation at the site, he said. "It's obviously going to be a long process," he said.

**BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A subway car on a Brooklyn-bound B train derailed yesterday near the Manhattan Bridge, forcing the evacuation of nearly 200 passengers and disrupting the morning commute. A set of wheels on one car of the 10-car train came off the tracks at 0812 about 200 feet from the Downtown Brooklyn station at Dekalb Avenue, officials said. Another train was backed into the tunnel to help evacuate passengers to the station. The Transit Authority was still investigating the cause of the mishap, in which none of the 172 riders got hurt. A man on the derailed train was taken to Long Island College Hospital with chest pains for a pre-existing heart condition, officials said. The accident forced the B line to be shut down in both directions throughout the day.

**GARHI KHAIRO AREA, SINDH PROVINCE, PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Sep 20 — Pakistan Railway said ten bogies of a shuttle goods train derailed between Chang and Chachar railway stations near Garhi Khairo, district Jacobabad in Sindh province of Pakistan in the early hours of Sunday (Sep 19). The train, carrying wheat, was on its way to Jacobabad from Usta Muhammad, when 10 of its bogies derailed and wheat spilled between Chang and Chachar railway stations. Railway's officials said it was a cargo train being used to carry goods to and from Balochistan on daily basis. "We have dispatched our teams to the area and they have started repair of the track, which could take three days," officials said, adding the bogies would be shifted after the track was repaired. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Twenty-nine loaded CSX coal cars derailed at 2230, Saturday night (Sep 18) in Richmond's upscale West End, spilling coal and tilting open cars along the tracks and the Kanawha Canal. The engine of the 1.4-mile long train was pulling 149 open cars hauling 100 tons each on a run from Elkhorn, W.Va., to Newport News when the cars slid off the tracks. CSX Corp. spokesman Adam Hollingsworth said the reason for the derailment is under investigation. No one was injured. Crews started the clean-up before dawn yesterday. By early yesterday evening they had righted some cars and moved most of

the spilled coal away from the track for later removal. One track is expected to be useable by this morning, Hollingsworth said. But CSX doesn't know when the more damaged second track, which twisted and slid out of kilter toward the canal, will be repaired and ready for use. A hill beside the two parallel tracks showed signs of erosion and wash-off from recent heavy rains. The canal-side railbed had sunk and fallen toward the water in several places as the coal cars wrenched and pushed the tracks out of place. Hollingsworth said all CSX tracks are inspected after every major storm, and the tracks and roadbed passed muster after the remnants of Tropical Storm "Gaston" dumped 14 inches on Richmond two weeks ago.

**SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated Sep 16, states: A Union Pacific train derailed on the Southwest side, in San Antonio, derailing five cars off the track. The derailment happened about 1130, this morning, just South of the Lackland Air Force Base runway on Quintana Road. The train was on its way to Laredo. Union Pacific says the derailment happened when crews were switching cars from one track to another. Two of the cars held scrap paper. Two others were filled plastic pellets and one was empty. Union Pacific is investigating the cause of the cars going off the track.

**SYLHET AREA, BANGLADESH**

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A petroleum carrying train caught fire in Bangladesh's northeastern Sylhet district after it derailed tonight. A private television channel NTV in its night bulletin said 17 oil carriers caught fire of the train, which was going to Sylhet, 344 km northeast of Dhaka, from southeastern Chittagong port city. Three of the carriers were completely destroyed and the rest were burning. The fire spread to Alachpur and Mollickpur villages by the two sides of the track and people of the villages ran away to safety. There was no report so far on casualties in the incident.

Karachi, Sep 18 — Bangladesh Railway said rail links with Sylhet district in north-eastern Bangladesh resumed yesterday afternoon, a day after 11 wagons of an oil cargo train derailed near Fenchuganj causing a huge fire and oil spillage. The services with rest of country was resumed after salvage trains removed the damaged wagons derailed last Thursday night (Sep 16). Fire fighters from Sylhet rushed to the scene and brought the fire under control at about 0300. Sylhet Fire Station Chief Jahid Hossain said the derailed wagons caught fire at about 2100 about one-and-half-an-hour after the accident. Meanwhile, Railway authorities formed a three-member enquiry committee headed by chief traffic manager (eastern zone) to probe the accident. Preliminary estimates suggest a loss of over Taka 6.5 million. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**WICHITA, KANSAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated Sep 19, states: A train derailed in downtown Wichita today, causing damage to a pavilion and satellites at Cox Communications and forcing the closing of three streets. There were no injuries reported and the cause of the derailment was under investigation. Ten cars derailed on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway line at about 1015. The derailment occurred in an 80-car train at the elevated railway near Douglas and St. Francis. One of the double-stacked box cars that derailed angled upward and struck a concrete pavilion at Cox Communications, headquartered at the former Union Station at 701 E. Douglas. The impact knocked out signals of the three satellite dishes atop the pavilion. The signals were restored by early afternoon. At least one of the cars fell from the elevated tracks onto the ground, but there were no other structural damages reported.



**CEMENT DISPUTE, MEXICO**

London, Sep 23 — A press report, dated Sep 22, states: Cement storage ship *Mary Nour* and its 41-member crew have been stuck at Mexican ports for more than two months, barred from unloading Russian cement after local producers, including Mexican cement giant Cemex, used safety concerns and technicalities to keep them out of what some call an overpriced market. *Mary Nour's* crew, which includes Philippine, Croatian and British citizens, was denied water at Tampico for about a week, and has now moved on to Altamira, a nearby port. The crew has allegedly been harassed by police, and the ship's cargo has been embargoed by customs authorities. Cemex says it obtained a court order to block the ship from tying up as a floating distribution centre for cement shipments, fearing it would endanger shipping in the port of Tampico, where Cemex has a harbourside plant. *Mary Nour* wanted to park at a dock, and have another ship tie up alongside it, keeping it stocked with as many as 500,000 tons of cement annually. "Ships could run aground" while trying to squeeze past the double-docked boats, said de la Torre. Experts familiar with the port operations at Tampico said there were navigational problems with the scheme. But they also said port authorities have been unwilling to work out the technical problems, which they said could be resolved. Another technical argument advanced by Mexico's National Cement Chamber - the largest of whose five members is Cemex - is that CDM lacked registry as an authorized importer because it didn't have the required land-based warehouse. Dajani said Cemex has



pressured suppliers in Asia not to sell to the consortium working with CDM. The cement chamber, for its part, argues "there is no need to import cement from other countries to meet domestic demand."

#### **CHEMICAL LEAKAGE FROM REFINERY, YINCHUAN, CHINA**

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Leakage of hydrogen sulphide at a refinery in Yinchuan, capital of northwestern Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, knocked down 12 farmers on Wednesday (Sep 15). Two of the seriously poisoned farmers were still under medical observation while the others are out of danger, a doctor with the regional people's hospital said yesterday.

#### **INFESTATION OF LOCUSTS ACROSS NORTH AND WEST AFRICA**

London, Sep 22 — A press report, dated Sep 21, states: The International Fund for Agricultural Development approved a donation of 1.55 million dollars to help fight a devastating locust invasion wreaking havoc in west and north Africa, the body said. The money will help finance long-term efforts to fight the insects as well as training staff and equipping laboratories in the many countries in the region affected by the invasion, the Rome-based UN agency said in a statement. Between three and four million hectares of crops have been shredded by the insects in west Africa. Senegal, Mauritania, Mali and Niger have been the hardest hit. In Mauritania alone about 1.6 million hectares of land have been devastated. The UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation said Friday (Sep 17) that 100 million dollars were needed to fight the locust plague, but it said that donor nations had so far only committed to rapidly make available 16 million dollars already pledged while saying they would raise another 40 million dollars.

#### **OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"**

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.

London, Sep 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Cambodia has detected its first new cases of bird flu in chickens since March. A senior agriculture ministry official says the H5N1 strain of the virus has been discovered at Kien Svay district in Kandal province, near the capital, Phnom Penh. The official says more than 2,300 chickens have died or been culled in the latest outbreak. During the first wave of bird flu earlier this year, Cambodia reported 12 outbreaks of the virus, but no human infections. Six Asian countries have now reported fresh outbreaks in poultry since July. The virus has been responsible for 28 human deaths in Thailand and Vietnam during the two waves of outbreaks this year.

#### **OUTBREAK OF NOROVIRUS ON UNITED KINGDOM FLAGGED PASSENGER VESSEL**

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A Princess Cruises ship will go through a "super-sanitisation" for any traces of a Norwalk-like virus when it arrives at Canada Place in Vancouver today. Eighty-four of the 2,000 passengers aboard passenger *Sun Princess* (77441 gt, built 1995) battled the gastrointestinal illness during the seven-day voyage from Whittier, Alaska. Princess Cruises spokeswoman Julie Benson said the virus, known as the norovirus, is highly contagious and easily passed from person to person. "When you have passengers on a ship and everyone is touching the same handrails and elevator buttons and doors and if they aren't washing their hands frequently then it gets passed along," Benson said. "This ship is at the highest level of alert and vigilance and it has been since a few passengers presented with the illness after day one or two of the cruise." A "very vigilant and comprehensive protocol" was put in place, she said, which includes constant cleaning of public areas and hand sanitising stations. The illness lasts between 24 and 48 hours. Health Canada officials were due to board the ship today and meet with the ship's sanitation crew and doctors. They will try to confirm that it is norovirus and will try to determine how it spread.

London, Sep 22 — A press report, dated Sep 21, states: A total of 276 passengers and crew became ill from suspected outbreaks of the Norwalk virus aboard passenger *Sun Princess* on its final three Alaska voyages, according to Health Canada. The ship -

empty of passengers - left today for San Francisco at the end of the cruising season in B.C. and Alaskan waters after a quick examination by federal officials, said Kevin Carlise, public health manager with Health Canada. "We only had a couple of hours to look over the vessel - not long enough to do a thorough examination," said Carlise. When the ship docked in Vancouver on Sep 6, after leaving Whittier, Alaska, 11 passengers were reported suffering vomiting and diarrhea - symptoms of norovirus, also known as the Norwalk virus, he said. The ship normally carries approximately 2,000 passengers and 800 crew. When *Sun Princess* turned around Sep 6 and headed back to Alaska there were 145 passengers and five crew who came down ill with Norwalk symptoms during the voyage. The ship then left Alaska with a new intake of passengers and when it arrived in Vancouver, yesterday, 101 passengers and 14 crew were reported sick.

#### OVERSEAS MARILYN (U.S.A)

London, Sep 23 — Bulk *Overseas Marilyn*, which quarantined off the coast of Galveston after crew member died after suspected to have contracted Lassa fever, arrived Houston Sep 10 and sailed Sep 16.

### Fires & Explosions



#### AIRCRAFT HANGAR, GALVESTON, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 23 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The Galveston Fire Marshal's Office has been investigating the cause of a large commercial fire that occurred on Monday (Sep 20) night at an aircraft hangar located on airport property. At the request of Galveston Fire Marshal, Gilbert Robinson, the National Response Team (NRT) from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF), along with ATF special agents from Houston, Texas have responded to the investigation. This is a joint investigation between the Galveston Fire Department, the Galveston Fire Marshal's Office and the ATF. Robert Elder, Team Supervisor and Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) of ATF in Houston, Texas, said that "the World War II hangar, which was being remodeled for a water park, was destroyed and early estimates of damages are in excess of \$3 million. The ATF NRT Team is being brought in to assist in the investigation because of the difficulties presented when investigating a fire of this size."

#### CAR DEPOT, ROSSLYN, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Vehicles worth millions of rands were destroyed when a bush fire raged out of control and

swept into a car depot at Rosslyn at the weekend. The fire, fanned by strong winds, destroyed 97 Nissan Almeras at the Nissan factory. It is believed the fire, which also wiped out a bird sanctuary situated next to the vehicle plant, could have been started when a cigarette was thrown through an open window. The cars, set to be sold to second-hand car dealerships in the city, were gutted. It took emergency workers about an hour to bring the fire under control. The vehicles, part of a consignment bought back from car rental dealerships two weeks ago, were estimated to be worth R9-million (\$1.3 million). Workers at nearby factories said they heard dozens of loud explosions as the fire swept through the car lot. "We could hear the tanks exploding and the metal chassis making loud cracking noises," said Martin Deader, one of the first to raise the alarm. Deader said the fire was so fierce, some of the vehicles had partially melted. It was too hot to get near the cars, he said. Henry Grimbeek, a director at Nissan, confirmed that 97 vehicles had been destroyed by the blaze. "The cars were destroyed in about 10 minutes. Each was valued at about R100 000," he said. Tshwane Emergency Services spokesperson Johan Pieterse said 22 fire-fighters from three fire stations had been called in to extinguish the blaze. He said that the cause of the fire would only be determined once the investigation into the blaze was complete. Pieterse said it was fortunate that nobody was injured during the fire.

#### CHEMICAL PLANT, ULSAN, SOUTH KOREA

London, Sep 21 — A press report, dated Sep 20, states: A fire broke out at a chemical plant in Ulsan, South Korea today, but there were no casualties, a company official said. The fire, which broke out at a polyester manufacturing plant owned by Hyosung Corp., has been extinguished, a company official said on customary condition of anonymity. The cause of the fire and the extent of the damage was not immediately known.

#### COACH DEPOT AND VEHICLES, BIGGLESWADE, BEDFORDSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A suspicious fire at a Bedfordshire bus station yesterday night has destroyed 11 buses and disrupted services. The blaze broke out at the Stagecoach depot on the Eldon Way Industrial Estate in Biggleswade at 2330, BST. Fire investigation officers and scenes of crime experts were meeting at the depot on Friday to establish a cause. Operator Stagecoach has warned passengers to expect disruption until other buses from around the county could be redeployed.

#### HOSPITAL, HAITI

Port au Prince, Sep 22 — Our agents at Cape Haiti have informed us that its hospital is being destroyed by fire, origin not yet known. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### LEISURE CENTRE, BURY ST. EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sep 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A Suffolk leisure centre remained closed today after a large fire engulfed the building. The fire broke out in the roof above the main swimming pool at the Bury St Edmunds Sport and Leisure Centre on Beetons Way at 1630, BST, yesterday. About 60 firefighters tackled the blaze, which became so intense that the building had to be evacuated. An investigation has begun into the cause of the fire, but it is not thought to be suspicious.

London, Sep 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The bill to repair a leisure centre that was badly damaged by a major blaze will run into millions of pounds. Engineers were able yesterday to gain access to Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre following yesterday's fire and described the damage to the building's roof as "very extensive". Council officials - who had already spent about £1million on the centre and planned to pump millions more into improvement work - said "all options are open" regarding the repair programme, with a complete refurbishment possible if the interior of the building needs gutting. Terry Clements, portfolio holder for leisure and sport on St Edmundsbury Borough Council, which owns the leisure centre, said: "There is very extensive damage on site and obviously we need engineers to have a closer look at it before we decide what we are going to do next." Mike Dawson, the council's corporate director for community, said: "The damage is very extensive, but it will be some time before a detailed assessment is carried out and we know what is needed to put it right. We are still looking at the structure of the building and while parts appear to be quite good, other areas clearly have structural concerns." The cause of the blaze is still being investigated and Suffolk Deputy Chief Fire Officer Ken Seager praised the actions of firefighters for preventing further damage to the leisure centre. Mr Seager said there was "considerable damage" inside the leisure centre, caused by the water used to fight the flames, while some areas of the roof had also been badly affected.

#### LIBRARY, WEIMAR, GERMANY

London, Sep 21 — A press report, dated today, states: The fire that burnt a historic German library, in Weimar, on Sep 2, destroyed twice as many books as previously thought, with some 50,000 works suffering irreparable fire damage, officials said today. The fire at Weimar's Duchess Anna Amalia Library tore through the roof and top floor of the 16th-century rococo palace housing the library, destroying classic books from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. "The damages are much more terrible than we thought on the night of the fire," Hellmut Seemann, the president of the foundation that supports the library, said. In addition to the books lost, Seemann said that about 62,000 books were damaged, about 20% of the library's collection. Restoring



those books will cost up to \$73 million and take some seven years. In addition, 37 paintings, including a 1760 portrait of Countess Anna Amalia by Johann Friedrich Loeber, were destroyed. Another 100 paintings, 80 sculptures and 20 drawings were damaged, but can be restored, officials said. Fire investigators have still not pinpointed the exact cause of the blaze, although earlier this month they said that a faulty electrical cable may have been responsible.

**MINE, NORTHAM, SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Sep 21 — A press report, dated Sep 20, states: Nine miners were killed at a Northam Platinum Ltd. mine, in its worst-ever accident, after a fire broke out on a conveyor belt more than a mile underground. "The miners have been found dead," Charmane Russell, a spokeswoman at Northam, South Africa's fourth-biggest platinum producer, said. Production was halted at the Johannesburg-based company's lone mine in northeastern South Africa. Forty-six miners were rescued after fire broke at 0100 hrs. The accident is the worst in the platinum industry in at least seven years, the Chamber of Mines said.

**PREMISES, FORT WORTH, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated Sep 19, states: Expressions Custom Furniture store was destroyed and Mehl's Shoeland sustained extensive smoke and water damage in a three-alarm fire early yesterday at Stonegate Commons, a strip (shopping) centre at 2900 S.Hulen St. Damage to the stucco-and-steel building was estimated at \$500,000. Damage to the stock at the furniture and shoe stores was estimated at \$650,000, said Lt. Kent Worley, a Fire Department spokesman. Worley said that the exact cause of the fire was under investigation but that it appears to have been electrical. Other businesses in the strip centre were undamaged.

**REFINERY, MARTINEZ, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A fire at the Tesoro refinery in Martinez that has been burning since just after midnight this morning has been extinguished, a refinery spokesman said today. The fire burning in an acid tank at the Golden Eagle Refinery was extinguished shortly after 0700 hrs said spokesman Jon Ballesteros. He said the tank fire remained a Level 2 incident as a precautionary measure but Tesoro has worked with the appropriate agencies to determine that the fire has had no offsite impacts. The fire was reported as a Level 1 incident at 0013 hrs, and raised to a Level 2 incident at 0022 hrs due to the possibility of off-site consequences, reported the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department. Ballesteros said that because the area of the fire remains hot, Tesoro has not began investigating to determine the cause until later. He said Tesoro will launch a thorough investigation. Ballesteros said

that the refinery will work closely with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District in investigating the fire. District investigators have been at the scene of the fire as well as in the community to monitor any potential impacts of the fire. The tank involved in the fire will not be in operation today, said Ballesteros, but all other units are operating at planned rates and overall operations have not been affected.

**RESTAURANT, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 22 — A press report, dated Sep 21, states: Fire investigators are trying to determine why a Venetian Isles restaurant went up in flames early this morning. More than 100 firefighters spent most of the morning battling the five-alarm blaze at Mamie's restaurant in the 20000 block of Chef Menteur Highway. The building was a total loss. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

**WAREHOUSE, BRADFORD, YORKSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Residents were forced to leave their homes yesterday night by a large fire in a textile warehouse in Bradford. More than 70 firefighters were needed to control the blaze which broke out about 2100, BST, at the Sakhi Baba warehouse on Church Street, Manningham. The building has been so badly damaged that it may have to be demolished.

**WAREHOUSE, WEST BOYNTON, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 21 — A press report, dated Sep 20, states: A late-night fire that gutted a mulch packaging warehouse also burned through telephone, power and cable lines yesterday, disrupting services to thousands of south Palm Beach County residents. Firefighters were called about 2300 hrs after flames were seen through the warehouse roof, county Fire-Rescue Capt. Don DeLucia said. The fire ripped through the Atlas Peat & Soil warehouse on U.S. 441 near Boynton Beach Boulevard, causing the building to collapse into a pile of twisted metal and smoldering mulch. Forty firefighters fought for almost two hours to get the fire under control, DeLucia said. The fire was completely out a little before 0500 hrs, today. Atlas suffered about \$1.4 million in losses, DeLucia said. Though arson is suspected, the investigation has not yet ruled out an accidental cause, fire-rescue officials said. Running alongside the now-collapsed warehouse were telephone, power and cable lines supplying services to south Palm Beach County residents. Gwen Cogan, government affairs director for Adelphia Communications Corp., could not say exactly how many of its 560,000 Palm Beach County customers were affected, but onsite engineers said all of Delray Beach, Boca Raton and the outlying western areas lost cable and high-speed Internet service. In addition, more than 150 people lost power because of the fire, Florida Power &

Light Co. spokesman Mayco Villafana said. A poll carrying power and telephone lines burned down, cutting service to neighbouring homes and businesses. Adelphia and FPL officials expected normal service to resume late tonight.

**WILDFIRES, BOLIVIA**

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated Sep 16, states: Hundreds of wildfires in Bolivia have created a thick haze of smoke and prompted two regions to declare a state of emergency. Hospitals have been overwhelmed by people requiring treatment for difficulties with breathing and sight. Thousands of hectares of land have been destroyed, forcing many peasant farmers from their homes. The fire was started by farmers who burned forest to prepare for the sowing season. The blaze is being spread by high winds and hot weather.



**ACCIDENT AT MEDINA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT, OHIO, UNITED STATES**

See N172WW.

**AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO BARAJAS AIRPORT, MADRID, SPAIN**

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An aircraft heading to Gatwick Airport from Madrid had to turn round in mid-flight and return to the Spanish capital after a depressurisation scare today. British Airways flight 2465, carrying 55 passengers, turned back 90 minutes after take-off this afternoon. The aircraft returned to Madrid's Barajas Airport where technicians checked the aircraft and found nothing wrong, while passengers waited in the terminal. The flight then set off again, heading for Gatwick.

**CRASH INTO LAKE NEAR KITTILA, FINLAND**

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people are believed to have been killed when small plane crashed in Lapland yesterday. The light craft crashed into a lake near Kittilla. This morning divers and rescue workers resumed their search for the wreckage. They were unable to locate the pilot and the passenger yesterday. The weather was rainy with poor visibility at the time of the accident. Eye-witnesses say that the plane flew very low before crashing into the lake. Some say that one of the wings and the tail were broken. Authorities believe the plane sank to around 10 metres in depth, some 100 metres from shore. Pieces of the craft have been found floating on the surface.

**CRASH INTO SEA NEAR SKRAECKSKAER ISLAND, SWEDEN**

Gothenburg, Sep 19 — A Sikorsky 76C ambulance helicopter, owned by

Norrlandsflyg based on Gotland/Visby, on an emergency mission to pick up a heart patient, crashed and lost contact with the MRCC and was confirmed crashed into water, just outside the small island "Skraeckskaer" Gryt archipelago in the Baltic. The helicopter left the base for the mission at 2230, yesterday evening, and lost contact shortly after 2300. The patient living in the archipelago, was to be picked up with a nurse onboard the helicopter together with two pilots, mechanic and crew, to bring the sick man to hospital at Norrköping. After contact was lost, the Berga Military picked up an emergency signal, and another rescue squad, helicopter and surface units was sent out. The crashed helicopter had landed outside the island for unknown reasons and the five-man crew had to swim for half-an-hour and escaped to an island, all safe. They were picked up there by the rescue helicopter after 0100 this morning. The patient had to go by boat and ambulance to the hospital. The helicopter sunk to a depth of 4 metres. An investigation into the reason of the crash is to be held before a decision to salvage the helicopter. — Westax Marine Services AB.

#### **CRASH, ARDSHEAL, SCOTLAND, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated today, states: One man died and another was seriously injured when a helicopter crashed in the Scottish Highlands. Rescuers said the man had been killed when the small civilian helicopter crashed into a hillside at Ardsheal, near Kentallen, south-west of Ballchuilish. The injured man is believed to have been taken to Belford Hospital in Fort William. Emergency services were called to the scene of the crash at around 2100, yesterday. A major search and rescue operation involved police, fire brigade and ambulance as well as local mountain rescuers, Rescue 137, an RAF Lossiemouth helicopter and Rescue 177, a Naval helicopter from Prestwick. Northern Constabulary said the two casualties had been found near the wreckage. It is believed that there were only two people on board and the search failed to trace anybody else. Michael Mulford, spokesman for the RAF rescue centre in Kinloss, said that reports of the incident were of a helicopter flying over the eastern side of Loch Linnhe before a huge bang was heard and a ball of flames was seen on the hillside.

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated today, states: One person has been killed and another injured after a helicopter crashed in the Scottish Highlands. The alarm was raised when a helicopter pilot in the area heard a small civilian helicopter going over at about 2100, BST. The man heard a thump and saw a fireball on the hillside at Kentallen Bay, south of Ballchuilish. Weather conditions in the area were very poor. The helicopter involved in the crash is said to be a four-seat R44 model. The cause of the crash is not yet known, although visibility was understood to have been very poor. The

Air Accidents Investigation Branch is launching an inquiry into the cause of the crash. Two investigators are expected to arrive at the scene around mid-afternoon, today.

#### **CRASH, DETROIT, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES**

See N7662C.

#### **CRASH, MEGHALAYA STATE, INDIA**

London, Sep 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A helicopter carrying 10 people including a state minister crashed today in India's north-eastern hill state of Meghalaya, police said. An officer in the police control room said the helicopter, which belonged to the government of the state bordering Bangladesh, crashed at Badaopani, 18 km from the capital Shillong. He said it was too early to give details on casualties. The helicopter took off on a routine daily flight from Guwahati, the capital of the neighbouring state of Assam, and went off the radar half an hour later. The Indian Air Force sent a rescue helicopter to the crash site from a base in Shillong.

#### **CRASH, MISSOURI RIVER, UNITED STATES**

See N842MC.

#### **CRASH, MOUNT YUZURUHA, HYOGO PREFECTURE, JAPAN**

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A light plane crashed into a foggy mountain on Awaji Island, Hyogo Prefecture, this evening, killing its two occupants, prefectural police said. At around 1640 hrs, police received an emergency call from a priest at a local shrine saying that a light plane had plunged into Mount Yuzuruha in Nandan, Hyogo Prefecture. The police department immediately dispatched officers, who found a man and a woman dead near the wreckage of the aircraft. Investigators are trying to identify the two and determine the cause of the crash. The plane left Nanki Shirahama Airport in southern Wakayama Prefecture this afternoon, and was heading to Takamatsu Airport in Kagawa Prefecture. It was under the command of Captain Tateo Okamura, according to the flight plan. The woman aboard the plane was believed to be the pilot's wife. It was foggy around the scene at the time of the accident, prefectural police investigators noted.

London, Sep 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A light aircraft crashed into the mountains in Nandan town on Awaji Island in Hyogo Prefecture on Monday (Sep 20), killing the two people who were aboard the aircraft, prefectural police said. The police received information from a shrine near the top of the 608-metre Mt Yuzuruha on the island around 1640, Monday, that an aircraft had crashed. According to the Osaka Regional Civil Aviation Bureau, the aircraft, a Socata TB10, was piloted by Tateo Okamura, 56, of Takamatsu, Kagawa Prefecture, with his wife Miyoko, 56, aboard.

#### **CRASH, NINGBO CITY, CHINA**

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Two people were killed and five others badly injured when a civil helicopter crashed in Ningbo City of eastern China's Zhejiang Province today, said local police. The helicopter, carrying seven people including crew members and journalists from the local TV station, went down into a hilltop at around 1400 hrs. The helicopter was rented by the Ningbo TV Station from the Zhejiang TV Station and used for a camera aircraft at a local scenic spot. Local authorities, policemen and firemen rushed to the scene for rescue. All the injured have been hospitalised. Investigation into the cause is underway.

#### **CRASH, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA**

See VH-JWX.

#### **EC-GYD**

London, Sep 21 — Piper PA-31 P-425, EC-GYD, was destroyed when it crashed after departure from Seville Airport, Spain, at 1105, UTC, Sep 1. The two pilots and one passenger were killed. The flight was destined for Tangier, Morocco.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, DUBLIN AIRPORT, IRELAND**

London, Sep 23 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An EUjet flight from Kent made an emergency landing at Dublin Airport this morning after experiencing difficulties with its nose wheel. Emergency procedures were put in place at the airport after the crew reported the difficulty, but the aircraft touched down safely just before 0830 hrs. Twenty-six people were on board at the time.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, NAPLES, ITALY**

London, Sep 20 — A press report, dated Sep 17, states: A British plane bound for Manchester airport was forced to make an emergency landing after being hit by lightning. The My Travel Boeing 757, with 230 passengers on board, was struck 20 minutes after taking off from Naples, Italy. The captain requested permission to head back to Naples, where engineers will inspect the craft for any damage. No-one on board was hurt during this morning's incident, a My Travel spokeswoman said. The passengers were taken off the plane on return to Italy.

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

See N253AA.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, POCATELLO, IDAHO, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 16 — A press report, dated Sep 15, states: A FedEx aircraft 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.

**FIRE ON AIRCRAFT, GREATER ROCHESTER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 21 — A press report, dated Sep 20, states: An engine fire grounded a plane at Greater Rochester International Airport this morning. Engines on a U.S. Airways plane bound for Washington D.C. had trouble starting for the first flight of the day. The four-person crew ordered all 44-passengers to exit the plane. After a third attempt to start it, one of the engines caught fire. No one was hurt. "It was just an external fire to the left engine on the airplane," said Terry Slaubaugh, airport manager. "We had a fireman in the airport, Captain Robert Coch, who is doing some construction inspection, he immediately hit the plane with a fire extinguisher before the airport fire department got here so they didn't have any trouble putting the fire out." Airport management says mechanical failure likely caused the fire. The airline arranged alternate flights for passengers.

**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 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.

**N1961B**

See N29BF.

**N206SM**

London, Sep 22 — A press report, dated Sep 21, states: The wreckage of a single-engine Cessna 206 G carrying U.S. Forest Service workers was found today in a Montana wilderness area. All five people aboard died, apparently on impact, a sheriff said. The crash occurred above timberline near the Paola Creek area of the Great Bear Wilderness, just south of Glacier National Park. One body was recovered

by helicopter. The other four were badly burned and probably will be removed tomorrow, Flathead County Sheriff Jim Dupont said. The cause of the crash was unknown and will be determined by the National Transportation Safety Board, he said. The plane crashed in stormy weather. Four of those aboard the six-seat aircraft, were Forest Service employees. The fifth was a contract pilot working for Edwards Jet Centre at the Kalispell airport. Pilot Jim Long, 60, took off from Glacier Park International Airport in Kalispell yesterday afternoon, the Forest Service said. The last contact with the plane came about 15 minutes later. The plane had been en route to the Great Bear-Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, where the Forest Service workers were planning to conduct an annual vegetation inventory and repair communications equipment.

London, Sep 22 — Cessna U206G, operated by Edwards Jet Center, Montana, advised by Montana Aeronautics that USFS notified them of a possible downed aircraft that did not show up at its destination at 2258, Sep 20. Aircraft departed Glacier Park International Airport at 2108, UTC.

London, Sep 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people who were reported killed in an aircraft crash (Cessna U206G) on Monday (Sep 20) emerged alive from rugged Montana wilderness yesterday, authorities said. The two US Forest Service employees reached a highway after making their way on foot for miles through mountains in north-western Montana, said Denise Germann, a spokeswoman for the Flathead National Forest. Three others died in the crash. You look at that crash site, that wreckage, you'd never believe anyone could have survived," said Flathead County Sheriff Jim Dupont. Dupont had said Tuesday that it appeared all five people on board the small aircraft died on impact. The crash started a fire "that literally melted everything," he said. He was at the crash scene sifting through wreckage and human remains when he learned yesterday there were two survivors. Jodee Hogg, of Billings, and Matthew Ramige, of Jackson Hole, Wyo., were spotted by a motorist yesterday afternoon, Germann said. The motorist drove to a bar in the Essex area, about six air miles from the crash site, and asked the bartender to call for help. Hogg was listed in stable condition at Kalispell Regional Medical Centre. Ramige was flown to Harborview Medical Centre in Seattle for burn treatment. The crash occurred above the timberline on Mount Liebign in the Great Bear Wilderness, near the southern edge of Glacier National Park. The aircraft crashed en route to a grass landing strip at Schafer Meadows Guard Station, near the Middle Fork of the Flathead River in the Great Bear-Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex.

**N253AA**

London, Sep 17 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An American Airlines aircraft made an emergency landing today at O'Hare International

Airport after flames shot from an engine shortly after take-off. The malfunction appeared to be caused by birds being sucked into the engine, airline spokeswoman Mary Frances Fagan said. The aircraft carrying 107 people landed safely and there were no injuries, Fagan said. As the aircraft rose into the air, several people on the ground said they heard an explosion overhead and saw flames shooting from the engine, Chicago Fire Department officials said. Authorities also were looking at a piece of metal that was reported as falling onto an empty softball field in nearby Niles. No injuries or damage were immediately reported on the ground. The aircraft was American Airlines Flight 1374 to Philadelphia.

London, Sep 18 — McDonnell Douglas DC-9-82, N253AA, operated by American Airlines Inc., departed Chicago, O'Hare and advised ord tower to stop departures for an emergency at 1915, Sep 16. The aircraft had hit a flock of birds which were ingested into the left engine, and advised it was returning to the airport. The aircraft landed without incident and cleared the runway. No injuries reported, the left engine is damaged.

**N2650U**

London, Sep 21 — Cessna 172D, N2650U, while on a local flight from Mountain Home, crashed near Mountain Home, Idaho, Sep 19. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

**N282HP**

London, Sep 22 — Piper PA-28-181G (Archer III), N282HP, operated by Terry Alan Cook, while on a flight from San Marcos, Texas, to Haskell, Texas, with one person on board, engine quit at 1030, UTC, Sep 21. Aircraft attempted an emergency landing at Haskell, but landed short. The aircraft was substantially damaged and the pilot suffered minor injuries.

**N29BF**

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.

London, Sep 16 — Cessna A185F, N29BF, operated by Elm Leaf Inc., landed on runway 30 at Somerset Airport, New Jersey, and went off the left side of the runway at 1306, Sep 15. N29BF crashed into Piper PA-24-260, N1961B, operated by Retrac Enterprises LLC, which was parked in the hanger. The Cessna sustained substantial damage and the Piper was destroyed. No injuries are reported.

#### **N485EV**

London, Sep 20 — Boeing 747-212B, N485EV, operated by Evergreen International Airlines Inc, on a cargo flight from Gander to Frankfurt, Germany, with three crew on board, had just departed Runway 03, Gander International Airport, at 1829, NDT, Sep 16, when the crew noticed a loud "bang", after which the aircraft yawed to port. At the same time, Gander Tower informed the crew that there was flames coming from one of their engines. The crew secured the number one engine, Pratt and Whitney JT9D-7, dumped fuel over the ocean for approximately 15 minutes and returned to Gander for landing. The crew also requested that Gander ARFF be on standby and the aircraft landed safely on Runway 21, without further incident. Inspection by maintenance personnel revealed that the fan was extensively damaged and that some of the fragments had penetrated the cowling. The remains of a seagull was found and they suspect that there is other internal damage in the engine. The number one engine will be secured for a three-engine ferry flight and the aircraft will be flown to a maintenance facility in New York.

#### **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.

#### **N7662C**

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 airbourne 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.

#### **N801SP**

London, Sep 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people died when their plane crashed in a field yesterday evening in northwest Georgia, authorities said. Federal and Bartow County authorities confirmed there were two fatalities in the crash, in which a single-engine Piper went down about 1900 hrs. Witnesses said they heard the plane sputter then crash near the town of Euharlee. Marcus Edmonds said he was visiting a friend when he heard the crash. He said he and a friend ran into the woods and found the plane. Authorities were not releasing names of the victims until family had been notified. The plane was registered to Letch Properties out of Woodstock, according to the Federal Aviation Administration. It was not immediately clear where the plane took off from or where it was headed.

London, Sep 22 — Piper PA-32R-301 (Saratoga IIHP), N801SP, operated by Letch Properties Inc, with two persons on board, crashed, at 2333, UTC, Sep 21, in a wooded area behind a residential section in Kingston, Georgia. The aircraft was destroyed and both persons on board were killed.

#### **N843MC**

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.

#### **VH-JWX**

London, Sep 21 — Robinson R44 helicopter, VH-JWX, was substantially damaged after crashing while approaching a homestead near Eureka Station, located approximately 29 nautical miles west-southwest of Roma, Queensland, at approximately 1845, EST, Sep 8. The pilot and sole passenger sustained fatal injuries.

## Product Recalls



#### **BOMBARDIER VEHICLES, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 23 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Bombardier Recreational Products of Quebec, Canada, and Deere & Co. of Moline, Ill., today recalled about 23,000 all-terrain vehicles. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission said the front brake hose can be pulled out of its retaining brackets on either side of the ATV by foreign objects. This can cause the brake hose to wear by rubbing on the inner wheel or shock absorber spring seat, ultimately causing a brake fluid leak resulting in a complete loss of front braking capacity. No incidents or injuries have been reported so far. The products recalled are the 2003, 2004, and 2005 year models "Traxter," "Traxter MAX," and "Quest" Bombardier ATVs, and the 2005 year models "Buck" and "Trail Buck" John Deere ATVs. The products were sold at Bombardier dealers nationwide from October 2002 through September 2004 for \$6,199 to \$8,399, and John Deere dealers from March 2004 through September 2004 for \$6,499 to \$7,799.

#### **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.

#### **GROUND BEEF, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 22 — A press report, dated Sep 20, states: A Wisconsin meat



packing company has recalled nearly 60,000 pounds of ground beef, fearing it might be contaminated with *E. coli* bacteria. Stores are being asked to remove meat coming from the Packerland Packing Company. Packerland issued a recall after internal testing showed beef that was shipped could have been contaminated. The general manager of the company said they're erring "on the side of being overly cautious." Consumers concerned about their beef are being told to take it back to stores to see if it's part of the recall. The beef was sold in Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, South Carolina, Virginia and Wisconsin. The ground beef was sold under: Imperial Beef, Fine Ground, 81/19 G18148FR; PPC's Ground Beef, Fine Ground Sirloin, 95/5 G49548RO; and PPC's Ground Beef, Coarse Ground Sirloin, 95/5 G49540PP. Consumers concerned about the ground beef should take it back to the place of purchase to determine if it is part of the recall.

**INFANT CARRIERS,  
UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Sep 14 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of 49,000 Baby Bjorn Baby Carrier Active in voluntary co-operation with Regal Lager Inc., of Kennesaw, Ga. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The back support buckle can detach from the shoulder straps, posing a fall hazard to the baby. The firm has received 93 reports of the back support buckle detaching from the shoulder straps on the infant carrier. No injuries have been reported. The recalled infant carriers were sold under brand name "Baby Bjorn" which is printed on the front of the carriers and on the black molded plastic back support buckle. Model number 1-260 is printed on the care label on the strap of the carrier. The carriers are made of a cotton polyester blend fabric in black with red piping and blue with white piping. "Baby Carrier Active" is written on the packaging and above the warning label on the carrier. Sold at specialty retail stores, catalogs and internet sites from September 2003 through August 15, 2004 for about \$120. Manufactured in Sweden. Consumers should stop using the carrier immediately and contact Regal Lager for instructions on returning the carriers for repair. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

**INKJET REFILL KITS,  
UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Sep 15 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of 78,000 NCR Universal Inkjet Refill Kits in voluntary co-operation with NCR Corp., of Dayton, Ohio. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The product does not have required child-resistant packaging or required warning labels. The product contains ethylene glycol, posing an ingestion hazard to young children. No

incidents/injuries reported. The recalled kits were sold in a clear plastic package with color or black ink. The black ink kits have model numbers 943264 and 999292 and the color ink kits have model number 999289 printed on the side panel above the UPC code. The two black inkjet sets contain four plastic bottles of black ink, two plastic bottles of cleaning fluid and one toolkit. The color inkjet set contains six plastic bottles of colored ink, two plastic bottles of cleaning solution and one toolkit. Sold at Big Lots and Walgreens nationwide from April 2004 through June 2004 for about \$12. Manufactured in China. Consumers should immediately remove the kits out of the reach of young children and return to the store where purchased to receive a refund or a free replacement kit. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

**MITSUBISHI FUSO MOTOR  
VEHICLES, JAPAN**

London, Sep 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Scandal-tainted Mitsubishi Fuso Truck & Bus Corp said yesterday it is recalling an additional 187,000 buses and trucks for free replacement of defective parts such as doors and seats. Subject to the recall are buses and trucks manufactured between July 1974 and June this year, the automaker said in a report to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

**HYUNDAI MOTOR VEHICLES,  
SOUTH KOREA**

London, Sep 23 — A press report, dated today, states: South Korea's largest carmaker Hyundai Motor is recalling more than 200,000 Santa Fe sport utility vehicles due to faulty wiring, the transportation ministry said. The voluntary recall over the next one and a half years will affect 204,490 Santa Fe units made between November 1, 2000 and January 18, 2004, the ministry said. The wiring fault affects the vehicle's supplementary diesel heater and could lead to damage to an electric terminal or a downgrade of the heating system, the ministry said. Hyundai and its sister company Kia Motors control 70 percent of South Korea's car market.

**OFFICE CHAIRS, UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Sep 21 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of 18,000 Executive Office Chairs in voluntary co-operation with Gruga U.S.A., dba Novimex Fashion Ltd., of City of Industry, Calif. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The legs on the base of the chair can break, posing a risk of injury to the user. No incidents/injuries reported. The recalled executive office chairs include the 795-0115 model with black leather and the 795-0228 model with black fabric. Underneath the seat cushion the name "Novimex Fashion Ltd." can be found on the large label and the model numbers and date codes can be found on a smaller label. Only chairs with a date

code prior to Apr 1, 2004, are included in this recall. Sold at Staples stores nation-wide sold the chairs from March 2004 through July 2004 for about \$100. Manufactured in China. Consumers should stop using the chairs immediately and contact Gruga U.S.A. to receive a free replacement base repair kit. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

**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.

**TODDLER'S ATHLETIC SHOES,  
UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Sep 20 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of 140,000 Reebok "Iverson/Answer" toddler shoes in voluntary co-operation with Reebok International Ltd., of Canton, Mass. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The I-3 logo-tag on the tongue of the shoe can be peeled off, posing a choking hazard to young children. Reebok has received a report of an eight-month-old child mouthing the logo-tag. The tag was removed without injury. The recalled Reebok Iverson mid- and low-style athletic shoes were sold in toddler sizes 2 through 10. The logo-tag on the tongue of the shoe reads "I3/Answer," and on the rear and center of the heel is an "I3" logo. The names "Iverson" and "The Realist" are carved into the sole. The model number is printed on a label on the underside of the tongue. Model numbers included in the recall are: 99553, B99553, 99554, B99554, 105155, B105155, 105158, B105158, 108292, and B108292. Sold at Reebok, independent retailers, children's apparel and athletic shoe stores nation-wide from March 2004 through August 2004 for about \$35. Manufactured in China. Consumers should immediately take these shoes away from young children and contact Reebok to receive a refund. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.



**Port Conditions**

**AUSTRALIA**

London, Sep 21 — The queue of coal vessels off Queensland's Dalrymple Bay and Hay Point coal terminals has

exceeded 40 ships. It may take six to eight weeks before the queue returns to normal levels, the general manager of operations for Prime Infrastructure, Greg Smith, said. Prime Infrastructure operates the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal (DBCT). As of late yesterday afternoon, there were a total of 42 vessels at the port, with 23 at anchor waiting for DBCT and 17 in line for Hay Point, Mr Smith said. The two terminals are adjacent to one another south of Mackay. Mr Smith said there was a "compounding series of factors" behind the burgeoning vessel queue, including a sudden drop in ship rates" from about US\$100,000 a day to US\$50,000 a day. With buyer inventory levels quite low, buyers are now encouraged to send vessels out at the lower rate, Mr Smith said. DBCT has seen three to four ship arrivals a day for some days, a rate, which if sustained, would see an annualised demand figure of 60 million tonnes. That figure is well in excess of the terminals' 53 million-tonne capacity. Mr Smith said there is also a tendency for Indian and Chinese buyers to use

more handymax vessels - because of draught restrictions in their own ports. "This seems to be a permanent trend in the market," he said. Increased multi-parcelling - requests for several different grades of coal - has combined with this factor to slow the shiploading process. The terminal is getting new gearboxes and motors for shiploaders to accommodate multi-parcelling and quicker loading on handymaxes, but this will take a further six months to install. Other factors contributing to the queues have included some production problems at the mines and the August industrial dispute at QR, Mr Smith said. "It was only a week and it's the first one that QR's had for ages but there was quite a backlog," he said. Mr Smith said coal chain cooperation was "superb" and record delivery rates had occurred over the past week. The terminal hopes it can whittle the queue as vessel nominations drop. "Demand seems to taper off towards the end of this month," Mr Smith said. "There are a couple of days where we are not expecting any vessel arrivals." There

is presently a delay of 13 days for vessels in the queue. Queensland's other major coal port, Gladstone, is free from delays

**SYRIA**

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

Lattakia, Sep 11 — Waiting time is presently 24 hours at Lattakia and four days at Tartous. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 23 — A press report, dated Sep 22, states: Operations at the Los Angeles/Long Beach port area are still backlogged due to a labour shortage and berth congestion, according to Schednet.com. A statement issued by the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) said: "We are currently five-six full shifts behind before normal scheduled commencement of operations." The PMA said things had "ramped up" towards the end of last week and that there were fewer sailings at the ports.

**Port Delays**

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
<b>Australia</b>		
Abbot Point	20-Sep-2004	Coal: 1 vessel berthed, 1 anchored; 8 vessels due by 20/10; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. There will be a maintenance shutdown from 07.00 hrs. 4/10 to 07.00 hrs. 10/10.
Brisbane	20-Sep-2004	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 4 vessels due by 1/11; no delays expected.
Dalrymple Bay	20-Sep-2004	Coal: 3 vessels berthed, 24 anchored; 35 vessels due by 21/10; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability; 1-15 days delay subject to cargo availability and berth congestion can be expected, although vessels with other stems are experiencing longer berthing delays.
Dampier	20-Sep-2004	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 8 vessels due by 1/10; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; a 3 day maintenance shutdown is scheduled to start ca. 22/9; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 13 vessels due by 29/9; 1-11 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	20-Sep-2004	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 2 vessels berthed, 1 anchored; 43 vessels due by 16/10; up to 8 days delay expected subject to port congestion and cargo availability; Barney Point: 4 vessels due by 8/10; up to 1 day's berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion.
Hay Point	20-Sep-2004	Coal: 2 vessels berthed, 8 anchored; 5 vessels due by 23/9; 1-9 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion. Berth No. 1 will be closed for maintenance from a.m. 21/9 to p.m. 24/9.
Newcastle	20-Sep-2004	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 40 vessels due by 5/10; Dykes 4+5: 21 vessels due by 3/10; 7 unallocated vessels due by 7/10; 1-5 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal and cargo receipt.
Port Hedland	20-Sep-2004	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and completed loading, 4 anchored; 6 vessels due by 28/9; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 2 vessels anchored; 7 vessels due by 26/9; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 2 vessels due by 28/9; no delays expected; Westyard "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 2 vessels due by 25/9; 5-10 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 Conditions**

Port Kembla	20-Sep-2004	Coal: 16 vessels due by 17/10; CB1: 2 vessels due by 24/9; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Walcott	20-Sep-2004	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed of which 1 loaded, 1 loading, 5 anchored; 14 vessels due by 15/10; up to 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.
<b>Bulgaria</b>		
Bourgas	20-Sep-2004	Fifteen vessels in port operating, of which 10 loading (1 scrap, 1 copper anodes, 3 barley, 2 coils, 1 steel sheets, 2 containers), 5 discharging (2 containers, 1 billets, 1 salt, 1 coal); 5 vessels waiting in roads of which 4 to load (2 coils, 1 chemicals, 1 empty), 1 for bunkers; 12 vessels due of which 7 to load (1 scrap, 2 coils, 1 containers, 1 general cargo, 1 profiles, 1 billets), 5 to discharge (1 containers, 1 iron ore, 1 coal, 1 equipment, 1 copper cathodes), 1 passenger vessel.
<b>Chile</b>		
Valparaiso	20-Sep-2004	Three vessels berthed, 5 berths vacant; 3 vessels anchored; 13 vessels due this week.
<b>Egypt</b>		
Adabiya	20-Sep-2004	Eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 5 general cargo, 2 bulkers, 1 tanker.
Alexandria	20-Sep-2004	Twenty-seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 22 general cargo, 1 containers, 1 tanker, 3 bulkers; 7 vessels at inner anchorage, 8 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	20-Sep-2004	Sixteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 10 general cargo, 2 bulkers, 4 containers; 5 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.
Dekheila	20-Sep-2004	Eleven vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 2 containers, 3 general cargo, 6 bulk carriers.
Suez Canal	20-Sep-2004	Twenty-two vessels transiting Northbound, 18 Southbound.
<b>Israel</b>		
Ashdod	21-Sep-2004	Labour on strike. Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 16 vessels discharging at berth (14 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 5 vessels loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 1 car carriers); 2 general cargo vessels waiting at anchor to load, 8 vessels waiting at anchor to discharge (6 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 7 container vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge; 2 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 2 awaiting orders; 24 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	21-Sep-2004	Labour on strike. Seven vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 6 bulkers), 11 vessels loading/discharging at berth (7 containers, 4 tankers); 3 vessels waiting at anchor to discharge (1 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 11 vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge containers; 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 15 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
<b>Mozambique</b>		
Maputo	17-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. Ten vessels are currently in port berthed, of which 4 loading (1 coal, 1 citrus, 1 bulk sugar, 1 aluminium), 5 discharging (2 rice, 1 petrol, 1 bulk wheat, 1 marine boats), 1 on stand-by; 2 vessels due to berth 17/2 of which 1 to load gas, 1 to discharge/load containers; 16 vessels due by 24/9 of which 9 to load (1 timber, 4 ferro chrome, 2 citrus, 1 petrol, 1 gas), 2 to discharge (1 petrol, 1 aluminium), 5 to discharge/load containers.

## Port Conditions

### Pakistan

Karachi	20-Sep-2004	One naphtha vessel loading at berth, 1 DAP vessel discharging at berth, 1 container vessel loading/discharging at berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 1 fertiliser, 1 crude oil, 1 fuel oil); no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 5 vessels due (2 containers, 1 MOL, 1 palm oil, 1 crude oil), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	20-Sep-2004	Three vessels discharging at berth (1 MEG, 1 yellow peas, 1 soya beans), 1 container vessel 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	20-Sep-2004	Six vessels loading at berth (1 coal, 3 general cargo, 1 bulker, 1 grain), 4 discharging at berth (2 bulkers, 2 general cargo); 8 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 21 vessels due.
Gdynia	20-Sep-2004	Three vessels loading at berth (2 bulkers, 1 grain), 4 discharging at berth (2 bulkers, 2 general cargo); 16 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 30 vessels due.

### Russia

Novorossiysk	20-Sep-2004	Nine vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 1 WRIC/coils, 1 bulk urea, 1 scrap, 1 coils/steel sheets, 1 bulk NPK, 1 containers, 1 equipment, 1 UAN solution, 1 diesel oil; 1 vessel waiting in roads to load pipes; 41 vessels due, of which 39 to load (6 copper, 3 steel billets, 2 steel billets/coils, 3 pig-iron, 7 coils, 8 aluminium, 3 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 bulk peas, 2 wheat, 1 sodium sulphate/paper/pipes/tin plate, 1 pipes/coils, 1 bulk urea, 1 zinc), 2 to discharge/load containers. Oil terminal: no tankers berthed; 1 tanker in roads to load crude oil; 10 tankers due, all to load, of which 8 crude oil, 2 fuel oil.
Tuapse	20-Sep-2004	Oil products: no vessels berthed; 1 gasoil vessel in roads; 5 vessels due by 24/9, of which 3 gasoil, 1 crude oil, 1 fuel oil.

### Slovenia

Koper	20-Sep-2004	Port working normally; no berthing delays. Six vessels berthed of which 1 discharging/loading containers, 1 bulk carrier discharging minerals, 1 barge loading coal, 1 car carrier discharging/loading vehicles, 2 tankers discharging mineral oils/liquid chemicals; 15 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 4 to discharge/load containers, 4 bulk carriers to discharge ore/coal/solid chemicals, 3 bulk carriers to load coal, 1 barge to load coal, 1 vessel to load general cargo, 2 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles.
-------	-------------	--

### Spain

Cadiz	20-Sep-2004	Twelve vessels in port of which 7 operating (3 Ro/Ros, 1 sugar, 1 cereal, 1 sand, 1 containers), 5 vessels under repair; no delays.
Sagunto	20-Sep-2004	Twenty vessels in port operating of which 11 discharging (9 steel products, 1 timber, 1 anhydrous ammonia), 4 loading (2 steel products, 1 cement, 1 baled scrap), 3 Ro/Ros discharging/loading general cargo, 2 vessels discharging/loading steel products; no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays.

### Sri Lanka

Colombo	20-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. Four container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 13 vessels discharging at berth (10 containers/feeders, 1 bagged fertiliser, 2 bulk cement); no vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 1 containers/general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 4 vessels dry-docked, 1 under arrest, 1 awaiting orders from principals; 6 vessels due (5 containers/feeders, 1 bagged fertiliser), with no delays expected.
---------	-------------	---

### Ukraine

Ilichevsk	20-Sep-2004	Twelve vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading (3 steel products, 2 ore, 1 pipes, 1 wheat, 1 barley, 1 paper), 2 discharging/loading containers; 5 vessels in roads of which 4 to load (2 steel products, 2 barley), 1 to discharge/load containers; 14 vessels due, of which 1 to load sulphur, 2 to discharge nickel ore, 11 to load/discharge steel products.
Mariupol	20-Sep-2004	Fourteen vessels in port operating, of which 12 loading (6 steel, 4 fire-clay, 1 coal, 1 sulphur), 2 vessels undergoing survey (1 steel, 1 coal); 9 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 steel, 1 ferrous metals, 2 coal, 4 fire-clay, 1 fire-clay/containers; 63 vessels due, of which 60 to load (35 steel, 1 pig-iron, 12 coal, 1 coke, 5 fire-clay, 1 fire-clay/containers, 2 ammonium saltpetre, 3 barley), 3 to discharge equipment.



## Port Conditions

Odessa	20-Sep-2004	Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (5 metal, 2 wheat, 1 wood), 1 discharging meat, 2 loading/discharging containers; 2 vessels in roads, both to load/dischARGE containers; 49 vessels due, of which 29 to load (23 metal, 2 scrap, 2 wheat, 1 equipment, 1 ferro alloy), 3 to discharge (1 baggage, 2 vegetable oil), 17 to discharge/load 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.