

October 8 2004

St Vincent and Grenadines leads EU vessel detentions

PORT state control in Europe continues to catch significant numbers of ships, as two recent official statistical releases underline.

Britain's Maritime and Coastguard Agency yesterday announced that it detained 11 vessels in August.

Meanwhile, the European Commission last week published in its Official Journal a list of 19 ships banned from European Union ports.

Almost a third of them are registered under the St Vincent and Grenadines flag of convenience.

The MCA said that Britain's current rolling 12-month average for port state control detentions, as a percentage of inspection, is 6.4%.

Among the ships singled out for special mention is Polar Discovery, a Panama-flag gas carrier of 10,537 cu m and built 1989.

The ship was held on Teesside on August 9, after failing to inform the agency that it was due a mandatory expanded inspection under European Union rules.

A total of 17 deficiencies were found.

Beata (2,388 dwt, built 1971) was detained in Sunderland on August 10, after an inspection revealed 23 deficiencies.

Three of the deficiencies on the St Vincent flag general cargoship were serious enough to be regarded as 'major non-conformities'.

Ice Wind, a 1967-built Norwegian second register flag general cargoship of 1,245 dwt, was detained in Hull on August 16, after it was found that class had removed some certificates because annual surveys had not been carried out by due dates.

Major structural defects were identified in the double bottom tanks and associated bulkheads.

Bureau Veritas carried out an additional ISM document of compliance audit before the ship was released on August 28.

Panama-flag general cargoship Fushimi (20,475 dwt, built 1987) was held in Hartlepool on August 18 with 14 deficiencies including corrosion of the aft accommodation bulkhead in the way of both port and starboard access doors, and corrosion of the air conditioning trunking by the port lifeboat.

The water supply was badly discoloured, and there was no hot water in the galley. The lifeboat was seized in the davit, and it took the crew one hour to move it.

The European Commission's list of banned ships was published on Friday

as a legal requirement under European rules on port state control.

Transport commissioner Loyola de Palacio commented: "This measure is part of the arsenal of legislation adopted in the wake of the Erika and Prestige disasters to combat oil spills and rustbucket ships."

All told, 19 ships were barred from EU ports in the period November 1, 2003 to August 31, 2004.

Six ships were St Vincent registered. Bolivia, Turkey and Panama accounted for three ships, while Belize, Cyprus, Romania and Syria each accounted for one ship.

Some 12 of the 19 were bulk carriers, with the remainder made up of four ro-ro's, two chemical tankers and a tanker.

- France has detained 29 ships for marine pollution offences since the start of 2003, including four vessels in the last three weeks alone, according to media reports.

The crackdown is part of a deliberate get-tough policy mandated by the central government, utilising tactics including improved techniques of pollution detection, and special tribunals to progress cases rapidly.

David Osler
Lloyd's List Editorial

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>BAHAMA SPIRIT</i>	bulker	VUT	AB	26,792	44,389	1995	Grounded in the shipping channel, Charleston Harbour 28 Sep 2004, during galeforce winds. Refloated same day. Investigation underway. Some cargo dumped overboard.
<i>CONTRADER</i>	cement	PAN	LR	2,233	3,230	1965	Reported Sep 26 lying on side, partially submerged, spilling oil after tipping over against pier on south coastline of New Providence due hurricane "Jeanne". Was undergoing repairs before hurricane's arrival.
<i>CRISTALLO</i>	chem tanker	ITA	RI	5,038	8,000	1991	Grounded at Miringia, near Selinion Salamis, while manoeuvring in Piraeus roads Sep 26. No pollution. Tugs on scene. Refloated by tug Sep 28. Damage being ascertained.
<i>DAINTY RIVER</i>	container	PAN	NV	22,746	33,610	1993	Struck anti-submarine caissons entrance channel Durban Sep 25. Severe damage to bulbous bow & 5/6 holes on port side. Proceeded to port with tug assistance. To enter drydock for assessment.
<i>GREAT HARBOUR CAY</i>	tug	BHS	LR	226	—	1990	Reported Sep 29, while assisting barge ATC 23, under control of tug <i>Sea Raven</i> , in collision in Freeport Harbour. Sank in 40 ft of water.
<i>NICON FRONTIER</i>	bulker	PAN	NK	26,067	45,499	2000	Ran aground in Upper Delaware River on silt carried into Novolog in Falls by floodwaters carried by hurricane "Ivan" Sep 22. Reported Sep 24 to have been refloated with tugs.
<i>NINA</i>	bulker	COM	—	40,038	64,401	1977	Reported fire in No.3 cargo hold Eastern Special Anchorage, Singapore, Sep 24. Investigation under way. No major damage. Salvage rendered under LOF. Anchored Raffles Anchorage Sep 26. Still smoking Sep 29, to be beached to extinguish fire.
<i>NUSA DAMAI</i>	ro-ro	IDN	—	6,057	4,140	1972	Sank while being loaded at Ippi Port in the town of Ende on Flores Island Sep 27. Port closed, vessels diverted to nearby ports.
<i>PRIDE A.</i>	product tanker	GRC	AB	18,539	29,993	1982	Had fire on board in master's cabin and bridge at Tarragona Sep 24. Fire extinguished by crew with tug assistance. At Tarragona for inspection. 18 crew evacuated.
<i>SPETSES</i>	crude oil tanker	GRC	AB	80,637	147,916	1996	Contacted by passenger <i>Van Gogh</i> , in fog, Sep 26 off southern Spain. Dented above waterline. Divers determined no leakage. Towed to refinery berth for cargo discharge, to be allowed into port for damage assessment.
<i>THOR R.</i>	dredger	DNK	SK	1,995	—	1984	In collision with ro/ro <i>Ocean Ady</i> entrance to Esbjerg port in lat 55 28.337N, long 08 20.64E, Sep 26. Heavy damage aft & sank. Assistance in hand. Small amount of light fuel oil spilled. All crew rescued.
<i>YM PEOPLE</i>	container	HKG	NK	17,153	22,052	2003	Had explosion in engine-room about 400 miles off southern Sri Lanka Sep 27. Four crew dead. Subsequently arrived Colombo. Inquiry to be carried out in Sri Lanka.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



ABRA (Marshall Islands)

London, Sep 23 — Bulk *Abra* arrived San Lorenzo (ARG) Sep 12, from San Nicolas.

AL-MUHAMMADI (Pakistan)

Karachi, Sep 25 — Maritime Security Agency (MSA) ship *Rehmat* while patrolling in Eastern Maritime Region located Pakistan fishing *Al-Muhammadi*, registration No.7770, in distress with 14 crew members onboard about 140 kms south east of Karachi. The vessel left Karachi for fishing Sep 18 and developed an engine problem on Sep 21. The vessel was drifting with the wind and tide for three days when on Sep 24, the MSA ship located and rescued it successfully by taking it in tow to Karachi, according to a press release. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

ANGLIAN EARL (Barbados)

Falmouth, Sept 29 — Anchor handling tug/supply *Anglian Earl* undocked from No.3 dry dock, Duchy Wharf, to carry out repairs which are expected to take several weeks. — Lloyd's Agents.

ANNA DESGAGNES (Canada)

London, Sep 29 — Ro/ro *Anna Desgagnes* (15893 gt, built 1986) reported making contact with the bottom near Cote Ste-Catherine lock in lat 45 27.37N, long 73 30 07W at 1832, Sep 28. Temporary repairs being made in way of DB 10 and 12.

ARATERE (New Zealand)

Wellington, Sep 28 — Ro/ro *Aratere*: The Fire Service ensured that the situation was safe and the spill was cleaned up by a waste company on the morning of Sep 17. The vessel missed its 0630 hrs Wellington to Picton crossing that day but resumed normal operations across Cook Strait from Wellington at 1400 hrs. — Lloyd's Agents.

ARNOYTRANS (Norway)

Trondheim, Sep 27 — Ref *Arnoytrans* arrived Tromso Sep 19 and sailed Sep 20. — Lloyd's Agents.

ASMAT DACI (Indonesia)

London, Sep 26 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Asmat Daci*, belonging to the Asmat regency administration in Indonesia's Papua Province, sank while en route to the city of Merauke with a cargo of kerosene and building materials early yesterday, officials said. No casualties were reported as all 10 crew members and nine passengers survived the accident, which occurred about 0115 hrs off Habee Island in Kimaan district. Merauke official Petrus Kutmo said the survivors were rescued by a vessel owned by PT Korindo about 0545 hrs.

The vessel is thought to have sunk after developing a leak as it was heading from Agats in Asmat to Merauke.

ATC 23 (U.S.A.)

See *Great Harbour Cay*.

ATLANTIC PATROLLER (Cyprus)

London, Sep 27 — On Sep 27, general cargo *Atlantic Patroller* (12993 gt, built 1999) reported having lost the starboard anchor during the Atlantic crossing while upbound at Iles-des-Barques. (Note — *Atlantic Patroller* sailed Sluiskil Sep 15 for Contrecoeur.)

London, Sep 30 — General cargo *Atlantic Patroller* arrived Contrecoeur 1703, Sep 27, sailed 0734, Sep 29 and arrived Montreal 1034 same day.

BADGER II (Philippines)

Port Moresby, Sep 26 — General cargo *Badger II* sailed Rabaul Sep 9 after the Nippon Kaiji Kyokai surveyor was satisfied with the temporary repairs to the propeller and that it was trimmed evenly. — Lloyd's Agents.

BAHAMA SPIRIT (Vanuatu)

London, Sep 29 — A press report, dated Sep 28, states: Bulk *Bahama Spirit* (26792 gt, built 1995), carrying Canadian cargo, buffeted by gale-force winds from the remnants of hurricane "Jeanne", ran aground at approximately 0600 today in the shipping channel leading into Charleston Harbour, closing the harbour to large vessels. *Bahama Spirit*, carrying a load of crushed granite from Canada, grounded in about eight metres of water, the U.S. coast guard said. There were no injuries or signs of leakage from the ship, officials said. A gale warning had been in effect for waters 32 kilometres out as the remnants of "Jeanne" moved up the eastern seaboard. "It's been pretty nasty out there today," said coast guard Lieut. J.G. Calvin Summers. Crews planned to use tugs to pull the vessel free at high tide this evening, when winds were expected to subside. Only two vessels were scheduled to arrive at the State Ports Authority terminals in Charleston today. Authority spokesman Byron Miller said it was unclear whether they would be delayed.

London, Sep 29 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 0620, UTC: Bulk *Bahama Spirit* was refloated at 2209, local time, yesterday. Cause of grounding and extent of damage, if any, under investigation.

London, Sep 29 — Following the refloating of bulk *Bahama Spirit*, at 2209, local time, Sep 28, the port of Charleston resumed normal operations today.

London, Sep 30 — A press report, dated Sep 29, states: Bulk *Bahama Spirit* which grounded in the Charleston harbour shipping channel during gusty winds was refloated after some of the granite it was carrying was dumped overboard, the U.S. Coast Guard said. *Bahama Spirit*, carrying crushed granite from Canada, grounded about 0600 yesterday seven miles from Charleston's Battery, the Coast Guard

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said. The vessel was freed about 2200 yesterday, about the time of high tide. The Coast Guard had closed the shipping channel to large vessels until the vessel could be freed. At the time of the grounding, a gale warning was in effect along the coast as the remnants of Hurricane "Jeanne" moved across upstate South Carolina. About 3,500 "pounds" of granite was dumped overboard and the stone was to be recovered today. No one was injured and the Coast Guard said it did not appear any fuel leaked from the vessel. Investigators will determine whether weather, mechanical problems or human error caused the grounding.

BARGE 1016 (Canada)

London, Sep 27 — Tank barge *Barge 1016*, being pushed by tug *Vic Ingraham* (711 gt, built 1970), ran aground at Providence Rapids, Mile 51, in lat 61 22N, long 117 41W, while proceeding upbound in the MacKenzie River at 1915, Sep 23. Barge was holed and beached. Minor pollution and boomed. Proceeding to lighter barge.

BUXTEHUDE (Cyprus)

Vigo, Sep 24 — General cargo *Buxtehude* sailed Vigo 1000, Sep 23, bound Seville. — Lloyd's Agents.

CHRISTINE (Denmark)

London, Sep 25 — General cargo *Pioner Belorussii* arrived St.Petersburg Sep 21 from Aarhus.

Gothenburg, Sep 25 — Trawler *Christine*, ran into by general cargo *Pioner Belorussii*: The Shipping Board have investigated the matter but as yet there have been no results or report. A report is expected to be ready in around two months. — Westax Marine Services AB.

CLIPPER ODYSSEY (Bahamas)

London, Sep 23 — Passenger *Clipper Odyssey*, which proceeded to Vancouver for permanent repairs to grounding damage sustained in Alaska on Jul 31, completed repairs and sailed Vancouver Sep 16.

London, Sep 26 — A press release from Clipper Cruise Line, dated St.Louis Sep 17, states: Clipper Cruise Line announced today that passenger *Clipper Odyssey* is currently underway to Papeete, Tahiti, in preparation for its upcoming cruises in the South Pacific. *Clipper Odyssey* had been damaged after running against a previously uncharted rock in the Aleutian Islands on Jul 31. Necessary repairs were carried out in Vancouver, BC. *Clipper Odyssey* is en route to Papeete for the Oct 1 departure from French Polynesia to Easter Island.

COLE (U.S.A.)

London, Sep 30 — A press report, dated today, states: A Yemeni court yesterday sentenced two al-Qaida militants to death for the bombing of guided-missile destroyer *Cole* that killed 17 US sailors. Another four defendants were given jail sentences ranging from five to 10 years. Chief suspect Abdel Rahim al-Nashiri, who is in US custody and was sentenced in

absentia, and Jamal Mohammed al-Bedawi, 30, were given the death penalty for the attack on Oct 12, 2000. The pair were found guilty of "forming an armed group, taking part in the finalising, preparation and execution of the attack on the *Cole* and of the killings," judge Najib Qadiri said. The sailors were killed when an explosives-laden rubber dinghy rammed the destroyer while it was in Aden harbour, blasting a hole in one of the most technologically advanced vessels in the US Navy. Al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden claimed responsibility for the attack. Born in Saudi Arabia of Yemeni descent, Nashiri was described at the time as al-Qaida's chief for naval operations and its operations chief in the Gulf. He was arrested in the United Arab Emirates in October 2002 and handed to Washington. He is also suspected of involvement in attacks against US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in August 1998 that killed 224 people and in the October 2002 attack on the French supertanker *Limburg*. The prosecution had argued that 38-year-old Nashiri was "the main bankroller of the attack" and a "fugitive from justice" and asked for maximum penalties. "The verdict is unjust and we will appeal," Bedawi's father Mohammed said. He asked Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh to intervene to commute his son's death sentence.

CONRAD WIRTH (U.S.A.)

London, Sep 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Ferry *Conrad Wirth* (199 gt, built 1970) hauling sand to fill an area wrongly dredged by state contractors in May ran aground Thursday afternoon (Sep 23) just north of Churches Island. The Hatteras class ferry stopped immediately after running aground about 1400 Thursday rather than risk the hull digging another illegal channel in the Currituck Sound, said Bill Jones, spokesman for the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The ferry was carrying sand to an area behind the Whalehead Club where state contractors dug a 700-foot channel illegally in May. Transportation officials say it was an accident and have agreed to refill the channel. The project is scheduled to be about halfway done by Monday, said Charlie Utz, business manager for the N.C. Ferry Division. The sand was unloaded from the ferry to other vessels to lighten its load, prevent the ferry from gouging the bottom and prevent another clash with state environmental officials. The ferry was freed by around 0200 yesterday without any damage to the hull, Utz said. A northeast wind made the depth of the Currituck Sound lower than normal Thursday, Utz said.

CONTRADER (Panama)

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

CRISTALLO (Italy)

London, Sep 27 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: At 2345, Sep 26, while chem.tank *Cristallo* (5038 gt, built 1991) was manoeuvring

to anchor in Piraeus roads, it grounded in shallow waters at the rocky islets Mirinigia near Selinion Salamis. From the grounding there were no injuries to the 15 crew or loss of cargo into the sea. Previously it had sailed from Spain for Cesme, Turkey, loaded with 7,350 tons of chemicals and had stopped at Piraeus in order to bunker. Immediately following the incident patrol and anti-pollution craft of the Piraeus Port Authority were dispatched to the area along with a tug. Additionally the Eleusis port authority placed personnel with anti-pollution equipment at a state of readiness in case they were required. Efforts to refloat the vessel began in the early hours of today following an underwater survey. (Note — *Cristallo* sailed Santander Sep 17 for Turkey.)

London, Sep 27 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 2030, UTC: Chem.tank *Cristallo* is still aground in the same position. Tugs are on scene.

London, Sep 28 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0450, UTC: Chem.tank *Cristallo* is still aground near Piraeus with tugs in attendance.

London, Sep 28 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1230, UTC: Chem.tank *Cristallo* is still aground.

Piraeus, Sep 28 — Chem.tank *Cristallo*, Spain to Cesme, 7,350 tons of chemicals, during anchorage manoeuvres at Piraeus roads stranded in shallow waters near the rocky island "Mirmigia" at Salamis island area at 2345, Sep 26. The extent of the damage has not yet been ascertained while all 15 crew members were reportedly healthy and secure. No pollution occurred. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 28 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1830, UTC: Chem.tank *Cristallo* refloated about 1700, local time. Vessel to be surveyed by class.

London, Sep 28 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During this afternoon chem.tank *Cristallo* was refloated with the assistance of a tug and anchored in Piraeus roads.

CRISTOFORO COLOMBO (Belgium)

London, Sep 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A motion by the nature conservation prosecutor's office to take Nicolas Verbraeken, the master of hopper dredger *Cristoforo Colombo*, into custody was rejected by the city court of Kholmsk today, federal judge Yulia Kurilo said. On Sep 22, Mr. Verbraeken was detained for and held in solitary confinement in the isolation ward for 48 hours by acting Sakhalin Nature Conservation Prosecutor Sergei Mochalov. The master is suspected of committing a crime due to carelessness. His detention was in keeping with Russian legislation on the investigation of a criminal case. The case was filed on Sep 14 under the article of the Criminal Code "Pollution of the Maritime Environment." Mr. Verbraeken could face two years in prison and a fine. According to preliminary estimates, the oil spill caused Russia more than 57 million rubles (about \$2 million) in damages. However, the Sakhalin region

prosecutor's office said an alternative form of restraint, possibly bail, could be used for Mr. Verbraeken.

London, Sep 26 — A press report, dated Sep 25, states: Engineers continue pumping fuel oil and oily water from the damaged hopper dredger *Cristoforo Colombo*, a spokesperson for the emergency centre set up to deal with the disaster said. The owner of the ship, the Brussels-based European Dredging Company, decided to hand over more than 120 tons of fuel oil to the town's boiler plants, the spokesperson said. Disposal of oily water currently held in the ship's tanks, however, presents a much more difficult problem. Engineers need to pump out more than 400 cubic metres of water polluted with varying amounts of fuel oil, Colonel Mikhail Sitnikov, the head of Kholm'sk's civil defence and emergencies office, told journalists. One hundred and eighty-two cubic metres of such water has been pumped out of the dredger's tanks over the past 24 hours. On Friday, the federal judge of the Kholm'sk municipal court dismissed the application filed by the local prosecutor overseeing environmental protection in the area who demanded that the ship's master Nicolas Verbreken be taken into custody. The latter, suspected of committing a crime through negligence, returned on board *Cristoforo Colombo* after spending two days in a solitary confinement cell of the local pre-trial detention centre. In the meantime, investigators continue their probe into the case. The spokesperson for the emergency centre said that by today the coastline had been fully cleared of the oil fuel pollution.

DAINTY RIVER (Panama)

London, Sep 27 — Information received, dated Sep 26, states: C.c. *Dainty River* (22746 gt, built 1993) struck one of the former anti-submarine caissons in the entrance channel to the port of Durban shortly after 2100, yesterday. The vessel was entering port to discharge and load containers at the Durban Container Terminal when the incident occurred. A marine pilot from the National Ports Authority would have been on board at the time. The accident took place during heavy rain over the Durban region although it is not yet known if it was actually raining in the entrance channel at the time. The ship is reported to have sustained severe damage to its bulbous bow and has five or six holes on the port side. It is not known at this time whether there is any bottom damage but an underwater assessment is being undertaken. Early reports indicate the ship may be too badly damaged to undergo temporary repair and is likely to receive permanent repairs in Durban but this has not been confirmed. *Dainty River* has meanwhile proceeded to the container terminal to discharge its cargo. This morning the port, which is being subjected to strong gusty winds, was closed to allow an underwater examination to determine whether any concrete pieces from the damaged caisson was causing a navigational obstruction. (Note — *Dainty River* sailed Singapore Sep 11 for Durban.)

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated today, states: C.c. *Dainty River* struck a concrete anti-submarine caisson in Durban harbour on Saturday night and as a result the harbour was closed to incoming vessels and highlighted the urgent need for widening and deepening the port's entrance channel. *Dainty River*, loaded with containers for the Durban Container Terminal, was making its way down the entrance channel shortly before 2100 hrs when the accident occurred. Witnesses said the vessel struck the caisson on the south breakwater side of the channel - the impact causing the caisson, which weighed more than 1,000 tons, to break in two. The ship was able to continue into the port with the assistance of tugs and proceeded to berth at the Point for an initial assessment of the damage. Later the ship moved across to the container terminal to discharge cargo before entering the dry dock for further damage assessment. Initial reports were of a badly buckled bulbous bow and a number of holes on the port side below the waterline. The ship may also have bottom hull damage. The harbour was immediately closed to all incoming vessels. Outbound vessels were, however, able to leave the harbour. A team of divers inspected the channel at first light yesterday for obstructions before vessels were able to enter. National Ports Authority spokeswoman Jyothi Naidoo said the temporary closure of the harbour entrance had resulted in only one vessel's entrance being delayed. She said the accident was being investigated.

DUCHESS M.

London, Sep 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Ferry *Duchess M.* which runs between Gravesend and Tilbury is out of service after it was hit by Royal Navy minesweeper *Grimby* in Kent. HMS *Grimby* lost power and drifted into *Duchess M.* at 0200 today when the ferry was moored on the River Thames in Gravesend. John Potter, owner of the Lower Thames and Medway Passenger Boat Company, said considerable damage had been caused. Excursion ferry *Princess Pocahontas* (180 gt, built 1962) was also damaged. No-one was injured. Mr Potter said he was waiting for surveyors from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to examine the damaged vessels. He said the Gravesend to Tilbury ferry was hit mid-ship. "It has pushed the framework in, smashed all the windows and damaged the handrails." There was no leak of pollution in the incident, said the Port of London Authority. A man on the minesweeper, which had been working in the area, reportedly fell overboard during the night, but was retrieved by the ship's crew. The ferry service, which takes half an hour to travel from Gravesend to Tilbury, has been suspended until a replacement vessel can be found.

ESTONIA (Estonia)

London, Sep 28 — Five Swedish parliamentarians are calling for a fresh inquiry into the sinking of passenger

ro/ro *Estonia*, which capsized with the loss of 852 lives ten years ago today. The five men warned this week that another shipping disaster like this could happen again. "Even after 10 years we don't know the cause of the sinking and what led to the loss of at least 852 lives. There are reasons to believe that we haven't taken the right measures to avoid a similar accident in the future." The group include Kent Harstedt, a survivor of the accident who criticised the findings of the official report into the Estline ferry's loss which he said did not tally with survivors' experiences. The Swedish Parliament is set to debate the inquiry issue again, having previously rejected calls to a fresh investigation into the accident. Over 550 of the passengers that died were Swedish nationals. International Maritime Organisation secretary general Efthimios Mitropoulos said that looking back at the accident "we can take some comfort from the fact that IMO and the maritime community at large responded rapidly to the incident resulting in the adoption of a comprehensive series of new and amended regulations." Dr Henning Witte, a Swedish lawyer representing the victims of the disaster welcomed the calls for a new inquiry from within the Swedish parliament.

FAIRWEATHER (U.S.A.)

London, Sep 24 — A press release from Alaska Marine Highway System, dated Sep 22, states: After undergoing temporary repairs for minor damage sustained in an incident yesterday in Skagway, the state's passenger ro/ro *Fairweather* will return to its most recently published schedule tomorrow, with a sailing leaving Juneau at 0700 hrs to Sitka. It will sail from Sitka at 1300 hrs. *Fairweather*, with 52 passengers, 10 crewmembers, and 17 vehicles on board, was leaving Skagway at mid-day yesterday when a strong wind pushed it into the mooring lines of the Holland America cruise ship *Zaandam*. The ferry severed three of the mooring lines and was pushed into a mooring dolphin, sustaining damage to the aluminum exterior of the vessel at the port bow. The damage was temporarily repaired in Juneau today.

London, Sep 30 — A press release from Alaska Marine Highway System, dated Sep 28, states: Passenger ro/ro *Fairweather* will make one more sailing to Sitka, on Oct 8, before going out of service for maintenance and night crew training. The ferry will provide service on its regular schedule to Haines and Skagway through Oct 14. Sitka sailings have been cancelled because high and low slack tides in Sergius Narrows occur at times that would require *Fairweather* to return to Juneau after dark. The *Fairweather* crew has not been certified by the US Coast Guard to operate after dark, because there were not enough nighttime hours to do so during the crew's training period last May. *Fairweather* must time its passage through Sergius Narrows for either the ebb tide or flood tide, because it does not have full manoeuvrability with only one engine operating on its starboard

side. While *Fairweather* is out of service for overhaul, the Alaska Marine Highway System will be replacing one of its four engines, which has been shut down since late August due to a manufacturer's defect.

FITIAL (U.S.A.)

London, Sep 27 — Following received from Coast Guard Honolulu, timed 1720, UTC: Tug *Fitial* (191 gt, built 1974) had a fire break out in the crew area, while undergoing work, when tied up at a pier at Guam Sep 26. The fire was extinguished soon after. Understood damages were slight.

FJORD ICE (Malta)

London, Sep 23 — Ro/ro *Fjord Ice* sailed Fredericia Sep 21.

FLINTERZEE (Netherlands)

London, Sep 24 — General cargo *Flinterzee* arrived Antwerp 1223, Sep 23.

GLOBAL FREIGHTER (Finland)

Gothenburg, Sep 23 — Ro/ro *Global Freighter*, grounded at Loevskaer, Aland archipelago, late Tuesday evening (Sep 21). On board were around 40 trailers and trucks. Discharge commenced this afternoon on a barge and then brought ashore. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Sep 24 — Following received from Turku MRCC, timed 0947, UTC: Ro/ro *Global Freighter*, cargo containers, sustained "large" damage, one hole 3-4 m long on starboard and other smaller holes.

London, Sep 27 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1028, UTC: Ro/ro *Global Freighter* remains aground. A specialist crane unit is scheduled to arrive on scene on Wednesday (Sep 29) and the next refloating attempt will take place thereafter.

Turku, Sep 29 — Ro/ro *Global Freighter* was refloated Saturday, Sep 25, and towed to Turku Repair Yard, Naantali. No special crane was required as vessel was lightened of cargo by means of pontoon-barges and thus able to float. Currently the vessel is at Turku Repair Yard dry dock. The dock will most probably be emptied during today and after that the hull and bottom damage can be inspected. At this stage it has not been decided whether repairs will take place at Naantali or whether the vessel will be towed to another more suitable/economic/optimal repairyard. — Lloyd's Agents.

GLOBAL WINNER (Panama)

London, Sep 29 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0050, UTC: Bulk *Global Winner*, towed to Singapore Jul 17 after grounding on a reef, remains in Jurong Shipyard at present.

GODDESS (Singapore)

Yokohama, Sep 27 — C.c. *Goddess*, Iwakuni for Tokuyama, ran aground, 1,725 metres, 175 degrees from Okozeiwa Lighthouse in Ehime Prefecture at 0125, Sep 22. No oil spill,

or personal injury was involved. Vessel was refloated by two tugs at 1445 same day. Although water ingress to forepeak tank was observed, it proceeded to Matsuyama under its own power. Vessel sustained crushing and holing damage to its bow through to stern. Vessel "dragged" anchor at 0700, Sep 25 and "laid up" at Tsuneishi dock after discharging containers at Tokuyama. — Lloyd's Agents.

GREAT HARBOUR CAY (Bahamas)

Freeport, Bahamas, Sep 29 — A collision occurred in Freeport Harbour when tug *Great Harbour Cay* (226 gt, built 1990), was assisting with berthing operations involving barge *ATC 23* (10889 gt, built 1978), which was under control of tug *Sea Raven* (190 gt, built 1941). *ATC 23* was reportedly holed in way of a ballast tank and *Great Harbour Cay* sank in about 40 feet of water inside the harbour. *ATC 23*, loaded, departed Freeport at 1000 this morning. — Lloyd's Agents.

GREEN KARMOY (U.K.)

London, Sep 25 — Ref *Green Karmoy* arrived Velsen 2115, Sep 21 and sailed 2145, Sep 23.

GRIMSBY (United Kingdom)

See *Duchess M.*

H&P RIG 205

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

HANDY TIGER (Philippines)

London, Sep 30 — Bulk *Handy Tiger* arrived Callao Sep 11.

HIBIKI MARU (Japan)

Moji, Sep 26 — Non specific tanker *Hibiki Maru* completed repairs Jul 30 and returned to normal trading. — Lloyd's Agents.

HWAJIN NO.938 (South Korea)

Busan, Sep 30 — Permanent repairs to fishing *Hwajin No.938* will be completed on or about Oct 2, when the vessel will return to its normal coastal service. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

IBN KHALDOUN (Tunisia)

Tunis, Sep 23 — C.c. *MSC Camargue* (5684 gt, built 1993) collided with tug *Ibn Khaldoun* (263 gt, built 1976) during berthing manoeuvres at Rades at 1400, Sep 22. It is understood that only the tug was damaged, sustaining damages to its hull. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 29 — C.c. *MSC Camargue* arrived Valencia Sep 26.

IKA NO.7

Suva, Sep 26 — Vessel *Ika No.7*, grounded outside Suva Jan 24: Vessel is currently lying in Suva Harbour under Fiji Customs custody. No repairs will be carried out and Fiji Customs will shortly put the vessel on tender on an "as is, where is" basis. — Lloyd's Agents.

IRAN ARDEBIL (Iran)

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated today, states: C.c. *Iran Ardebil* that ran aground on its maiden voyage

has been rescued, much to the relief of its Middle Eastern owner. Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) is relieved following the successful salvage of *Iran Ardebil*, which ran aground during its maiden voyage. The vessel is said to have presented a complex salvage challenge because it was very difficult for salvors to bring vessels alongside to tranship the cargo. IRISL officials say *Iran Ardebil* is now at Aden, where the remainder of its cargo is being discharged. They say it will proceed to a Middle Eastern shipyard for full repairs. "Shipyard representatives will inspect the vessel over the next few days and determine the extent of the repair work that is necessary," said a senior executive. He estimates *Iran Ardebil* will need around 100 tonnes of steel renewal. The company says there has been no disruption to the service as the cargo was distributed among other ships on the same route. "We have not had to charter in any replacement vessels," said the IRISL source.

ISARSTERN (Isle of Man)

London, Sep 29 — Chemical/oil carrier *Isarstern* (11426 gt, built 1995), downbound, experienced a total blackout near Lanoraie Quebec, in lat 45 58.00N, long 73 11.30W at 0926, Sep 28. — (Note — *Isarstern* arrived Montreal Sep 27 and sailed Sep 28 for U.S.A.)

JAG ARPAN (India)

London, Sep 27 — A press report, datelined Singapore, today, states: Twelve foreign workers were injured in a flash fire at Jurong Shipyard today. Four of the workers, who were admitted to the Singapore General Hospital, suffered degree burns ranging from seven to 14 percent. The remaining eight workers sustained minor injuries on their hands and legs and have since been discharged. The blaze was put out by workers at the scene. Police are investigating the cause of the fire.

London, Sep 27 — Following received from Singapore Accident Investigation Department, timed 1545 hrs: There was a fire incident earlier today onboard product tanker *Jag Arpan* (36512 gt, built 1986) at Jurong shipyard. Investigations to establish additional information, such as the cause of the fire and extent of damage will be conducted tomorrow. (Note — *Jag Arpan* arrived Singapore 1600, Sep 13.)

London, Sep 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Thirteen shipyard workers suffered burns in a flash fire on board product tanker *Jag Arpan* at Jurong Shipyard yesterday. All of them were Indian nationals between about 25 and 35 years old. They were rushed to the Singapore General Hospital in the shipyard's ambulances. Four of the victims, who were burnt on their arms and faces, are currently under observation in a general ward at the hospital's burns centre. According to the hospital, they are in stable condition. Another nine who sustained minor burns have been discharged. The shipyard confirmed in a statement that a fire had occurred at around 1500 hrs

in the pump-room of *Jag Arpan*, which was undergoing repairs. It said the cause of the fire was 'still under thorough investigation' and that no one else was hurt.

JENABAR (Australia)

See *Lancelot*.

JOY VICTORY (Hong Kong)

London, Sep 26 — As of Sep 22, bulk *Joy Victory* was still in port in Hong Kong.

JUBILEE (Bahamas)

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

KOVERA (Russia)

London, Sep 28 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 0640, UTC: It was reported at 1809, UTC, yesterday that general cargo *Kovera* (1596 gt, built 1995) and general cargo *Odin* (2997 gt, built 1994) had been in collision in lat 53 42N, long 00 49W, opposite Bankhouse, River Ouse. *Odin* sustained slight damage and proceeded on voyage for *Vesteras*. *Kovera* is now alongside at middle pier, Goole. Vessel sustained damage to bow-thruster room and forecastle. (Note — *Kovera* sailed St.Petersburg Sep 22 for Goole. *Odin* sailed Goole 1710, Sep 27 for *Vesteras*.)

LA SUPERBA (Italy)

Genoa, Sep 24 — Immediately after passenger ro/ro *La Superba* concluded its intended summer voyages it is now at Genoa under repair as per previously scheduled drydock. One lifeboat and deck window, screen length of about 10 metres, were damaged in the casualty and will be renewed/repared while it is in drydock. Repairs expected to be completed Sep 29, when it will resume winter trade between Genoa and Palermo. Understand winghouse and pilot bridge bulwark of ferry *Nuraghes* sustained damage during casualty. — Lloyd's Agents.

Genoa, Sep 28 — Passenger ro/ro *La Superba*, collision with ferry *Nuraghes*: Immediately after casualty *La Superba* concluded its intended Summer voyages and is now at Genoa under repair as per previously scheduled drydock. One lifeboat and deck window screen for a length of about 10 metres damaged and will be renewed/repared while in drydock, which is expected to be completed Sep 29 next, when it will resume Winter trade between Genoa and Palermo. Ferry *Nuraghes*: Understand winghouse and pilot bridge bulwark sustained damage during casualty but we are still investigating. Presently sailing between Olbia and Civitavecchia where repairs are carried out while berthed. — Lloyd's Agents.

LAGAN VIKING (U.K.)

London, Sep 25 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 70 people have been stuck on passenger ro/ro *Lagan Viking* (21856 gt, built 1997) which was unable to dock in Belfast because the crew could not open its doors. The Norse Merchant ferry left Birkenhead at 1130, BST, yesterday.

When the vessel tried to dock in Belfast at about 2230, BST, crew members were unable to get the door on the car deck to work. Attempts were made early today to open the doors but the vessel had to sail back out to Belfast Lough to allow another ferry to dock. It is now docked in Belfast Harbour, and engineers from Harland and Wolff have gone on board with specialist cutting equipment. More than 50 passengers and 20 crew remain on board today.

London, Sep 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Around 50 passengers and 20 crew stuck on passenger ro/ro *Lagan Viking* in Belfast dock have shown remarkable composure, the company responsible claimed today. A spokesman for Norse Merchant Ferries said they were doing everything to ensure that passengers and crew on *Lagan Viking* would be able to leave the ship by mid-afternoon at the latest. The vessel left Birkenhead at around 1420 hrs with 20 cars on board and also lorries. It docked in Belfast last night at 2230 hrs but crew were unable to open the doors. The Norse Merchant spokesman said: "There are seven locking bars on the door of the vessel. One of them failed to totally disengage and we have tried all night to open it but we have had to call in a team from Harland and Wolff shipyard with special equipment. They are setting up the equipment as we speak." The spokesman said crew opened up cabins on the vessel to enable passengers on board to get some sleep. They also provided passengers with food and opened bars.

London, Sep 25 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 70 people have been freed after being stuck on passenger ro/ro *Lagan Viking*, which was unable to dock in Belfast because the crew could not open its doors. The ramp eventually came down at about 1430, BST, today after engineers managed to remove the lock using specialist cutting equipment.

LANCELOT (Malta)

Sydney, Sep 30 — The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) has blamed the failure to keep a proper look-out as the immediate cause of a collision between bulk *Lancelot* (34518 gt, built 1982) and fishing *Jenabar* (built 1983) off northern New South Wales on Aug 21, 2003. ATSB investigators found that both *Lancelot* and *Jenabar* failed to keep a proper look-out leading up to the collision. An "over-reliance" on information from the automatic radar plotting aid (ARPA) on board *Lancelot* was also a contributing factor in the collision, ATSB concluded. No one was injured in the collision, although *Jenabar* sustained extensive damage above the waterline and was forced to return to Forster. At the time of the collision it was in company with three other fishing vessels, heading for fishing grounds north of Forster, while *Lancelot* was heading south for Newcastle (AUS). The ATSB said that the deckhand on watch on *Jenabar* was seated at a table in the wheelhouse. The mate on the bulk carrier was using the ARPA. "Despite indications from the

ARPA that the fishing vessels were passing clear, they were in fact on collision or near collision courses," ATSB said. The ARPA indicated that the nearest fishing vessel was on a reciprocal course and that its closest point of approach was more than 1.5 nautical miles to starboard. Soon afterwards the mate noticed that the vessel was crossing from starboard to port and altered the bulk carrier's course to starboard to clear the vessel before resuming the original course, investigators said. He then realised a second fishing vessel was on a collision course and ordered the helm hard to port to steer away. "However, the fishing vessel continued to close with the ship and, when the mate realised that a collision was imminent, he ordered full starboard rudder to minimise the angle of impact." The vessels collided at 0427 hrs. The deckhand of *Jenabar* told the ATSB he checked the radar at 0425 hrs and saw no sign of a vessel. A minute later, however, he looked out and saw "the dark shape of a ship, extremely close on the starboard bow." "Before he could get to the helm and disengage the autopilot, the fishing vessel had collided with the ship," the report said. The report recommended that: All ship and fishing vessel owners, operators and managers ensure compliance with keeping a proper lookout, visually and by radar; the National Maritime Safety Committee (NMSC) and state and territory marine authorities review minimum qualifications for fishing vessel watchkeepers; the same authorities ensure that guidance on procedures for watchkeeping and safety of navigation apply to all vessels; and radar manufacturers' operating manuals should contain explicit instructions on setting up ARPAs for collision avoidance. — "Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News."

LITUYA (U.S.A.)

London, Sep 24 — A press release from Alaska Marine Highway System, dated Sep 23, states: Passenger *Lituya* (97 gt, built 2004) providing service between Metlakatla and Ketchikan, encountered an engine problem this morning, putting it out of service for the remainder of the day and for tomorrow. While underway at top speed with a medivac en route to Ketchikan, the turbo-exhaust gas temperature alarm on the vessel's starboard main engine sounded and the engine automatically shut down. The vessel's crew found a smoldering air intake filter, removed it, and notified the US Coast Guard marine safety office in Ketchikan. A Caterpillar engine technician will be in Ketchikan tomorrow to inspect the engine and determine what corrective measures or repairs need to be made. The vessel will remain out of service until the Caterpillar representative certifies the engine to return to service. Briggs noted that this is the first time since *Lituya* started service on May 1, 2004 that the vessel has missed a sailing. Home-ported in Metlakatla, the

ferry normally makes five round-trips to Ketchikan, Wednesday through Sunday, each week.

LUCKY LADY (Malta)

London, Sep 24 — Following received from the managers of crude oil tanker *Lucky Lady*, dated today: *Lucky Lady* is still anchored off Cilacap, with investigations under way into the extent of environmental damage claims, etc. Vessel will require drydocking and a decision will be taken on where and when this will be effected.

LUMARE (Netherlands)

London, Sep 28 — General cargo *Lumare* passed Dover Strait Sep 25 and subsequently arrived Cardiff 1544, Sep 27.

MAANAV STAR (India)

London, Sep 24 — A press release from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency Press Office, timed 1048, UTC, today, states: Plans are now in place in a further effort to refloat the grounded general cargo *Maanav Star* during the late morning Monday, Sep 27. A Salvage Control Unit was established earlier this month at Rye Harbour Office by the Secretary of States Representative for Maritime Salvage and Intervention U.K. working with the MCA, who will be on site on Monday. The marine gas oil and bunker fuel has now been removed from the vessel. Some fuel has been kept on board to allow the running of electrical generators. The ship remains ballasted down to minimise its movement from seas at high tide. Deballasting operations will commence at 0600 Monday as it is intended to refloat the vessel on the subsequent high water during the late morning. Damage to *Maanav Star's* bottom shell plating has been patched. Bilges in the ship's hold have had additional steel plating welded in place as part of refloating preparations. Tug *Alphonse Letzer* will be on scene over the weekend as will a further vessel. Lines will be laid in preparation during Sunday in readiness for the tow. If this tow operation fails, the lines will be kept in place for further attempts at each subsequent high water during daylight hours. Heavy earth moving equipment will also be mustered at the site over the weekend and under supervision of a flood defence engineer, shingle will be further cleared by the plant to aid the refloating of the vessel. An exclusion zone will be placed around *Maanav Star* at 0600 Monday. This will remain in force until the ship is refloated. Coastguard teams are maintaining a presence at the vessel's location. The ship owners are investigating a port for inspection and repair of the vessel.

London, Sep 27 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1130, UTC: General cargo *Maanav Star* was refloated at 0919, UTC. It is believed the vessel is to be towed to Holland.

Zeebrugge, Sep 28 — General cargo *Maanav Star* arrived Hansweert 0915, Sep 28, from Rye. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Sep 29 — General cargo *Maanav Star* was refloated on Monday (Sep 27) from Camber Sands by a salvage team from Klyne Tugs (Lowestoft) Ltd and SMIT Salvage. The two companies entered into a joint Lloyd's Open Form salvage agreement, including a SCOPIC clause. During this latest operation many tons of shingle were removed from around the vessel by earthmoving equipment and tug *Alphonse Letzer* pulled the vessel free using a special hi-tech 1,300-metre towline. HM Coastguard reported that all of the crew were taken safely ashore and that the recovery operation was carried out with little risk of pollution and no additional damage to the vessel.

London, Sep 29 — General cargo *Maanav Star* arrived Hansweert 0915, Sep 28.

MARIA JOSEFA

Manila, Sep 29 — General cargo *Maria Josefa* has resumed normal operations and currently operates a twice daily service between Batangas in southern Luzon Island and Dalanacan in central Philippines. *Maria Josefa* ran aground off Baco Chico island in Calapan, Mindoro Province in central Philippines on Mar 15. There were no injuries nor fatalities among its crew. Salvors towed the vessel to Elfa Shipyard in Navotas town in Manila where hull and steering mechanism repairs were carried out. The vessel left Elfa Shipyard on Jun 11. Further afloat repairs were carried out by its owner Montenegro Shipping Lines. The vessel resumed operations in August. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

MARTE (Italy)

Gothenburg, Sep 23 — It has been established that a short circuit in the main machinery was probably the cause of lpg *Marte* drifting towards the rocks on shore, south of Mongstad Refinery at western Norway. A more considerable investigation has been initiated by the Italian Class RINA and V-Ships, technical managers of the vessel. Norwegian authorities would also like to know why the Italian master did not request assistance and tugs when the vessel was drifting towards the rocks and a dangerous situation was created. — Westax Marine Services AB.

MASSACHUSETTS (U.S.A.)

Suva, Sep 26 — Trawler *Massachusetts*: According to the vessel's owner, Mr Ross Brodie, of Seamech Limited, they have no intention of having the vessel repaired. Currently it is at Suva Harbour awaiting potential buyers on an "as is, where is" basis. — Lloyd's Agents.

MELLUM (Liberia)

London, Sep 29 — Following received from Australia MRCC, timed 0035, UTC: General cargo *Mellum* (13066 gt, built 1998), while departing Thevenard with a cargo of gypsum, containers and pipes, grounded at 0402, UTC, Sep 28. Vessel is now afloat and it is not believed to have sustained serious damage; however, diver inspections of

the hull are due to take place shortly.

London, Sep 30 — Following received from Australia MRCC, timed 0005, UTC: General cargo *Mellum* is reported to have resumed voyage on completion of inspections, which proved satisfactory.

MICHELLE K. (U.S.A.)

London, Sep 28 — A press report, dated today, states: The Coast Guard continued yesterday to investigate a crash involving 91-foot fishing *Michelle K.* (149 gt, built 1969) in the Manasquan Inlet as well as to oversee the cleanup of gasoline from the boat, authorities said. The Marine Safety Office in Philadelphia was overseeing the cleanup, Petty Officer John Edwards, a Coast Guard spokesman, said yesterday. Sea Tow, a company based in Atlantic City, was handling the actual cleanup, although Edwards said some of the boat's fuel spilled into the water during the Saturday (Sep 25) crash. *Michelle K.*, was heading into the inlet when it hit a jetty, according to police reports. None of the four crew members was injured. The boat hit the jetty on its starboard side, and the impact ruptured the hull, Edwards said. The accident did not block the inlet, but the boat was moored against a wall during the investigation and cleanup, authorities said.

London, Sep 28 — Following received from Coast Guard Atlantic City, dated Sep 27: The salvage of fishing fishing *Michelle K.* that struck the north jetty in the Manasquan Inlet Saturday evening is being monitored by the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office in Philadelphia and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. *Michelle K.*, a 91-foot commercial fishing vessel carrying clams, was entering the Manasquan Inlet when it struck the jetty about 1930 hrs causing the vessel to take on water. A Coast Guard boat from Station Manasquan transferred the four crewmembers of *Michelle K.* to their boat where they were taken back to the station. A light sheen was visible but contained within an oil boom as an environmental protective measure. The vessel was secured to the south wall of the inlet and currently remains aground, but is not a hazard to navigation. Northstar was contracted by the responsible party for cleanup and salvage of the damaged vessel. 3,000 gallons of fuel was pumped out of the fuel tanks in an effort to reduce any further danger to the environment. Divers will be placing a magnetic patch to cover the 6-foot by 5-inch hole in the hull of the boat. Once the boat has been refloated, Northstar will take the vessel 1/4 mile to Point Pleasant where permanent repairs will be made.

MINI COY (India)

Kochi, Sep 30 — Ferry *Mini Coy* (931 gt, built 2001), operating between Kochi and Lakshadweep Islands, was berthed at Q2, Kochi port, when it was struck on stern by research *Samudra Manthan* (2374 gt, built 1958) at about 1752, Sep 27. *Mini Coy* sustained some damage which not of a serious nature. — Lloyd's Agents.

MIRABELLA V (Isle of Man)

London, Sep 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A Marine Administration investigator is to spend around six weeks conducting inquiries into how yacht *Mirabella V* ran aground on the French Riviera. *Mirabella V* was stranded for two days near the entrance to Beaulieu sur Mer harbour. A salvage operation involving divers and a tug saw the sloop freed on Saturday morning (Sep 18). It was towed to a dry dock in La Ciotat, Marseilles. A marine administration investigator arrived in Marseilles on Monday. The investigation will take six weeks and will involve talking to everyone involved with the yacht, said Dick Welsh, the principal marine surveyor. A report, based on the findings, will be drawn up and sent to the International Maritime Organisation.

Marseilles, Sep 23 — Yacht *Mirabella V* is presently at Monaco Marine Shipyard, La Ciotat. Several surveys are being carried out at the moment and we have been advised by Monaco Marine that the yacht is meant to be drydocked in early October. There is no information at the moment on the possible duration of the repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

MSC CAMARGUE (Antigua & Barbuda)

See *Ibn Khaldoun*.

NICON FRONTIER (Panama)

London, Sep 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Remnants of Hurricane "Ivan" have dealt another economic blow to Bucks County - this time at the county's only deepwater port. Novolog in Falls was closed Wednesday (Sep 22) after bulk *Nicon Frontier* (26067 gt, built 2000) ran aground in silt carried into the port by floodwaters. "Part of the Upper Delaware River basin has washed down and deposited itself," Novolog Chief Executive Officer David Reid explained yesterday. "There is what I would call a 'mud wave' on the bottom of the river." Reid said the economic impact could be severe should *Nicon Frontier* remain stuck in the mud. Attempts to move it yesterday at high tide were unsuccessful. "If ships can't get in, I can't get people to work," Reid said, adding that one ship bound for the port is waiting on the Delaware and two ships were scheduled to arrive today. *Nicon Frontier*, with about 40,000 tons of slag, ran aground about 2200 Wednesday. Its cargo is destined for Waste Management in Falls. If the ship cannot be moved, then its cargo would have to be off loaded onto barges - to lighten the ship. Any long-term shutdown of the port could result in layoffs, a union official said. The ship is stuck in the turning basin, an area about 250 feet from the shoreline that is part of the shipping channel. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has maintenance responsibilities for the turning basin and, for the last three years, the agency has not dredged the area, Crescenzo said. Dredging was supposed to take place next month, but the flooding changed everything,

he said. "Hurricane "Ivan" dumped a lot of silt and we lost a lot of depth in the turning basin," Crescenzo said. Novolog and the union have been in contact with state Sen. Arlen Specter's office as well as U.S. Rep. Jim Greenwood, R-8, and the Bucks County commissioners. The company is trying to get political muscle to prod the Army Corps of Engineers to dredge the basin as soon as possible. Reid said he would see whether the problems at Novolog could be considered flood damage that's eligible for emergency disaster funds through the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

London, Sep 24 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 1440, UTC: Bulk *Nicon Frontier* has been refloated.

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated Sep 25, states: Bulk *Nicon Frontier* was freed from Bucks County's deepwater port in Novolog Falls Friday morning (Sep 24) and the port reopened. Novolog had been closed since Wednesday night after *Nicon Frontier* ran aground in silt carried into the port by floodwaters. Shortly after midnight last night, tugs from Moran and McAllister pulled on the vessel and its pilot manoeuvred it free, said Novolog Chief Executive Officer David Reid. Reid credited the Army Corps of Engineers' survey vessel with studying the problem. The vessel mapped the area and Charlie Myers of the Army Corps, the project manager for the Upper Delaware River Basin, helped speed up the response by getting the surveys done quickly, Reid said. The Army Corps are now to dredge the area where the vessel ran aground. Called the turning basin, the area hasn't been dredged for three years because the federal agency lacked the funding, agency representative Ed Voigt said. The Army Corps was scheduled to dredge the area next month but the flooding from the remnants of hurricane "Ivan" created an urgent need to get the job done sooner. The basin lost a significant amount of depth because of the silt carried in by the floodwaters. Reid said he received word yesterday that the Army Corps would dredge the turning basin sooner than scheduled, possibly next week.

NINA (Comoros)

London, Sep 25 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 1630, UTC: Bulk *Nina* (40038 gt, built 1977) reported with fire on board in Eastern Special Anchorage, Singapore, at about 2000, local time, Sep 25. Crew still on board. Port authorities investigating cause of fire. Vessel will probably be towed to Western Reserve Anchorage at about 0200-0300, local time, tomorrow. (Note — *Nina* arrived Singapore 1835, Sep 23.)

London, Sep 26 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0115, UTC: Master of bulk *Nina* notified, on VHF channel 12, that vessel had a fire in No.3 cargo hold at 1800, local time, yesterday. The fire was extinguished at 2345, local time, by MPA tug. Understand no major

damage, no injuries, no pollution. *Nina* anchored at Raffles Anchorage at 0630, local time, today.

London, Sep 26 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0030, UTC: Bulk *Nina* remains at Raffles Anchorage in Singapore following the fire on board.

London, Sep 28 — Understood salvage services were rendered to bulk *Nina* by Semco Salvage & Marine Pte Limited under Lloyd's Open Form.

London, Sep 29 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0045, UTC: Bulk *Nina* remains at Raffles Anchorage, Singapore.

London, Sep 30 — Understood smoke is still being emitted from some of the holds of bulk *Nina*, China for Turkey, cargo approximately 58,000 tons of coal, at Raffles Reserved Anchorage. Also understood salvors, Semco Salvage, plan to beach the vessel in shallow water so they can flood the affected holds with seawater to completely extinguish the fire.

NO.1 DAE BU (Panama)

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

NORDICA (Cyprus)

Gibraltar, Sep 24 — General cargo *Nordica* arrived Gibraltar Jun 13 with a heavy list to port and upon investigation by surveyors was found to have cracks on the hull and was detained. Vessel had temporary repairs carried out by divers and was consequently granted permission to depart for a single voyage to a nearby shipyard. Vessel departed Gibraltar Jul 29 but instead of proceeding to the shipyard it anchored off limits on the eastern side of Gibraltar until Sep 23 when it sailed under a new name, *Lady Rea*, H9XW, Panama flag. This vessel is currently banned to enter any European port under its old name of *Nordica*. — Gibraltar Port Authority.

NUMBER ONE (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Sep 28 — A French appeal court has reduced the sentences pronounced against the owners, manager and classification society of general cargo *Number One*, which sank with its master and 10 other members of its 18-man crew off the coast of Sri Lanka in June 1999. The owners and manager of the vessel have escaped the prison sentence to which they were originally sentenced for manslaughter in March 2003, while Japanese classification society Nippon Kaiji Kyokai has had the fine imposed on it for its part in the disaster reduced from Euro 225,000 to Euro 200,000. Industrialist brothers Raoul and Andre Spitzer had been sentenced to three years in prison, of which two were suspended, and shipping consultant Jean Le Coz, who acted as manager of *Number One*, to three years suspended for 18 months. At the appeal court hearing last June at Rennes in Brittany the prosecutor called for unsuspended prison sentences for the two brothers and the consultant, all in their late sixties or early seventies. However,

giving its judgment last week, the court opted to give them lighter fully suspended sentences. The Spitzer brothers were given one-year suspended sentences while Le Coz received an 18-month suspended sentence. The appeal court found that the loss of the vessel was due to the "poor state of the ship and a series of human errors." It noted that the 24-year-old vessel, described by the prosecutor in the original court case as a "floating wreck", had been letting in water and experiencing increasingly severe corrosion at the time of the sinking. It said that Le Coz, who acted as adviser to the brothers for the purchase of the vessel, must have been aware of the vessel's condition and had been informed that it was not watertight. As for class NK, the court said that it had been aware of the grave corrosion which the vessel had been experiencing and the reticence of its owners to carry out necessary repairs. The Spitzer brothers claimed that they had acted for an absent partner in acquiring *Number One* for US\$425,000 in October, 1998, while Le Coz argued that he had recommended acquisition of the vessel on the basis of a report which gave no indication that there were rust holes in its hull. *Number One*, which was carrying a cargo of timber from Malaysia to India, sank in a monsoon storm after fighting a losing battle against flooding and engine and pump breakdowns 160 miles off the Sri Lankan coast. Only seven of its 18-man Senegalese-Ukrainian crew survived after boarding a liferaft which was subsequently spotted by a passing vessel. Four Senegalese crew members, six Ukrainians and the French master lost their lives. The case came to court in France after the family of the deceased master, Captain Jacques Richardeau, who was 63 at the time of the sinking, started legal proceedings. Questions were raised, however, about his conduct at both the original and appeal court hearings. It was claimed in June that he had failed to slow the vessel and seek assistance when it got into difficulty and that he had failed to put covers over its cargo holds.

NURAGHES (Italy)

See *La Superba*.

NUSA DAMAI (Indonesia)

London, Sep 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Ippi Port in the town of Ende on Flores island was temporarily closed yesterday after ro/ro *Nusa Damai* (6057 gt, built 1972) sank while being laded with cargo, officials said. No casualties were reported, but at least 41 trucks and two cars sank along with *Nusa Damai* on Sunday evening (Sept 26). The accident occurred when the vessel began to list dangerously to one side while being laded. The vessel then developed a leak and slowly sank. Port management head Farouk Djawas said yesterday all loading and unloading activities at the port were temporarily halted, and all ships rerouted to nearby ports. "We are working to raise the boat from the bottom of the sea so the port can resume operations," he said.

OCEAN ADY (DIS)

See *Thor R.*

ODIN (Antigua & Barbuda)

See *Kovera*.

PENG YANG (China)

London, Sep 26 — Following received from Hong Kong VTS, timed 0025, UTC: Bulk *Peng Yang* is still aground at present in the same position. (See issue of Sep 17.)

PERLA (Singapore)

London, Sep 28 — The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore Shipping Circular No.22, dated Sep 27, states: A recent investigation on a chemical tanker (? chemical/oil carrier *Perla*) revealed that the structural damages to one of its cargo tanks might have been caused due to malfunctioning of the cargo tank pressure/vacuum valve. As the cargo was being loaded, the malfunction of the pressure/vacuum valve might have caused excessive pressure build up in the cargo tank beyond the set limit. The excessive pressure coupled with localised defective welding caused the centre bulkhead to give way and to deflect towards the adjacent centre tank. The damage to the centre bulkhead exerted a strong downward pull on the main deck, causing the main deck to tear downwards. It also exerted a strong upward pull on the tank top causing the tank top to tear open at two places. There was no injury or pollution from the incident. However, the vessel had to undergo major repairs, including the renewal of substantial steel plating. To avoid similar incidents in future, owners and managers are advised to inform the ship's staff sailing on tankers, to check and ensure the proper functioning of the Pressure/Vacuum valves during cargo operation. Owners and managers are further advised to incorporate additional procedures to monitor the correct functioning of pressure/vacuum valves on chemical tankers that are yet to comply with the requirement of secondary venting arrangements for cargo tanks, to comply with IBC Code1 Chapter 8.3.3 / BCH Code2 Chapter 2.14.4.

PIONER BELORUSSII (Russia)

See *Christine*.

PLEIONE (Bahamas)

Cristobal, Sep 27 — Bulk *Pleione*: Understand all temporary repairs were completed late last week. Vessel inspected by Panama Canal Authorities on Sep 24, at which time it was approved for transit. Vessel proceeded southbound through Canal yesterday, and sailed Balboa 1933, Sep 26, reportedly bound Japan. — Lloyd's Agents.

PRESTIGE (Bahamas)

London, Sep 30 — The judge investigating the case involving crude oil tanker *Prestige* has rejected the latest appeal by lawyers acting for the vessel's Greek master, Apostolos Mangouras, to allow him to travel home to Greece. The decision comes despite

firm assurances from the Greek government that Capt Mangouras, 69, will return for trial in Spain once a date is set. Lawyers acting for the Spanish government say they would not oppose a lifting of the travel ban.

PRIDE A. (Greece)

London, Sep 25 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1040, UTC: Product tanker *Pride A.* (18539 gt, built 1982) had a fire on board in master's cabin and bridge at Tarragona yesterday. The fire was extinguished by crew with tug assistance. Vessel is now at Tarragona anchorage for inspection.

London, Sep 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire began in the state-rooms of product tanker *Pride A.* believed due to a short circuit. The ship cast anchor and as a result was delayed in unloading 21,000 tons of gasoline for Repsol. After the fire started the vessel was moved three miles off the coast. The fire began at 0230 hrs in the area of the state-rooms. The vessel's crew could not extinguish the fire themselves so Salvamento Marítimo mobilised to the boat ISalvamar Diphda, four tugs and a helicopter to extinguish the fire and to evacuate 18 of the 28 crew. The 10 crew members who remained on the ship participated in the task of extinguishing the fire. The fire was extinguished without injuries and no oil was spilled after the rescue boats sprayed the flames with water and the helicopter supported them from the air. Mid-morning, the master of the tanker communicated to the rescue teams that the fire had been controlled and extinguished without reaching the cargo. Thereafter the previously evacuated 18 sailors returned to the vessel. The Marine Captain of Tarragona ordered that two tugs remained preventively in the area of the tanker while the technicians evaluate the condition of the vessel. Sources of the Subdelegation of the Government predicted that the ship would unload tomorrow at Repsol, Tarragona, when the technicians certify that the operation can be made without danger.

PRINCESS OF THE PACIFIC (Philippines)

Manila, Sep 27 — Ro/ro *Princess of the Pacific*: Bottom hole being repaired temporarily, patching up, after which it will be taken to Singapore for demolition/scraping. — Lloyd's Agents.

PRINCESS POCAHONTAS (U.K.)

See *Duchess M.*

RED BOAT (North Korea)

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

RESHID BEHBUDOV (Azerbaijan)

Mersin, Sep 24 — Shipping agent of general cargo *Reshid Behbudov*, based in Mersin, EGESEL, vessel is still under arrest and advised by the master verbally that the problem may be solved in the next week. Regarding the problem, the creditor partners still are discussing the matter with the related parties. — Lloyd's Agents.

Mersin, Sep 28 — General cargo *Reshid Behbudov* is still waiting on roads and under arrest. The agent has been informed by both the master and the creditors in Turkey verbally that the parties are about to come to an agreement about the problem and vessel is expected to be released in the next week. — Lloyd's Agents.

ROTTERDAM (Netherlands)

London, Sep 29 — A press report, dated Sep 28, states: Five passengers received minor injuries when passenger *Rotterdam* (59652 gt, built 1997) travelling the North Atlantic stalled and was tossed about in rough seas created by hurricane "Karl". The Halifax Port Authority said *Rotterdam* was steaming across the mid-Atlantic from Belfast, to St. John's, Nfld., when it ran into the storm on Friday (Sept 24). "They encountered the edge of hurricane "Karl" and some rough seas," said Michele Peveril, a spokeswoman for the Halifax Port Authority. Passengers on board the ship, which docked in Halifax today, said they were terrified when the Holland America Line vessel stopped dead in the storm. Five people were taken to hospital with non-life threatening injuries after the ship docked in Halifax. The ship departed at 1800 today, bound for its final destination of New York City. The cruise line said the ship is structurally sound and it is investigating what caused the engines to quit. (Note — *Rotterdam* sailed Belfast Sep 21 for Newfoundland.)

London, Sep 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Ambulances greeted passenger *Rotterdam* in Halifax yesterday after passengers and crew endured a harrowing encounter with monster waves generated by hurricane "Karl" in the North Atlantic. About a dozen passengers were taken to the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre with suspected fractures and severe bruising after *Rotterdam* arrived at Pier 21 early in the day. One passenger suffered a broken collarbone. The cruise ship was returning to New York from Greece, via London, when it hit rough water about 900 kilometres east of St. John's, Nfld., which was a scheduled stopover. The ship was diverted to Halifax. She and some other injured passengers returned to the ship to complete the trip to New York." For about three and a half hours the vessel was tossed about unmercifully in the darkness. Three baby grand pianos, several pieces of furniture and hundreds of glasses and bottles were flung about in the storm-tossed ship before power was restored. Many passengers were instructed to stay on the floor of several public lounges on the ship. Others were told to stay in their cabins. Engineers with Holland America inspected the ship at Pier 21 in Halifax and cleared it to depart for New York. Eric Elvejord, communications director for the cruise line, said from Seattle that a complete review of the loss of engine power and the encounter with the hurricane would be conducted. He said the cruise line is awaiting crew and inspector reports. "We know there

were some injuries and damaged furniture but no damage to the structure of the ship," he said. "The problem was the loss of propulsion, which we are investigating."

London, Sep 29 — Passenger *Rotterdam*, with 1821 people on board, was reported disabled with diesel generator problems in heavy weather in the mid-Atlantic, in lat 44 23.36N, long 34 52.06W, at 1810, UTC, Sep 24. All power was subsequently restored and vessel proceeded to Halifax. Superficial damage to vessel reported. Several passengers were injured.

RYAN'S COMMANDER (Canada)

London, Sep 29 — A press report, dated Sep 28, states: Some Newfoundland fishermen believe federal regulations played a role in the sinking of fishing *Ryan's Commander*. Many fishermen say DFO regulations limiting vessel lengths force them to build high, wide boats they do not feel are safe. The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans restricts the length of a vessel based on a formula involving the amount of quota that it is allotted. Most of the vessels prosecuting the crab and shrimp fisheries are limited to a length of 65 ft. The skipper of *Ryan's Commander*, Ron Furlong, believes the height of the vessel contributed to the accident. "We had a 45-footer before. If we'd been in that, we would have come home. The difference is the 45-footer was 12 or 14 feet out of the water and the 65-footer was 26 feet out of the water," he says. Fishermen like Furlong believe DFO has to relax the length restriction to ensure the safety of other vessels. They also think Transport Canada has to bring in tougher rules for approving the seaworthiness of a boat. The Transportation Safety Board has not released the official cause of *Ryan's Commander* sinking.

S. DURVILLE (Singapore)

London, Sep 26 — General cargo *S. Durville* arrived Brisbane Sep 24 from Noumea.

Brisbane, Sep 28 — General cargo *S. Durville* arrived Brisbane Sep 24. At present repairs are scheduled to be completed Oct 7. — Lloyd's Agents.

SAAMIS ADVENTURER (Panama)

London, Sep 29 — Chemical/oil carrier *Saamis Adventurer* (20597 gt, built 1996) sustained minor damage to propeller after dragging anchor at Anchorage Riviere Maheu, Quebec, in lat 46 53.13N, long 70 55.32W, at 1210, Sep 28. (Note — *Saamis Adventurer* sailed New York Sep 24 for Quebec.)

SAEHAN GALAXY (South Korea)

Busan, Sep 30 — Lpg *Saeahan Galaxy* was released from arrest and immediately docked for repairs to the damaged hull. The repair work was completed Aug 18 and the vessel recommenced its ocean-going service. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

SAINT OLIVER (Republic of Ireland)

London, Sep 25 — A press report, dated Sep 23, states: Divers were

preparing last evening to examine the wreck of the ill-fated trawler *Saint Oliver* in the continuing search for the body of John Dirrane, the skipper of the vessel which hit rocks on Duck Island on Friday night (Sep 17). Mr Dirrane, an experienced fisherman and a native of Fearrann a Choire in the Aran Islands, is believed to have drowned along with the three other crew members, Michael 'Sonny' Faherty from Eoghaill in Aran, Joseph Connelly from Leitir Ard, and Michael Mullen from Cleggan. Hundreds of volunteers from throughout Connemara, the Aran Islands, and Galway city have scoured the rugged coastline from Leitir Meallain and Leitir Mor as far as Roundstone since the vessel was first found on Duck Island on Friday night. The coast guard and lifeboats from Aran and Clifden have also been helping with the rescue and recovery operations. Divers from the Navy, the Garda sub-aqua unit, and local divers who had volunteered their services were awaiting low tides last evening to begin the underwater search for Mr Dirrane's remains. Parts of the trawler, which has broken up against the rocks but is still visible at low tide, had already been searched and divers were last evening planning to examine the submerged sections of the vessel. Supt Tony O'Dowd of Clifden Garda Station said that bad weather had hampered the search throughout the week. Coastal searches have been carried out but several small islands have yet to be searched. The Garda are appealing for more volunteers to help with the coastal search, and a base has been set up in nearby Tlir an Fhia to co-ordinate the effort

London, Sep 29 — A press report, dated Sep 26, states: Radar equipment on the doomed Galway trawler *Saint Oliver*, was not working when it was torn apart by rocks in a storm last weekend. Crew member Mickey Mullen, 18, texted his girlfriend as the boat pulled out of the Connemara harbour of Glinsk on the Friday (Sep 24) night, telling her conditions were very rough and that navigational equipment on board the vessel was broken. The text message is believed to be have been the last contact between the vessel and the mainland before it was lost in one of the worst fishing disasters in Ireland in recent years. Mullen perished along with fellow crewmen John Dirrane, Josie Connolly and Michael Faherty when the *Saint Oliver* hit a reef off the uninhabited Duck Island, a mile from the mainland. Fishermen around the Rossaveal area, where the boat had its permanent moorings, have confirmed that navigational equipment on the vessel was not working on the night of its ill-fated last journey. 'The radar was out, but they set off without it anyway,' said one. 'Three of the four knew that area like the back of their hands, and they must have thought they could manage it.' An investigation into the incident by the Marine Casualty Investigation Board is under way. It is already clear that the accident happened very suddenly with no record of distress calls from the boat

beforehand. The investigation unit is examining the possibility that the boat was travelling without navigational equipment and hit the reef at Duck Island at full speed, causing it to disintegrate. The boat had left the repair yard in the Connemara village of Glinsk at 1900 hrs to make the relatively short journey to Rossaveal, also in County Galway. Despite the gale force nine winds, Dirrane, the boat's skipper and owner, decided to use the favourable high spring tide to move the boat. If he had not done so, it would have been several more days or possibly even weeks before he had the chance again.

SAMUDRA MANTHAN (India)

See *Mini Coy*.

SCOT EXPLORER (U.K.)

London, Sep 25 — Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRCC, timed 0630, UTC: General cargo *Scot Explorer*, VQUR2, (1882 gt, built 1996), at 0600 UTC, in lat 55 34.6N, long 06 47E, bound Rochester, cargo timber, with five persons on board, has a 20 degree list, reports everything OK, course 290 degrees at two knots trying to secure cargo at first light. Position reports every 30 minutes to RCC Aarhus. Vessel reports it has dropped 20 units of timber each weighing 2.5 tons. Navigation warning will be put out. No emergency at the moment but there are no ships in the area.

London, Sep 25 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 0655, UTC: General cargo *Scot Explorer*: Speed still two knots, proceeding Rochester. Weather improving with winds decreasing.

London, Sep 25 — Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRCC, timed 1105, UTC: General cargo *Scot Explorer*: Weather is improving and vessel is proceeding at 6.5 knots towards Rochester.

London, Sep 26 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 1035, UTC: At 1000 hrs general cargo *Scot Explorer* was in lat 55 52.5N, long 01 36.4E, course 248 degrees at 9.6 knots. Vessel is looking for a safe place to anchor to secure/check deck cargo.

London, Sep 27 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 0445, UTC: General cargo *Scot Explorer* is presently in lat 54 03N, long 00 00.1W, about two miles south of Flamborough Head, course 213 deg, speed 7.7 knots. Vessel is heading for an appropriate safe anchorage in order to check that the cargo is OK prior to continuing to its discharge port, Rochester.

London, Sep 27 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 0555, UTC: General cargo *Scot Explorer* is now anchored in lat 53 57.1N, long 00 03.4W, about 10 miles south of Flamborough Head. Vessel expects to remain at anchor for one to two hours to check/restow cargo then to proceed to Rochester hopefully arriving for the mid-day tide tomorrow.

London, Sep 27 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed

0945, UTC: General cargo *Scot Explorer* has just left its anchored position bound Rochester where ETA 1230 tomorrow.

London, Sep 30 — General cargo *Scot Explorer* arrived Rochester Sep 28 and sailed same day for Methil.

SEA EAGLE S. (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Rijeka, Sep 24 — General cargo *Sea Eagle S.* sailed Rijeka for Piraeus on Sep 22, under its own power. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEA RAVEN (U.S.A.)

See *Great Harbour Cay*.

SEAVINHA (Malta)

London, Sep 30 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 0858, UTC: Product tanker *Seavinha* (23930 gt, built 1987), Estonia for New York, cargo 33,200 tons unleaded petroleum, was anchored in lat 50 34N, long 00 11W, 170 degrees, 13.9 nautical miles from Shoreham harbour entrance, with defective turbo. Vessel has been at anchor since 0500, UTC, Sep 27. Spares will be brought out by the Shoreham harbour tug pm, today. (Note — *Seavinha* sailed Paldiski Sep 22, for New York, and passed Dover Strait Sep 26.)

SHOFUKU MARU (Japan)

London, Sep 24 — Following navigation warning issued at 1410, JST, today: Stranded bulk *Shofuku Maru*, 455 gt (built 1988) exists in lat 34 24.4N, long 133 13.3E.

SOUTHERN TIARE (New Zealand)

London, Sep 24 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Southern Tiare* (1185 gt, built 1988) was rescued by Timaru tug *Te Maru* yesterday after an 18-hour ordeal at sea, the second such rescue for the vessel in three months. *Southern Tiare's* engine broke down 48 km east of Timaru while enroute to Bluff. The Marine Safety Authority (MSA) has yet to be informed of the incident but will launch an investigation today. MSA media adviser Heidi Brook said the investigation would involve looking at the vessel and talking to its owner. "We will definitely be taking into account the fact that it had to be rescued three months ago as well. Its entire history will be looked at," she said. Reef Group Limited manager John Gresson, whose company owns the vessel, said it was a concern that it had been towed into two ports within three months. He said both incidents were "totally" unrelated and hoped the vessel could be back in action soon. While a request for help from *Southern Tiare's* master had come in late afternoon, *Te Maru* did not leave the port until 2330 Wednesday because it had to berth the *Karariki* which arrived at 2230 hrs. The tug reached *Southern Tiare* at 0330 hrs and both vessels arrived back at the Timaru port at about 1200 yesterday. Port of Timaru harbour Master Roger Dunn said the sea conditions were rough, with a four metre swell. The vessel was originally scheduled to arrive in Bluff yesterday to unload dolomite, which is used in the manufacturing of some fertilisers,

before departing for sea tomorrow. Local engineers were fixing the vessel yesterday and it would continue on to Bluff when it was repaired. Captain Dunn said the owners of the vessel would be charged a fee by Primeport Timaru for the rescue. The MSA's final report into the first incident is not expected before February next year.

SPAILPEEN FAINEACH (Republic of Ireland)

London, Sep 28 — A press report, dated today, states: The three-man crew of Irish fishing *Spailpeen Faineach* (73 gt, built 1972) which caught fire off the Kerry coast this morning has been rescued after it was forced to take to a liferaft. The 70-foot timber hulled trawler was about eight miles west of the Skelligs Rocks when the fire broke out in its wheelhouse. The boat, which is based in Castletownbere in West Cork, sent out a mayday distress call just before 0600 hrs. The crew attempted to get the blaze under control but were unable to do so. Eventually they were forced to take to the liferaft. The Valentia Lifeboat and the Shannon-based Coastguard Helicopter were sent to the scene. Fishing *Arienne*, which was in the area, also responded to the emergency and a short time ago managed to get the three crewmen safely on board. They have now been transferred to the lifeboat and are to be taken to Valentia. The coastguard services say the fire on *Spailpeen Faineach* will be difficult to control.

London, Sep 28 — Following received from Coast Guard Valentia, timed 0745, UTC: Fishing *Spailpeen Faineach*, T179, length 19.02 metres, 73.03 gt, built 1972, was reported in lat 51 45.97N, long 10 50.24W, at 0719 hrs. A helicopter will be sent to the area later this morning to assess the situation.

SPETSES (Greece)

See *Van Gogh*.

STIG HALLE (Norway)

Trondheim, Sep 28 — General cargo *Stig Halle* (522 gt, built 1967) arrived at Kvernhusvik Shipyard, Hitra, at 2300, Sep 25, for repairs after grounding north of Rrvik on Sep 22. Vessel refloated under its own power. Estimated repair time is about two weeks. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUNSHINE KING

Manila, Sep 27 — General cargo *Sunshine King* is still lying half-sunk at Zambales and reported declared a constructive total loss and awaiting offers from prospective buyers. — Lloyd's Agents.

SVEN (Germany)

London, Sep 30 — Following navigation warning broadcast at 0915, UTC: C.c. *Sven* (5309 gt, built 1996), with engine failure, has anchored in approximately lat 55 27.7N, long 12 40.5E. (Note — *Sven* sailed Malmö Sep 29 for Copenhagen.)

SVITZER BIDSTON (U.K.)

Liverpool, Sep 27 — Following completion of temporary and part

permanent repairs, tug *Svitzer Bidston* departed from Clarence Drydock Liverpool on Sep 22 to re-enter service pending the delivery of new parts. — Lloyd's Agents.

TAKASAGO (NIS)

London, Sep 25 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0005, UTC: Vehicle *Takasago* (49821 gt, built 1996), Fremantle for Adelaide, reported engine trouble and drifting at 0845, UTC, Sep 24. Vessel still repairing in lat 35 41S, long 136 26E at 2010, UTC. (Note — *Takasago* sailed Fremantle Sep 21 for Melbourne.)

London, Sep 25 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 1100, UTC: Vehicle *Takasago* is now underway.

London, Sep 29 — Vehicle *Takasago* arrived Melbourne Sep 26.

TENACITY (Malta)

London, Sep 27 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1724, UTC: Bulk *Tenacity* (35886 gt, built 1984), Brazil for Swinoujscie, cargo iron ore, has a main engine defect, No.2 cylinder liner cracked, at anchor and disabled requiring ETV to stand by in lat 50 08N, long 05 04W, where it arrived late Sep 25, for bunkers. Detained by surveyors to carry out repairs. Tug *Anglian Princess* proceeding from Mounts Bay. No details about how long repairs likely to take at present. (Note — *Tenacity* sailed Tubarao Sep 4, arrived Brest Sep 21 and sailed Brest Sep 24 for Falmouth.)

London, Sep 28 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0515, UTC: Bulk *Tenacity* is at anchor in Falmouth Bay awaiting delivery of new liner for No 2 cylinder. Tug *Anglian Princess* is also at anchor in the bay.

London, Sep 29 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0510, UTC: Bulk *Tenacity* is still anchored in Falmouth Bay awaiting parts, which could take another couple of days to arrive. Tug *Anglian Princess* remains on scene.

Falmouth, Sept 29 — Bulk *Tenacity*, from Tubarao, loaded, which arrived Falmouth 1900, Sep 25 for bunkers has been detained by MCA with mechanical problems. Vessel remains anchored in Falmouth Bay. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 30 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0500, UTC: Bulk *Tenacity* is still anchored in Falmouth Bay awaiting delivery of new liner for No 2 cylinder. Tug *Anglian Princess* remains on scene.

THOR R. (Denmark)

Esbjerg, Sep 27 — Trailing suction hopper dredge *Thor R.* (1995 gt, built 1984) and ro/ro *Ocean Ady* (3157 gt, built 1990) were in collision in lat 55 28.337N, long 08 20.641E, at the entrance to port of Esbjerg, at 0547, Sep 26. *Thor R.* sustained heavy damage aft and sank within minutes, crew rescued. No major damage to *Ocean Ady*. *Thor R.* is positioned halfway into the shipping lane, facing north, but harbour authorities inform that the vessel is not in the way of inward/outward traffic. Assistance given by tug *Bestla*, rescue

vessel *Esvagt Delta* and tug/supply *Maersk Frontier*. Floating crane underway. A small amount of light fuel oil spilled, however, Navy informs that the amount is minimal and it will evaporate within a short time period. There is a possibility that 1,000 litres of luboil will leak, but *Maersk Frontier* is ready with floating barriers. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 27 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1028, UTC: At 0457, UTC, Sep 26, there was a collision between trailing suction hopper dredge *Thor R.* and ro/ro *Ocean Ady*, in the approaches to Esbjerg, in lat 55 28.4N, long 08 20.5E. As a result, *Thor R.* sank. The vessels' four crew were safely rescued by *Ocean Ady*.

Gothenburg, Sep 28 — Trailing suction hopper dredge *Thor R.*, owned by Rohde Nielsen, sank after a collision with ro/ro *Ocean Ady* early on Sep 26. *Ocean Ady* is working for the wind-power-plant at Hornslev, in the North Sea, and both ships were departing from Esbjerg when the accident occurred. The dredger was hit by the ro/ro's bulbous bow and sustained damage and a large hole (2 x 2 metres) in its hull, in the area of the engine-room, below the waterline, and sank within 60 seconds. All onboard were rescued and there were no reported injuries. *Thor R.* sank in a depth of eleven metres — right in the channel/fairway to Esbjerg — and will be salvaged as it is clearly affecting traffic at the port. Thereafter it will most probably be repaired. At the time of incident, there were strong winds but clear visibility. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Esbjerg, Sep 30 — Crane ship *Matador 3* has arrived at the casualty location, from The Netherlands, and they plan to raise trailing suction hopper dredge *Thor R.* tomorrow, Oct 1. *Thor R.* will then be brought to Esbjerg Dock Services for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

TORM GERD (DIS)

London, Sep 25 — Product tanker *Torm Gerd* arrived Delaware City Sep 21 and sailed 0845, Sep 23 for Amsterdam.

TRADEPOORT (Netherlands)

London, Sep 30 — Following received from the operators of general cargo *Tradeport* (2115 gt, built 1998), dated Rotterdam today: *Tradeport* had engine problems approximately 135 miles south-east of Kingston, Jamaica, Sep 29. No crew injuries. A tug is now on scene and it is now under discussion where vessel will be taken for repairs. (Note — *Tradeport* sailed Barranquilla Sep 26.)

ULLA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Iskenderun, Sep 30 — General cargo *Ulla* is still in the same position and no salvage operations have been attempted by its representatives. In addition, there has been no statement as to whether the vessel's cargo has leaked out or not. — Lloyd's Agents.

UNION SUN (Barbados)

London, Sep 23 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed

1550, UTC: General cargo *Union Sun* is now in tow of Dover harbour tug and is currently approaching berth.

Dover, Sep 24 — General cargo *Union Sun*, Fowey for Antwerp, had engine failure and was towed to Dover Harbour. Repairs expected to be completed today and vessel will continue on planned voyage. — Lloyd's Agents.

Dover, Sep 27 — General cargo *Union Sun* completed repairs and resumed its voyage to Antwerp Sep 25. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Union Sun* arrived Antwerp 1059, Sep 26.)

VAN GOGH (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Sep 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger *Van Gogh* (15402 gt, built 1975) carrying some 500 people was in collision with crude oil tanker *Spetses* (80637 gt, built 1996) today in fog-shrouded waters off southern Spain, causing damage to both vessels but no injuries or environmental damage, officials said. *Van Gogh* had left Gibraltar for Tangiers when it was in contact with the starboard side of the double-hulled tanker, which was heading for a refinery in nearby Algeiras with 139,000 tons of crude oil. Port authorities had radioed both vessels to warn them visibility was zero because of thick fog. The tanker was dented above the waterline but the hull was not pierced and divers determined there was no leakage, said Oscar Lobato, an official with the Interior Ministry office in the Andalusia region. *Van Gogh* sustained damage to its bow but was able to return to Gibraltar under its own power.

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger *Van Gogh*, Gibraltar for Tangiers, with 500 passengers on board, collided with crude oil tanker *Spetses*, Egypt for Algeiras, cargo approximately 140,000 tonnes of crude, in foggy conditions off the Bay of Algeiras. "Fortunately, nobody was hurt," said a local government official at nearby Cadiz. Authorities said there was little damage to either vessel and no oil had leaked. They blamed the collision on poor visibility. Spanish officials said *Van Gogh* returned to port following minor damage to its bow, while *Spetses* was towed to its refinery berth after sustaining a dented hull.

Gibraltar, Sep 26 — At 1240, today, passenger *Van Gogh* was departing Gibraltar bound for Tangier when it collided with crude oil tanker *Spetses*, fully loaded with crude oil and bound for Algeiras Refinery. No injuries sustained to passengers and crews. The collision occurred roughly in the centre of Gibraltar bay and in dense fog. *Spetses* sustained damage to its deck and divers are inspecting its hull in Algeiras although no pollution has occurred. *Van Gogh* is back alongside at Gibraltar and surveyor has inspected its extensive bow damage and stopped it sailing. — Gibraltar Port Authority.

Gibraltar, Sep 27 — Passenger *Van Gogh* and crude oil tanker *Spetses* were in collision in dense fog at approximately 1230, yesterday. The bow

of *Van Gogh* has been severely indented and the vessel is apparently abandoning its cruise with the passengers being repatriated. Vessel returned to Gibraltar after the collision and is presently alongside the North Mole berth being evaluated. *Spetses*, which was carrying crude for the Cepsa Refinery in Algeciras, is currently at the monobuoy of the refinery. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 28 — Passenger *Van Gogh* and crude oil tanker *Spetses* were in collision in the Bay of Gibraltar, in a potentially disastrous incident that fortunately resulted in no injuries or pollution. The collision happened in the middle of the bay in thick fog at around 1240 Sunday (Sep 26), with both vessels sustaining hull damage. "There was zero visibility at the time," a British port official said on Sunday. *Van Gogh* was sailing from Gibraltar to Tangier with 492 passengers and a crew of 228. *Spetses* was heading in the opposite direction to the Cepsa refinery in Algeciras to discharge 139,000 tonnes of Egyptian crude oil. Officials in both ports are investigating the incident to try to establish what went wrong. Sources in Algeciras suggested that the port's maritime traffic control centre had warned both vessels of the risk of collision prior to the accident. *Van Gogh* will undergo repairs to its dented bow in Gibraltar, while *Spetses*, which sustained a deep gouge to its starboard side, was yesterday discharging its cargo to the Cepsa refinery before being allowed into port for damage assessment.

VEGA (Liberia)

Rio de Janeiro, Sep 28 — General cargo *Vega* sailed Rio de Janeiro Sep 24 for Vitoria. — Lloyd's Agents.

VIC INGRAHAM (Canada)

See *Barge 1016*.

VIHAN 5 (Vietnam)

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

XIANG LING (Panama)

London, Sep 25 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0005, UTC: General cargo *Xiang Ling* (5106 gt, built 1980), bound Port Moresby, engine stopped and anchored near Booby Island, at the entrance to the Torres Strait, at 1521, UTC, Sep 23. The vessel was reported still anchored in the same position at 0537, UTC, Sep 24.

London, Sep 25 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 1100, UTC: General cargo *Xiang Ling* is still at anchor.

London, Sep 26 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0020, UTC: General cargo *Xiang Ling* is still anchored near Booby Island, at the entrance to the Torres Strait, carrying out repairs.

London, Sep 28 — Following received from Australia MRCC, timed 0025, UTC: General cargo *Xiang Ling* was still anchored undergoing repairs near the entrance to the Torres Strait at the time of our last contact with the vessel, which was about six hours ago.

London, Sep 29 — Following received from Australia MRCC, timed 0030, UTC: General cargo *Xiang Ling* is now back under way after carrying out repairs.

YM PEOPLE (Hong Kong)

London, Sep 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Two South Koreans and two Filipinos were killed in an explosion on c.c. *YM People* (17153 gt, built 2003) off Sri Lanka, port officials said today. *YM People* was sailing from Singapore to the Suez Canal when the explosion broke out about 400 nautical miles off the southern coast of Sri Lanka, they said. (Note — *YM People* sailed Singapore Sep 25 for Port Said.)

London, Sep 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Four people including the master were killed in an engine explosion on board c.c. *YM People* off Sri Lanka, port officials said today. The bodies of two South Koreans and two Filipinos were handed over to the Colombo harbour police after *YM People* anchored, a port official said. The surviving 15-crew members told authorities the men were killed carrying out repairs in the engine-room on Monday (Sep 27) when the vessel was about 400 nautical miles south of Colombo. "We are told that there had been some sort of a gas cylinder explosion in the engine-room and the master, chief officer, chief engineer and the third engineer had died," the official said. He said forensic tests and an inquiry would be carried out in Sri Lanka.

London, Sep 29 — Following received from Hong Kong RCC, timed 1329, UTC: C.c. *YM People* had a bottle explode in CO2 room about 0900, local time, Sep 27, killing four people. Made emergency call at Colombo to replenish carbon dioxide and take on replacement crew.

YONG FENG (Hong Kong)

Istanbul, Sep 28 — Bulk *Yong Feng* (39873 gt, built 2000), Yuzhnyy for Port Said, sustained engine breakdown while transitting Dardanelles at 0315, local time, today, and anchored off Gelibolu. — Lloyd's Agents.

Istanbul, Sep 29 — Bulk *Yong Feng* completed necessary repairs by its own means and upon inspection/formalities it sailed Canakkale 0431, local time, today. — Lloyd's Agents.

YUH PAO NO.1 (Taiwan)

Suva, Sep 26 — Fishing *Yuh Pao No.1*, grounded on reef near Nukubu Passage, entrance to Suva harbour, Jun 15: Owners have no intention to have the vessel refloated and/or repaired. Although the local authorities — Fiji Marine Dept & Fiji Customs — have issued notice to the owners to refloat the vessel, they are reluctant to comply with this. — Lloyd's Agents.

ZWAANTJE (Netherlands)

London, Sep 29 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0927, UTC: At 1100, UTC, Sep 28, crew of fishing *Zwaantje* (71 gt, built 1964), PIZE, in lat 53 33N, long 06 12E, reported a fire in the vessels' engine-

room. The engine-room was immediately sealed and the vessel was attended by local lifeboat and fire brigade services. The fire was successfully extinguished, the vessel was then towed into Lauwersoog by a lifeboat.



INDONESIA

London, Sep 29 — A press report, dated Sep 28, states: Between 30 to 40 robbers armed with long knives and swords escaped with property from a vessel that had anchored off Indonesia on Thursday (Sep 23), according to the International Maritime Bureau. The pirates boarded a bulk carrier at the port of Tanjung Pemancingan at 1150 hrs and threatened the vessel's crewmembers, the bureau said.

PERU

London, Sep 29 — A press report, dated Sep 28, states: Pirates took a vessel's security guard hostage and beat him up in an attack off Peru yesterday, according to the International Maritime Bureau. Five armed robbers boarded the bulk-carrier, a ship used to carry commodities such as coal and iron ore, at the Peruvian port of Conchan at 0130 hrs, the IMB's Piracy Reporting Centre said on its Web site. The name and size of the ship weren't reported. "The shore security patrol responded with an exchange of gunfire," the bureau said. The pirates escaped in a speedboat with stolen property from the ship.



GIBRALTAR

See *Nordica* under "Marine."



AGIOS DIONYSIOS S. (Greece)

Las Palmas, Sep 28 — Ro/ro *Agios Dionysios S.* (3995 gt, built 1972), which arrived Las Palmas Feb 12, 2003, is currently still in port here, under embargo. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALLIANCE (Cyprus)

Donges, Sep 29 — General cargo *Alliance*, renamed *Arca*, is still in the port of St. Nazaire. Actual owner currently unknown. The Harbour Authorities are conducting a procedure for disqualification of the owner in

order to obtain from the tribunal the authorisation to make an auction sale. — Lloyd's Agents.

CHENG HUEI NO.1 (Taiwan)

London, Sep 24 — A press report, dated Sep 22, states: Kaohsiung-registered fishing *Cheng Hwei No.1* has allegedly been fired at in Russian territorial waters and the Fisheries Administration of the Council of Agriculture (COA) is helping to investigate the matter. Reports said the deep-sea fishing vessel trespassed into Russian waters near the Kuril Islands and was chased by a Russian vessel after it refused to stop. The Russian boat was only able to intercept the ship after firing upon it, according to the reports. The crew, from Taiwan, mainland China, Vietnam and the Philippines, were reported to be safe, but 200 tons of illegally caught fish were found on board, the reports said. Fishery officials in Kaohsiung noted that Taiwan fishing ships operate in the North Pacific fishing grounds for saury at this time of year and that Russia may have stepped up patrols in the region. They urged the government to investigate the incident so as not to cause trouble for other fishing vessels. The owner of the ship in Kaohsiung, southern Taiwan, refused to comment on the reports. Russian national television yesterday aired footage of the incident taken by a Russian military aircraft. Russian TV reported that an illegal catch was found onboard the vessel and the footage also showed damage to the ship after it was hit by shells.

London, Sep 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The Council of Agriculture said yesterday that it will offer all necessary assistance to *Cheng Hwei No.1* being detained in Russia, which allegedly trespassed into Russian waters near the Kuril Islands. The council's Fishery Administration said it is coordinating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the ship's owner and the Taiwan Squid Fishing Industry Association to offer timely assistance to the detained Kaohsiung-registered fishing vessel and its crew. According to council officials, the master of *Cheng Hwei No.1* already briefed the ship's owner on the latest situation. Both the ship and all crew members are safe, the officials said, adding that they are now staying in the Shikotan Island and may have to stand trial. The vessel has 36 crew members, including five from Taiwan, 23 from China, four from Vietnam and four from the Philippines. The ship owner has asked its agent to hire a lawyer to assist in handling the case, council officials said, adding that Taiwan's representative office in Moscow will also offer assistance. The ship owner could face a fine for illegally operating in Russia's fishing waters.

DAMANIA-1 (India)

Mumbai, Sep 24 — Ferry *Damania-1* is still under arrest and is berthed at N Shed, Princes Dock, Mumbai, pending the Admiralty Suit filed in the High Court on Dec 17, 1998. — Lloyd's Agents.

DENEB REEFER (Panama)

Las Palmas, Sep 24 — rRef *Deneb Reefer* still in port and for sale. — Lloyd's Agents.

EZZ-ELDIN REFAAT (Egypt)

Port Said, Sep 29 — General cargo *Ezz-Eldin Refaat* (5091 gt, built 1978), currently anchored in Suez Outer Harbour awaiting owners' instructions, was released from arrest two months ago after a long-term period of being under arrest. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Ezz-Eldin Refaat* arrived Suez Sep 1, 2003.)

FAIAL (Mongolia)

Limassol, Sep 30 — General cargo *Faial* (2417 gt, built 1977), which reported to have arrived at Limassol on Sep 27, from Novorossiysk and sailed on Sep 28, for Beirut, is still at Limassol Roads under arrest. Date of arrest was Sep 28. — Lloyd's Agents.

HIGHLANDER

London, Sep 28 — On Sep 6 the Cape of Good Hope Provincial Division of the High Court of South Africa ordered that Mr Steven Wallace of Garlicke & Bousfield Inc be appointed as referee to receive, examine, consider and report to the court on the validity and ranking of all claims against the fund created by the sale of fishing *Highlander*.

INDIAN FISHING VESSELS SEIZED BY PAKISTAN

Karachi, Sep 29 — A Pakistan Maritime Security Agency vessel apprehended seven Indian Fishing boats along with 45 crew members on board on Sep 27 for fishing illegally in Pakistani water. The ship was on routine patrol in the Eastern Maritime Region when it found the boats illegally fishing about 45 km inside Pakistan's EEZ. Indian fishermen have been warned time and again not to indulge in illegal fishing but they repeatedly come into the zone to explore/benefit from swatch near the Indus Delta. The apprehended fishermen have been handed over to Docks Police for further legal action, according to a press release of MSA. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

KAWKAB (Egypt)

Venice, Sep 24 — General cargo *Kawkab* sailed Venice Sep 24 in tow bound for Rijeka. — Lloyd's Agents.

NEPTUNE PIONEER (Egypt)

Port Said, Sep 27 — General cargo *Neptune Pioneer* is still under arrest at Suez port. — Lloyd's Agents.

OCEAN ALERT (Bahamas)

London, Sep 30 — Panama research *Ocean Alert* arrived Limassol Sep 22, from Valletta, and sailed Sep 28 for Alexandria.

PONGSU (North Korea)

Sydney, Sep 27 — General cargo *Pongsu* was confiscated by the Federal Police. It is still in Sydney because of the court case and its role in drug distribution. It is understood a decision on its future is close. — Lloyd's Agents.

RESHID BEHBUDOV (Azerbaijan)

See under "Marine."

SAEHAN GALAXY (South Korea)

See under "Marine."

SAINT RAPHAEL II (Greece)

Piraeus, Sep 29 — The auction (on Sep 9) of non specific tanker *Saint Raphael II* was successful and the vessel was sold. The new owners are: Mediterranean Ships Breaking, Liberia and the new managers are: Dido Shipping Co. S.A., of Piraeus. The vessel still remains in Perama port, Piraeus. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEA LANTERN (Panama)

Matadi, Sep 24 — Bulk *Sea Lantern* (16057 gt, built 1976), under Panama flag, called at Matadi, from Luanda, on Sep 4, and was arrested on the same date by the Court of Justice, due to bad treatment to stowaways. Five Congolese stowaways were found (to have been) on board. One was killed and thrown at sea and four were thrown, alive, overboard by the crew; three of them were rescued, but one died. The vessel was released on Sep 13 and sailed from Matadi, for orders, on Sep 21, after discharge operations. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEA SERENADE (Cyprus)

Koper, Sep 29 — Ro/ro *Sea Serenade* is still in drydock (at Izola) with "unknown prospect". — Lloyd's Agents.

SEAGREEN (Cyprus)

London, Sep 28 — C.c. *Seagreen* is today reported still at South East Lamma Anchorage, Hong Kong, under arrest.

SPIRIT OF ONTARIO I (U.S.A.)

London, Sep 29 — A press report, dated Sep 28, states: A US federal judge impounded passenger ro/ro *Spirit of Ontario I* (8500 gt, built 2004) today, the same day a fuel supplier sued the vessel's owner, claiming it was owed more than \$370,000 in unpaid bills. The lockdown was ordered by US District Judge Michael Telesca until the litigation is resolved. The vessel remains docked at the Port of Rochester under the watch of the US Marshals Service. The private ferry operator, Canadian American Transportation Systems, said it was unaware of the judge's decision. In the lawsuit, the fuel supplier, New York City-based Amerada Hess Corp, alleged the ferry operator owed \$372,868 in unpaid fuel bills and said it had a maritime lien against the vessel. Service on board the catamaran was abruptly suspended three weeks ago due to financial problems.



HOLDENVILLE AREA, OKLAHOMA, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 29 — A press report, dated Sep 28, states: A Tulsa company

today suspended service on its Houston to Glenpool pipeline after diesel fuel spilled onto the ground in Hughes County, Oklahoma. Explorer Pipeline says none of the diesel fuel has come into contact with surface water and crews were working to contain the spill near Holdenville. There were no injuries. Explorer shut down the pipeline after its computer monitoring system noticed a decrease in pressure in the 28-inch diameter pipeline. Explorer said the pipeline could be back in service within two days. The spill occurred in a rural area about six miles northeast of Holdenville, in southeastern Oklahoma.

HOUSTON AREA, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated Sep 26, states: A pipeline exploded before dawn today, sending plumes of dark smoke billowing for miles and forcing 250 people to evacuate, authorities said. No injuries were reported and no homes were damaged in the blast, about 30 miles northeast of Houston. The fire burned itself out and residents were allowed to return to their homes around noon. Authorities believe someone caused the explosion by puncturing the pipeline with a trackhoe, which is used for digging, said Montgomery County Fire Marshal Jimmy Williams. He did not know whether the damage was intentional. He also said someone drove a boom truck, the type with an arm that extends to reach power lines, into the nearby woods, raised it as high as possible and left it there. Residents reported hearing a small explosion followed by a larger one along the six-inch diameter propylene pipeline.



Pollution

IPSWICH, SUFFOLK, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated Sep 25, states: Swans are today being cleaned, and the last of the oil being mopped up, in the clean-up operation after a major oil spill in the port of Ipswich. Mopping sheets were being put down on the surface of the water to soak up the remaining oil residue. While RSPCA officers, which by the end of yesterday had collected 28 swans, were today working to catch the rest of the swans that had been coated in oil. The spill happened when two-and-a-half tonnes of diesel leaked into the water on the Cliff Quay terminal early yesterday. The incident was classed as a Tier Two spill, the second of three levels of seriousness, and teams of experts worked to contain the oil by erecting booms. Most of the heavy residue was removed from the River Orwell by yesterday evening. Robert Smith, Ipswich port manager, said: "People were working until around 1800

last night and started again at 0600 this morning. "By the close of play yesterday, most of the heavy oil had been pumped out and we stood *Haven Hornbill*, from Harwich Haven Authority, down." Mr Smith said that the booms would remain at least until the end of the day and that the clean up was now mainly a "mopping operation". Mr Smith added that the clean-up operation is likely to soon be downgraded from a Tier Two spill. He said: "The spill will probably be classed as Tier One during the course of the day. That means that the other agencies and contractors involved will be taken off and we will look at it with our own forces on a continuing light monitoring service." The RSPCA is today continuing to help swans that were coated with oil. Ann Grain, spokeswoman for the RSPCA, said all the swans plucked from the water yesterday were still alive and were being treated at the Norfolk Wildlife Centre. She said: "We collected 28 swans by the end of yesterday but there are still swans out on the water. An investigation, including interviewing the master of the suspected vessel and comparing the leaked oil with that of the suspected vessel, is also due to take place.



Weather & Navigation

AUSTRALIA

London, Sep 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The WA Farmers Federation says the widespread frost damage in the central and southern wheatbelt highlights the need for Federal Government-backed crop insurance. Agriculture Minister Kim Chance says the damage bill from the frosts could be as much as \$300 million, while CBH has revised its crop estimate down from 11 million to 10.4 million tonnes. WA farmers' president Trevor De Langrafft says multi-peril crop insurance is available in other countries, but not in Australia. He says it has argued for many years for the Federal Government to help establish an insurance scheme in Australia, but the Government has ruled out the proposal. "Seeing as how they pay out at least \$100 million a year in Exceptional Circumstances across Australia, they could afford to place that amount of money into a multi-peril crop insurance fund for a short period of time," he said. "However, we haven't been able to convince governments to do that to this point in time."

BANGLADESH

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated Sep 26, states: The World Bank and Asian Development Bank said recent floods in Bangladesh had caused 2.2 billion dollars worth of damage. The two donor banks announced the finding after they sent a joint mission to the flood-ravaged country earlier this month

to carry out a damage and needs assessment. "The 2004 floods are likely to be as devastating as the 1998 floods in many ways and the mission's preliminary estimates show that total damage and output losses is about 2.2 billion dollars," said Christine Wallich, World Bank country representative in Bangladesh. The Bangladeshi government had said earlier the latest flooding caused 6.6 billion dollars in damage to property and infrastructure. Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman described the report as "incomplete" as it did not include the overall damage caused by the recent flood and the countrywide downpour, official news agency BSS reports. The joint mission, however, admitted the assessment was partial since it has visited only 10 districts to assess the damage. The multilateral lending agencies also put forward a proposal for rehabilitation schemes consisting three phases including short- to long-term programmes. At least 700 people died during the flooding in July and August and millions were left stranded or forced to flee their homes. More heavy rain two weeks ago caused more flooding and claimed at least 18 more lives. Experts say the post-flood period can be more dangerous than the floods due to threat of disease and lack of food where crops have been ruined.

HURRICANE "FRANCES"

London, Sep 26 — A press report, dated Sep 25, states: Homeowners and businesses were expected to file insurance claims worth an estimated \$4.4 billion for property damage caused by this month's Hurricane "Frances", according to an actuarial firm's preliminary estimate. Florida accounted for \$4.1 billion of the insured property losses from the storm that hit the state's Treasure Coast on Sep 5, according to New Jersey-based ISO. The estimate released Thursday (Sep 23) does not include flood and uninsured damage. Total damage is typically double the insured figure. US insurers are expected to process more than 552,000 claims for "Frances", with more than 500,000 in Florida, ISO said. This season's powerful storms are expected to be more costly than the most expensive hurricane ever, 1992's "Andrew". Hurricane "Charley" caused an estimated \$6.8 billion in insured damages. Early estimates put insured damages for Hurricane "Ivan" at \$3 billion to \$10 billion.

HURRICANE "IVAN"

London, Sep 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Reborn Tropical Depression "Ivan", packing five to 10 inches of rain, made its way inland late yesterday near the Texas-Louisiana border. As of 2300 hrs, the storm's maximum sustained winds were 35 mph and "Ivan" was moving northwest at about eight mph, said the National Hurricane Centre. The storm was expected to weaken as it moved farther into Texas. On the eastern side of the storm, tornadoes are possible in southern Louisiana, the centre said. "Ivan" will probably make a westerly

turn in the next 24 hours. "Ivan" regained strength Wednesday (Sep 22) as a tropical storm over the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico. "It's just kind of like a cold front," Freddie Richard Jr., emergency preparedness director in Louisiana's Cameron Parish, said. "We're just getting some rain and a little bit of wind."

London, Sep 24 — A press report, dated Sep 22, states: Jamaica's vital sugar industry could lose some US\$25 million in revenue - a quarter of total earnings - because of severe crop damage from Hurricane "Ivan", officials said today. About 35 percent of the Caribbean island's sugarcane crop was damaged by torrential rains and strong wind brought by Ivan nearly two weeks ago, said Allan Rickards, head of the Jamaica All-Island Cane Farmers Association. Though much of the crop will grow back, decreased sugarcane quality caused by flooding will likely lead to a 15-percent drop in production this year, from 200,000 tons to 170,000 tons, near the island's all-time low. "We will have a sugar crop, but it's going to be a serious reduction in income," said Rickards, whose group represents 12,000 cane farmers. "A lot of people are going to be hurt." Sugar is Jamaica's third-largest industry, employing some 40,000 workers and earning about US\$100 million in foreign income. Ivan brushed Jamaica's southern coast Sep 11, destroying homes, knocking out power to most of the island and killing at least 17 people. The damage comes at an especially bad time for Jamaican sugar growers, who are already facing a massive cut in subsidies from European countries. The storm also wiped out much of Jamaica's banana crop, forcing growers to abandon exports for up to nine months. Rickards said sugarcane growers are trying to acquire fertilizer to re-enrich the soil and salvage next year's crop. Meanwhile, the government said today it isn't planning major spending cuts to help finance reconstruction efforts after "Ivan".

London, Sep 24 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, dated Sep 22: The Coast Guard continues to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and NOAA surveying and assessing damaged ports and waterways today in Mississippi, Alabama and Florida to determine when they may be reopened. While aids to navigation repair, and dredging operations in hurricane-affected areas continue, mariners are asked to stay off the waterways that are closed and exercise caution when transiting due to aids to navigation discrepancies, debris, and possible shoaling and shifting of bottom topography. No significant change to port status has been made. The Lower Mississippi River is open to vessel traffic with draught restrictions of 35 feet for outbound traffic at night. The Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet is closed. The ports of Gulfport, Pascagoula and Mobile are open to all maritime traffic with draught restrictions: 33-feet in Gulfport; 40-feet in Pascagoula with pilot imposed daylight transit only, 25,000 ton limit and and 30 feet draught restriction

until ranges repaired; 43-feet in Mobile with pilot imposed daylight transit only. Draught restrictions are two feet less than normal depths. The Gulf Intracoastal Waterway is open to all traffic from mile marker 0 at Harvey Locks, in New Orleans, to mile marker 135 in Mobile. The waterway is closed from mile marker 135 to mile marker 350 in Apalachicola, Fla, pending a survey of the channel and navigational aids. The Panama City Entrance Channel, Fla, is open to all vessels with a 38-foot project depth. St. Andrews Bay, Fla., is open to vessels with a 36-foot project depth. All vessels are prohibited from entering, departing or moving within these areas unless specifically authorized by the Captain of the Port Mobile or his designated representative. The status of the ports and waterways affected by Hurricane "Ivan" are changing. Mariners are urged to listen to their marine radio or contact authorities to find out if waterways are open before entering.

London, Sep 24 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical depression "Ivan" centre located near lat 30.2N, long 94.4W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 20 nautical miles. Present movement toward the north-west or 305 degrees at 7 knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 1009 mb. Maximum sustained winds 25 knots with gusts to 35 knots. Winds and seas vary greatly in each quadrant. Forecast position lat 30.4N, long 95.1W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 20 knots, gusts 25 knots. Forecast position lat 30.1N , long 96.0W at 0600, UTC, Sep 25. Maximum winds 20 knots, gusts 25 knots. Request for three hourly vessel reports within 300 miles of lat 30.2N, long 94.4W.

London, Sep 25 — A press release from Helmerich & Payne Inc, dated Tulsa Sep 24, states: Helmerich & Payne Inc today announced its assessment of damage incurred by Hurricane "Ivan" to its operations in the Gulf of Mexico. Although the Company reported no significant damage to 5 of its 6 active platform rigs, *H&P Rig 205* sustained moderate damage from the hurricane. All employees were safely evacuated from all the Company's active rigs in advance of the storm and no personal injury occurred. No storm-related damage was reported to the company's six stacked platform rigs. *Rig 205* is currently shut down while H&P personnel complete a more thorough evaluation of the damage. Initial estimates to repair the rig, plus the estimated reduction in earnings during that time, will have minimal impact on net income. It is anticipated that the rig will be ready to resume operations in about one month. (See issue of Sep 27.)

London, Sep 28 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, dated Sep 27: Coast Guard crews, along with the Army Corps of Engineers, continue their work today to fix aids to navigation and assess shoaling in the waterways impacted by Hurricane "Ivan". Currently, all ports and the Lower Mississippi River are open. The Mississippi River Gulf Outlet is closed

from mile marker negative 8 to mile marker 59. The Gulf Intracoastal Waterway from New Orleans to Carabelle, Fla., is open. However, from Mobile, Ala., to Carabelle there is a 10-foot draught restriction and an 800-foot length and 70-foot width restriction.

HURRICANE "JEANNE"

London, Sep 23 — Following received from the National Hurricane Centre, Miami, dated today: Hurricane "Jeanne": At 0900, UTC, today, a tropical storm watch is in effect for the central Bahamas, including Cat Island, the Exumas, Long Island, Rum Cay and San Salvador. The centre of hurricane "Jeanne" was located near lat 25.5N, long 69.5W. The position is accurate to within 10 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the west or 260 degs at three knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 966 mb and the eye diameter is 25 nautical miles. The maximum sustained winds are 85 knots with gusts to 105 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. Radius of 50-knot winds is 70 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant and 60 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds is 120 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant and 100 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 1800, UTC, Sep 23: Position near lat 25.4N, long 70.5W. Maximum sustained winds are 85 knots with gusts to 105 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 40 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant and 30 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds is 70 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant and 60 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds is 120 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant and 100 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Sep 24: Position near lat 25.4N, long 72.1W. Maximum sustained winds are 90 knots with gusts to 110 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 40 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant and 30 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds is 70 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant and 60 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds is 120 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant and 100 nautical miles elsewhere.

Port-au-Prince, Sep 23 - U.N. peacekeepers increased security today in the Haitian city of Gonaives where more than 1,000 people died in floods, after desperate survivors fought each other to get at emergency food supplies. Toussaint Kongo-Doudou, spokesman for a Brazilian-led U.N. force patrolling the country, said additional U.N. troops would also guard food convoys heading to Gonaives. The decision to boost security around relief operations was made after U.N. troops had to fire into the air yesterday to prevent looting when the first beans, rice and other supplies were handed out to an estimated 20,000 flood victims. "I think it's fair to say that the situation is tense because people are desperate. Many have not eaten since Saturday (Sep 18)

night or Sunday (Sep 19) morning," said Anne Poulsen, spokeswoman for the U.N. World Food Programme. The national civil defense agency said 1,150 bodies had been recovered by this morning, mainly from Gonaives. Another 1,200 people were still missing and the United Nations warned the body count could rise dramatically in the coming days because two areas of Gonaives remained under water and inaccessible. Representatives from donor countries met in Port-au-Prince today and pledged to quickly pump \$84 million into Haiti. Some of that was new money earmarked for disaster relief, and some was to be drawn from gifts and loans already pledged to help the nation bring an end to chronic political instability and poverty. The biggest amount was to come from the World Bank, which pledged \$6 million in the next two weeks and \$61 million in December. "Jeanne", with winds of 105 mph, was currently 425 miles east of Great Abaco island in the Bahamas. It was expected to hit the northern Bahamas on Saturday (Sep 25) and Florida on Sunday (Sep 26). — Reuters.

London, Sep 24 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Jeanne" centre located near lat 26.1N, long 71.6W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 20 nautical miles. Present movement towards the west or 270 degrees at seven knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 969 mb. Eye diameter 30 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 85 knots with gusts to 105 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 35 nautical miles north-east and south-west quadrants, 30 nautical miles south-east quadrant and 40 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Winds and seas vary greatly in each quadrant. Forecast position lat 26.1N long 73.1W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 85 knots, gusts 105 knots. Forecast position lat 26.2N, long 75.4W at 0600, UTC, Sep 25. Maximum winds 90 knots, gusts 110 knots. Request for three hourly vessel reports within 300 miles of lat 26.1N, long 71.6W.

London, Sep 25 — A press report, dated Sep 24, states: More than half a million residents of Florida's east coast were urged to evacuate, again, as Hurricane "Jeanne" churned westward today and threatened to become the fourth hurricane to pound the state in the last six weeks. The 100-mph storm could come ashore somewhere on the state's east coast by Sunday (Sep 26), targeting some of the same areas hit by previous storms and potentially turning piles of still-uncleared debris into deadly missiles.

London, Sep 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Jeanne" is battering the Bahamas with violent winds and torrential rains - the second storm to hit the islands in under a month. The hurricane is roaring over the island of Great Abaco with sustained winds of about 105 mph. Hundreds of people there and on Grand Bahama were in emergency shelters. "Jeanne" is set to hit Florida later tonight or early tomorrow. People living along the densely populated east coast

have been urged to leave. The eye of the hurricane hit Marsh Harbour on Abaco island, which has a population of 20,000, this morning. "Jeanne" is set to move on to Grand Bahama island, which was badly hit by Hurricane "Frances" three weeks ago. Many houses had roofs ripped off and some homeless people were still living with relatives or neighbours. Half of Grand Bahama's 70,000 people were still without electricity. The National Hurricane Centre has issued a hurricane warning along Florida's east coast from Florida City in the south up to St Augustine. At 1200, UTC, "Jeanne" was some 190 miles from Florida. Up to one million people have been urged to leave for safer areas. "Jeanne" is forecast to slam into some of the same areas hit by the previous hurricanes, including Fort Pierce.

London, Sep 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Haiti's government has drawn up plans to evacuate parts of the city of Gonaives, amid fears of disease in the wake of tropical storm "Jeanne." Interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue said that a decision would be made shortly on whether to implement the plans. Latortue said the number of people killed had risen to more than 1,500. Aid workers have warned of the dangers of poor sanitation after the sewage system was torn apart in the flooding. Waters have slowly begun to recede in Gonaives, the country's third largest city. The United Nations says that it expects several hundred more bodies to be found once the full impact of the floods and landslides has been measured. Many homes have been ripped apart, forcing the owners to live on the streets or on the rooftops of houses that are still intact. The authorities are continuing to bury victims of the floods in mass graves. Corpses have been dumped in a pit near Gonaives in an attempt to prevent the spread of disease, while unclaimed bodies continue to litter the city. The roads are covered in a thick coat of mud and there is a smell of raw sewage in the air. Survivors have to drink and cook with water from ditches containing rotting bodies and sewage. Aid was reported to be slowly getting through to Gonaives, but there have been angry scenes at some relief centres as large crowds have gathered, desperate to get hold of food and water.

London, Sep 26 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Jeanne", forecast/advisory at 0900, UTC, today: At 0500, EDT, 0900, UTC, a hurricane warning has been issued along the west coast of Florida from Englewood to the Suwanee River. A hurricane warning continues in effect for the Florida east coast from Hallandale northward to St. Augustine, including Lake Keeshobee. At 0500, EDT, all watches and warnings are discontinued along the Florida east coast south of Hallandale and along the Florida west coast south of Chokoloskee including the Florida Keys. A tropical storm warning and a hurricane watch remain in effect from north of St. Augustine northward to Altamaha Sound, Georgia. At 0500, EDT, the

tropical storm warning is extended westward along the Florida gulf coast to Destin. A tropical storm warning is now in effect along the Florida Gulf Coast south of Englewood to Chokoloskee and north and west of the Suwanee River to Destin. A tropical storm warning is also now in effect north of the Altamaha Sound to the Savannah River. At 0500, EDT, the government of the Bahamas has discontinued all warnings for the Bahamas. Hurricane centre was located near lat 27.4N, long 81.1W at 0900, UTC. Position accurate within 20 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west or 280 degrees at 11 knots. Maximum sustained winds 95 knots with gusts to 115 knots. Forecast valid 0600, UTC, Feb 27 lat 29.7N, long 83.6W, over water maximum wind 55 knots, gusts 65 knots.

Fort Pierce, Fla, Sep 26 — Hurricane "Jeanne" peeled roofs off houses, a hospital and an emergency shelter and left almost 2 million people without power today as it plowed through parts of Florida already scarred by Hurricane "Frances" three weeks ago. "Jeanne" weakened slowly as it moved inland after pounding the Atlantic coast with towering waves and ferocious winds, killing at least one person and uprooting trees. Dawn broke over towns littered with tree limbs, scraps of aluminum, strips of roof and other debris. In some areas, cars stood in fender-deep floodwaters. At 0800, EDT, the storm was hammering central Florida with 100-mph winds and driving rain as it slowly unravelled 65 miles east-south-east of Tampa. The storm's eye made landfall just before midnight near the southern end of Hutchinson Island just off Stuart with winds of 120 mph. Stuart Mayor Jeff Krauskopf said a hospital lost half its roof but the 50 patients inside were safe. — Reuters.

London, Sep 26 — A press report, dated Sep 25, states: Desperate Haitians in flood-ravaged Gonaives are mobbing relief workers to steal food aid, prompting the United Nations to rush more peacekeepers in to stem the looting. General Augusto Heleno Ribeiro Pereira, the Brazilian Army commander in charge of the UN peacekeeping force in Haiti, criticised the slow pace of relief reaching residents. He said many people were suffering from diarrhoea and that people were contracting gangrene. Interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue said yesterday that the storm had killed at least 1,500 people. He said the government was drawing up plans to evacuate some of the 300,000 homeless victims to a tent camp. Some victims, fearing the spread of disease, said they would abandon the city. The director of the World Food Program's Haiti operation said aid groups had been able to get food to only about 25,000 people last week — one-tenth of the city's population. Planeloads of aid have arrived in Port au Prince, the capital, but getting it to Gonaives is a nine-hour drive with the final leg of the route covered by a lake of mud littered with mired aid trucks. A truck that managed to get through this morning

was looted by desperate residents. They threw out packets of water, sending children in the streets dodging other aid trucks to grab the precious loot. Argentine soldiers finally pushed people back from the truck. Some 140 Uruguayan soldiers were on their way to reinforce about 600 UN peacekeepers already in Gonaives, said a spokesman for the UN mission.

Port au Prince, Sep 26 — The death toll in disastrous flooding in Haiti has risen to some 1,650, with about 800 people still missing, a government official said today. Hurricane "Jeanne" lashed Haiti with torrential rains as a tropical storm a week ago. Floodwaters and mud cascaded into the northern city of Gonaives and other parts of the north and north-west, leaving tens of thousands of people with nothing in the poorest country in the Americas. Carl Murat Cantave, a Haitian government official, said the toll was now 1,650. — Reuters.

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated Sep 26, states: Cement *Contrader* (2233 gt, built 1965) is today reported lying on its side, partially submerged, spilling oil, after tipping over against a pier during hurricane "Jeanne" on the south coastline of New Providence island in the Bahamas. The vessel was undergoing repairs before the storms arrival and was unable to be transferred to a secure location.

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated Sep 26, states: Neighbourhoods of roofless houses were swamped under six feet of water in Freeport today, a day after Hurricane "Jeanne" blew through the Bahamas. There were no reports of deaths or serious injuries in the Bahamas from the Category 3 storm. Some areas of Freeport were without electricity and water early today, although those services were expected to be restored by day's end. The city's airport on Grand Bahama island, which was submerged yesterday, reopened today, officials said. It was impossible to get news from Abaco island, where Jeanne made a direct hit yesterday, lashing the island with 115 mph winds and torrential rains. Telephone lines were down and Bahamian officials were unable to reach the low-lying island. Central and northern parts of the island - including Marsh Harbor, Cooper's Town and Grand Cay - suffered the most damage, said David Cates, spokesman for the National Emergency Management Agency. An emergency flight by assessment teams was planned for early tomorrow, Cates said. About 700 people had taken refuge at an emergency shelter in a school in Marsh Harbor, the main town on Abaco, an island of 10,000 people, officials said. After hitting Abaco, "Jeanne" whirled along the north coast of Grand Bahama island, where thousands of people took refuge in shelters and homes with windows boarded up. "We have had many reports of roofs blown off, caving in and flooding in low-lying areas from tidal surges," said Alexander E. Williams, the chief emergency official on Grand Bahama island. The damage to more than 100 homes was limited

mostly to roofs, Williams said. Emergency workers ventured into storm-struck neighbourhoods today to assess the damage. In some Freeport neighbourhoods, floodwaters were six feet deep, said Matt Maura, spokesman for the Bahamas emergency agency, but floodwaters were receding quickly in most areas of Grand Bahama, Williams said.

London, Sep 27 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Jeanne": At 0900, UTC, today, the tropical storm warning on the atlantic coast had been discontinued south of Flagler Beach, Florida and extended northward to South Santee River, South Carolina. A tropical storm warning is now in effect from Flagler Beach to South Santee River. A tropical storm warning remains in effect on the Gulf Coast from Anclote Key to Apalachicola, Florida. At 0900, UTC, today, the centre was located near lat 30.5N, long 83.6W. The position is accurate to within 20 nautical miles. The present movement is towards the north-north-west or 335 degs at 10 knots. The estimated minimum central pressure 982 mb. Maximum sustained winds: 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 175 nautical miles in the north-east and south-east quadrants, 90 nautical miles in the south-west quadrant and 60 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. At 0600, UTC, Sep 28, the centre is predicted to be near lat 33.7N, long 82.9W, with maximum winds of 30 knots and gusts to 40 knots.

London, Sep 27 — The Coast Guard re-opened Port Everglades at 1045, Sep 26, and the Port of Miami at 1600 after consulting with port officials and the maritime community and conducting a careful assessment of the condition of the ports, which included aerial overflights, to ensure there are no hazards to navigation within the channel and along the piers. The ports were closed to shipping on Friday night (Sep 24) as Hurricane "Jeanne" approached to minimize the chances of damage to port infrastructure and the marine environment and to allow for the quickest return to normal operations possible.

Gonaives, Haiti, Sep 27 — More than a week after devastating floods hit northern Haiti the death count rose sharply as reports came in from remote areas today and aid workers struggled to feed thousands of desperate people. The estimated toll from the floods triggered by hurricane "Jeanne" climbed to about 2,400 after a parish priest reported "a total disaster" in small towns in Poteau, a region outside Gonaives. In Gonaives, young men grabbed food from an aid convoy and others robbed women for bags of rice. Aid workers, backed by armed UN peacekeeping forces, increased the number of distribution points for emergency supplies to four but still faced tense crowds of destitute people clamoring for help. Torrential rain engulfed much of the port city of 200,000 people last week. Government estimates had put the death toll at

1,650, with about 800 missing. However, Toussaint Chery, who as parish priest is Poteau's top authority, said about 1,000 people had died in 18 rural communities in his region. At least 750 of those deaths had not been previously reported, taking the nationwide toll from "Jeanne" to about 2,400. Carl Murat Cantave, a government official in Gonaives, also said the official toll would rise. "Given the number of missing, when we declare the final death toll in the coming days, it will be at least 2,337 just for the Gonaives region," he said. Relief agencies were working to set up more food distribution centres as soon as they could establish secure sites, said Rick Perera, a spokesman for relief agency CARE. — Reuters.

Atlanta, Sep 28 — The remnants of Hurricane "Jeanne" veered northward into Virginia today after pelting Georgia and the Carolinas with heavy rains and leaving thousands in these states without electricity. "Jeanne", which cut a swath of destruction through Florida last weekend, swept into Georgia and the Carolinas yesterday after being downgraded to a tropical depression. It dumped as much as 12 inches of rain in some parts of the states. The weakened weather system caused one death and a handful of minor injuries in South Carolina, according to John Legare, a spokesman for the state's emergency management division. Officials in Georgia and North Carolina reported no deaths. Damage to buildings and power lines in these states paled in comparison to that seen in Florida, where thousands of homes were damaged and some five million people left without electricity. — Reuters.

London, Sep 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Public safety officials are estimating roughly \$13.5 million in damages to area homes and businesses caused by Hurricane "Jeanne" as she muscled her way across the state Sunday (Sep 26). After canvassing the county Monday and yesterday, damage assessors concluded that more than 200 homes and 20 businesses were damaged during the storm that weakened after making landfall on Florida's east coast. Public safety officials sent out a request to FEMA for assistance and are expecting word from the federal agency sometime today. Manatee County was included in the presidential declaration for public assistance - for expenses and losses of public agencies. It has not yet been included for individual assistance for homeowners and businesses. Before the Manatee County Emergency Operations Centre shut down its operations yesterday, officials spoke with emergency operations staff in harder hit areas, like Polk County, to ask whether mutual aid from Manatee County law enforcement and public safety officers would be necessary. The Manatee County Government Administrative Centre, 1112 Manatee Ave. W., returned to commercial power yesterday morning after running on generator power since Sunday. The state of local emergency declared by

commissioners on Saturday will expire this coming Saturday. The Peace River Electric Co-operative incurred damage to some of their substations during "Jeanne," with their Ellenton branch suffering the hardest hit, according to the Manatee County Web site. As a result, east Manatee customers may be without power up to seven days.

Freeport, Bahamas, Sep 29 — Existing major structural damages from Hurricane "Frances" were aggravated significantly. BORCO appears to be partially back in business but understand that South Riding Point oil jetty will be knocked out for some time. Passenger *Red Boat* (32753 gt, built 1966) broke adrift again in the storm but seems to have done little third party damages, other than sitting on top of a 90' landing craft which sank in the last storm. Passenger *Jubilee* (47262 gt, built 1986) broke adrift in the storm and collided with three Smit harbour tugs, crushing them against the dock wall. It is not known whether the tugs were assisting the vessel or not at the time of the incident. Cement *Contrader* capsized and sank while alongside the dock at Clifton Pier, Nassau. — Lloyd's Agents.

Gonaives, Haiti, Sep 29 — The United Nations will launch a global appeal for \$30 million in emergency aid to help Haiti recover from floods that killed hundreds of people, the executive director of UNICEF said today on a visit to the impoverished Caribbean nation. "The situation is quite devastating here," said Carol Bellamy, who toured the port city of Gonaives, hard hit by floods triggered by hurricane "Jeanne" nearly two weeks ago. Up to 2,400 people have died in the floods, according to local officials. Aid workers are still trying to feed unruly crowds of hungry people. "The hospitals can't function. They are full of mud," Bellamy said. "The schools are being used for shelters. There is food distribution, but not sufficient yet." She said the United Nations would make its appeal on Friday (Oct 1) for \$30 million, the amount Haitian officials said was urgently needed to provide food and water and other relief for the next three months. UN peacekeeping troops have set up a makeshift medical centre in a school and doctors have treated 2,000 people in 10 days, many for illnesses from drinking unclean water. Starting tomorrow, relief workers planned to fan out into neighbourhoods to distribute supplies, to discourage large unruly crowds from gathering at the aid centres, said Carl Murat Cantave, a government official in Gonaives. Agriculture Minister Philippe Mathieu estimated damages in the Gonaives area at \$21 million. Officials said international donors have promised \$84 million, including \$10 million the Inter-American Development Bank will disburse from an existing loan as soon as Haiti's government identifies what it wants to spend the money on. The United States and Canada have pledged \$2 million each, Venezuela \$1 and the European Union \$1.5 million. — Reuters.

HURRICANE "KARL"

London, Sep 23 — Following received from the National Hurricane Centre, Miami, dated today: Hurricane "Karl": At 0900, UTC, the centre of hurricane "Karl" was located near lat 31.7N, long 45.8W. The position is accurate to within 20 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the north-north-east or 30 degs at 20 knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 948 mb and the eye diameter is 15 nautical miles. The maximum sustained winds are 110 knots with gusts to 135 knots. The radius of 64 knot winds is 75 nautical miles in the east semicircle, 45 nautical miles in the south-west quadrant and 60 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. Radius of 50-knot winds is 125 nautical miles in the east semicircle, 75 nautical miles in the south-west quadrant and 100 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. Radius of 34-knot winds is 300 nautical miles in the north-east quadrant, 275 nautical miles in the south-east quadrant and 200 nautical miles in the west semicircle. Forecast for 1800, UTC, Sep 23: Position near lat 34.5N, long 44.0W. Maximum sustained winds are 95 knots with gusts to 115 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 75 nautical miles in the east semicircle, 45 nautical miles in the south-west quadrant and 60 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. Radius of 50-knot winds is 125 nautical miles in the east semicircle, 75 nautical miles in the south-west quadrant and 100 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. Radius of 34-knot winds is 300 nautical miles in the north-east quadrant, 275 nautical miles in the south-east quadrant and 200 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Sep 24: Position near lat 39.5N, long 42.5W. Maximum sustained winds are 75 knots with gusts to 90 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 90 nautical miles in the east semicircle and 45 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds is 175 nautical miles in the east semicircle and 100 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds is 300 nautical miles in the east semicircle and 175 nautical miles elsewhere.

London, Sep 24 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Karl" centre located near lat 40.8N, long 41.0W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 50 nautical miles. Present movement toward the north or 5 degrees at 26 knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 965 mb. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots with gusts to 90 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 75 nautical miles north-east and south-east quadrants, 50 nautical miles south-west and north-west quadrants. Forecast position lat 44.5N, long 40.4W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 70 knots, gusts 85 knots. Forecast position lat 49.4N, long 37.7W at 0600, UTC, Sep 25. Maximum winds 65 knots, gusts 80 knots.

INDIA

London, Sep 26 — A press report, dated Sep 25, states: Six coaches of Ernakulam-Okha Express derailed

following soil slippage due to heavy rains between Karanjwadi and Diwankhavi stations of Konkan Railway this evening. However, no casualties were reported, official sources said. The train bound for Okha derailed at around 1926, sources said.

Earthquakes



FIJI

London, Sep 24 — A report, dated Sep 22, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1008, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.9 event has been located in the Fiji region in lat 15.543S, long 177.284W, depth 15 km.

MEXICO

London, Sep 26 — A press report, dated Sep 25, states: North-west Mexican towns were rattled by a strong earthquake along the coast of the Gulf of California yesterday, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or damages. The 5.8-magnitude quake hit early yesterday and was centred in the Gulf, the body of water that separates the Mexican mainland and the Baja California peninsula, according to Dr. Luis Mungia, a seismologist with the Centre for Scientific Studies and Higher Education in Ensenada.

PERU COAST

London, Sep 29 — A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 2132, UTC, Sep 28. The magnitude 5.6 event has been located near the coast of Peru in lat 15.654S, long 74.394W. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 36 km.

SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS

London, Sep 24 — A report, dated Sep 22, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 2050, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.5 event has been located in the South Sandwich Islands region in lat 55.070S, long 28.351W, depth 10 km.

SOUTHERN OCEAN

London, Sep 28 — A report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 1529, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.3 event has been located south of Africa in lat 52.40S, long 28.01E, depth 10 km.

UNITED STATES

London, Sep 28 — A report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 1715, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.0 event has been located in central California in lat 35.82N, long 120.37W. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 8 km.

Los Angeles, Sep 28 — A strong earthquake and over 200 aftershocks struck central California today, rattling a large chunk of the state along the San Andreas Fault but causing little significant damage. The quake, registering magnitude 6.0, was centered near Parkfield, a tiny town of about

three dozen people known to geologists as the earthquake capital of California. The quake was felt across much of the state, from San Francisco to Los Angeles. The temblor was the largest to hit California in 10 months, prompting school evacuations, though there were no reports of injuries or significant damage. The US Geological Survey recorded about 220 aftershocks and said there was a 5-10% chance of another large quake in the next two days. Parkfield has been shaken regularly for centuries and intensely studied by scientists for the past several decades. The quake did not disrupt operations at oil refineries or the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant, which is about 50 miles from the epicentre. Kinder Morgan Energy Partners LP said it briefly shut down two pipelines as a precaution. — Reuters.

Volcanic Activity



MOUNT ASAMA, JAPAN

London, Sep 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A Japanese volcano which burst into life earlier this month with its biggest eruption in 21 years, erupted again today, the Meteorological Agency said. An eruption, measuring three on a scale of zero to five, was observed at 1944, local time, from the 2568-metre high Mount Asama, the agency said. Tremors related to the mid-scale eruption continued, urging local residents to monitor volcano activity on the mountain which lies 150km northwest of Tokyo. But local authorities did not issue an evacuation warning and there were no reports of injuries. “We observed some sticky rain containing volcanic ashes but there was no real damage from the latest eruption,” a local police official said. Mount Asama last went up on Sep 1, the volcano’s most violent activity since April 1983. The eruption threw rocks over a wide area and caused a forest fire. Prior to this month, Mt Asama last erupted in April last year.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

London, Sep 26 — A press report, dated Sep 25, states: Suspected Taliban militants have launched a string of attacks on security posts in southern Afghanistan, killing nine soldiers, an official said. The attacks came two weeks before a landmark presidential election Islamic militants have vowed to disrupt. Haji Mohammad Wali, spokesman for the governor of Helmand province, said an unspecified number of gunmen launched raids on three

security posts. Three soldiers were killed in the first attack, six in the second and there were no casualties in the third. Mr Wali blamed the “enemies of Afghanistan”, a phrase often used to describe remnants of the ousted Taliban militia.

BURUNDI

London, Sep 28 — A press report, dated Sep 27, states: At least 37 rebels have been killed in fighting between pro-government forces and rebels in Burundi, the army says. A joint force of the army and former rebel fighters attacked the National Liberation Forces (FNL) north of the capital, Bujumbura, a spokesman said. The FNL is the only rebel group to remain outside the peace process, which has led to a power-sharing government, including former rebels. The Forces for the Defence of Democracy (FDD) says that 40 FNL rebels were killed over the weekend. Meanwhile, the body of a UN official from Senegal has been found near the University of Burundi in Bujumbura. It is not clear how he died.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, Sep 24 — A press report, dated Sep 23, states: Aid agencies are attempting to provide assistance to thousands of people displaced by unrest in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo. United Nations officials estimate at least 20,000 people have fled to North Kivu province from nearby South Kivu. Local authorities put the number at up to 150,000. The civilians were fleeing a recent advance by government troops on dissident soldiers, who broke away from the national army earlier this year. Meanwhile, DR Congo and Rwanda have agreed to set up a UN-backed body to help resolve long-standing security issues on their border, UN officials say. The agreement was reached in talks at the UN between Secretary General Kofi Annan, Congolese President Joseph Kabila, and Rwandan Prime Minister Bernard Makuza. The joint verification mechanism will be composed of UN and African Union officials, along with technical experts from both governments.

INDIA

Srinagar, Sep 24 — Indian troops killed five guerrillas trying to sneak into Indian Kashmir from the Pakistani side and were locked in a fierce gunbattle with more rebels trying to infiltrate, an army spokesman said today. The fighting erupted hours before Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf are due to hold talks in New York to push forward a sluggish peace process between the two countries. “The army intercepted a group of heavily armed infiltrators in Machil sector on Thursday morning, leading to a fierce gun battle,” the spokesman said. “Five terrorists have been killed so far,” he said and added that troops were still battling rebels in the group that was trying to infiltrate. — Reuters.

IRAQ

Baghdad, Sep 24 — Gunmen kidnapped two Egyptians during the night in Baghdad, police said today, as relatives of seized Briton Kenneth Bigley waited for news on his fate. The Egyptians were snatched in their office late yesterday by gunmen who had overpowered and tied up their guards. They worked for the firm that runs the Baghdad mobile phone network. U.S. President George W. Bush said yesterday that he and Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi would “stay the course” in Iraq and insisted elections will be held in January despite the violence. In a joint news conference at the White House, both men said violence should not stop the polls from proceeding. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld conceded that some areas that are guerrilla strongholds may have to be excluded, with polls going ahead in “three-quarters or four-fifths” of Iraq. Allawi said: “They may not be the best elections that Iraq will ever hold ... But they will take place and they will be free and fair.” In a speech to Congress in Washington, Allawi said Iraq’s fledgling security forces would prevail against the insurgents. “In Iraq, we confront both an insurgency and the global war on terror, with their destructive forces sometimes overlapping,” he said. “I can tell you today they will not succeed.” — Reuters.

Falluja, Iraq, Sep 26 — U.S. aircraft blasted the rebel stronghold of Falluja for a third time in 24 hours in a concerted effort to hit militants loyal to guerrilla chief Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Last night’s strike was aimed at about 10 suspected militants meeting in the city center to plan operations, the U.S. military said. Eight people were killed and 17 wounded, Anas Ahmed, a doctor at a nearby hospital, said. The latest in what the military calls “precision strikes” raised the death toll for the series to 15 killed and 30 wounded, among them women and children, doctors said. Zarqawi’s group, Tawhid and Jihad, has claimed many of the car bombings and attacks in Iraq over the past year, including kidnappings in which several of the hostages have been beheaded. In the nearby town of Karma, two suicide car bombers blew up their vehicles outside a U.S. and Iraqi base today, wounding a number of U.S. and Iraqi soldiers, the American military said. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Sep 27 — A car bomb killed three members of the Iraqi National Guard in the northern city of Mosul and insurgents fired mortar bombs at a police academy in eastern Baghdad today. Doctors in Mosul said five other Iraqis were wounded by the bomb, which was not a suicide attack. The Interior Ministry said there were no casualties in the mortar attack in Baghdad. Spokesman Col. Adnan Abdul-Rahman said five mortar shells landed near the academy, causing no damage to the building. Earlier today, U.S. planes fired at rebel positions in the eastern Baghdad Shi’ite slum of Sadr City, residents and doctors said. A doctor at one Sadr City hospital said the strike had killed one woman and two men. — Reuters.

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated today, states: US jets pounded suspected Shiite militant positions in the Baghdad slum of Sadr City today, killing at least five people and wounding 40. Elsewhere, insurgents detonated two car bombs, killing seven members of the National Guard in the latest attacks targeting Iraq's beleaguered security forces. The airstrikes in Sadr City, a hotbed of insurgents loyal to renegade Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, struck several "positively identified" militant hideouts, the US military said. Residents said explosions lit up the sky for hours before dawn. Mangled vehicles, debris and shards of glass littered the streets. Five people were killed and 40 were wounded, including 15 women and nine children, said Dr. Qassem Saddam of the Imam Ali hospital. Insurgents also fired three mortar rounds at a nearby US Army base, but the shells fell short and exploded in a civilian neighborhood, said US Army spokesman Lt. Col. Jim Hutton. It was not immediately known if there are any casualties. In Mosul, insurgents set off a car bomb as a seven-vehicle Iraqi National Guard patrol was passing by, killing at least four guardsmen and wounding three others, Police Capt. Mushtaq Abdul Karim said. Gunmen followed up the blast with a burst of automatic weapons fire before fleeing the scene, said Lt. Col. Saleh Jamer, the patrol's commander. Near the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah, a suicide attacker exploded a car bomb at an Iraqi National Guard checkpoint, killing guard members, police Lt. Zeidan Mustafa said. The attack at Saqlawiya, 12 miles north-west of Fallujah, also injured a number of people, said Ahmed Saleh Sarhan, a witness. In a separate attack, insurgents fired several mortar rounds that struck a police academy on Palestine street in east Baghdad early today, said Interior Ministry spokesman Col. Najah Shakre. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

Baghdad, Sep 28 — The sound of heavy bombardments echoed across Baghdad from the poor Shi'ite district of Sadr City this morning, following a night of sustained US aerial attacks, residents said. Residents of Sadr City said US fighter aircraft struck parts of the huge slum area throughout the night and dozens of tanks patrolled the streets. Al Jazeera television said the overnight aerial strikes had caused a power outage throughout the district, on Baghdad's north-east side. — Reuters.

Balad, Sep 28 — Militants set fire to four shops selling alcohol north of Baghdad, witnesses and police said today. The shops, in the town of Balad, 80 km north of Baghdad, were completely burned out by the attack late yesterday. There were no casualties. Islamic militants have targeted alcohol vendors, who are usually Christian, across the country since the fall of Saddam Hussein last year. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Sep 28 — An Iranian diplomat taken hostage in Iraq last

month has been released by his captors but the fate of at least 11 other foreigners, including Briton Kenneth Bigley, remained unclear today. Al Jazeera television said late yesterday an Egyptian and two Iraqis kidnapped a few days ago had been freed, and quoted Egyptian diplomatic sources in Baghdad as saying the remaining five Egyptian telecoms workers would also be released. It was not immediately possible to verify the report. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Sep 28 — U.S. forces have captured the leader of a suspected militant cell during a raid in the northern Iraqi town of Kirkuk, the U.S. military said today. A statement said U.S. troops captured Hussein Salman Mohammad al-Jabburi during a raid yesterday afternoon. It said Jabburi was believed to have led a Kirkuk-based militant group with links to Ansar Al Sunna, another militant group which is itself believed to be linked to Ansar al Islam, a northern Iraqi Islamic militant network. The U.S. military said Jabburi was being held for questioning. No injuries were reported in the raid, it added. — Reuters.

London, Sep 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Two British soldiers have been killed in an ambush near Basra in southern Iraq, the Ministry of Defence has said. Soldiers came under fire as they tried to rescue others from an armoured Land Rover that had been hit by a rocket propelled grenade. The vehicle was part of a convoy ambushed at 0615, BST. Two soldiers later died at the British military hospital in Shaibah. At least two Iraqi bystanders were also injured in the ambush, officials said. The convoy of two armoured Land Rovers and a truck had been travelling south-west of Basra. The deaths bring the tally of British soldiers killed in combat in Iraq to 24. A further 44 service personnel in the country have died as a result of other incidents including friendly fire and road traffic accidents.

Dubai, Sep 28 — The last two Egyptian employees of Orascom Telecom (OT) held hostage in Iraq have been released, Al Arabiya television said today. The Arab satellite channel was quoting its correspondent but gave no further details. In Egypt, an OT spokesman said he could not confirm the report. Of six kidnapped OT employees, three were released earlier in the day and another separately. All six have now been freed. — Reuters.

Rome, Sep 29 — Two Italian women aid workers held hostage in Iraq for three weeks returned home to Italy yesterday, with Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi leading the welcome party at Rome's Ciampino airport. Simona Pari and Simona Torretta were freed by their Iraqi captors earlier in the day and were immediately flown back to Italy. Pari and Torretta, both aged 29, were abducted from their Baghdad office on Sep 7 along with two Iraqi colleagues. Nothing was heard of them until early yesterday evening when news broke that all four were safe and sound. A Kuwaiti daily said earlier yesterday the women's captors had agreed to free them for a \$1 million

ransom. An Italian political source told Reuters a ransom was paid but it was less than \$1 million. Berlusconi himself made no mention of a ransom when he announced the release of the two women to parliament. He said the secret services had located their whereabouts earlier this week, but rather than risk using violence to secure their release, the Italian government had preferred to negotiate. He said the breakthrough came early yesterday "after a night which led us to a very difficult choice with two lines of pursuit which could have been mutually conflictual." He gave no further details. — Reuters.

Dubai, Sep 29 — A man Al Arabiya television said was negotiating the release of two French journalists held hostage in Iraq said yesterday he met the two Frenchmen and that an agreement had been reached to free them soon. "They are in good health, psychologically and emotionally. After meeting them, we reached an agreement to free Christian (Chesnot) and Georges (Malbrunot) and get an audio tape from them announcing they would be freed soon," Philippe Brett told Al Arabiya television. "We were able to reach this agreement without paying any money," he added. In Paris, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said French authorities had no comment to make on the latest report. Didier Pillet, editor of the Ouest France regional newspaper that employs Malbrunot, said staff remained cautious. Dubai-based satellite channel Al Arabiya said that according to unidentified sources, Chesnot and Malbrunot could be released within 48 hours. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Sep 30 — A car bomb exploded today outside a police station in the Abu Ghraib area west of Baghdad and at least nine people were wounded, police said. Officials said it was not yet clear whether the bomb was a suicide attack. Residents said the blast had shattered windows in a wide area and that they heard shooting after the explosion. — Reuters.

ISRAEL

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated today, states: An Israeli security source has said that Israel was involved in the killing of a Hamas activist in Syria yesterday. Officially Israel has neither confirmed nor denied being behind the attack on Izz El-Deen Sheikh Khalil, whose car was destroyed by a bomb in Damascus. Israel described him as a point man for the Palestinian Islamist movement's military actions in Gaza Strip. The Israelis had vowed to hit Hamas leaders "wherever they are" after suicide bomb attacks in August in Beersheba left 16 people dead. Mr Khalil, 39, was a senior figure in Hamas' military wing and a member of the generation that set the group up. He was based in Damascus along with other senior Hamas figures, including the overall leader, Khaled Meshaal. Analysts say this latest Israeli assassination is intended to send a message to Syria's government that it will pay a high price for supporting Palestinian militant groups in the occupied territories.

Gaza, Sep 28 — Palestinian security forces were today searching for an Israeli Arab producer for CNN television who was kidnapped by gunmen in the Gaza Strip. “We are following this with all the Palestinian police and with all the intelligence services,” Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie told reporters in the West Bank. He said the abduction of Riad Ali on Monday was “against the interest of our people and we can’t accept it.” Police stopped cars in Gaza City, checking for anything suspicious and armed security men stood guard around CNN’s office in Gaza. There has been no claim of responsibility for the abduction of Ali from his car by kidnappers who asked for him by name. The main militant factions deny holding him and the Palestinian Authority has pledged to do all it can to find him. A spokesman for the Hamas Islamic group condemned the kidnapping as a “violation of the rights of journalists and freedom of expression and goes against the true morals of our people.” — Reuters.

Gaza, Sep 29 — Israeli soldiers shot dead two Palestinian militants early today in separate raids in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinian medics and witnesses said. Israel massed ground troops backed by helicopters and 100 armoured vehicles in the northern Gaza Strip in its latest raid aimed at quelling mounting rocket and mortar attacks by militants on Israeli towns and settlements. Israeli helicopters opened fire on two militant strongholds including Jabalya refugee camp after dark yesterday, and sent troops and tanks into the areas of Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun, witnesses said. One gunman of the Hamas militant group was killed and one wounded in an ensuing exchange of fire at the eastern edges of Jabalya, while two other gunmen were wounded in separate incidents, medics and witnesses said. An Israeli military source said soldiers had opened fire on two Palestinians spotted planting a bomb near Jabalya. Lately Hamas gunmen have stepped up launchings of crudely built Qassam rockets at Israeli towns and settlements in a show of force before Israel’s planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005. Earlier today five rockets crashed in and near the southern Israeli town of Sderot, creating panic as Israelis prepared for the week-long Sukkoth holiday, which begins this evening. A military source said yesterday forces had entered northern Gaza “in an operation to prevent the firing of Qassam rockets and mortars against Israeli towns and settlements”. Israel Radio said the soldiers planned to take control of areas from which the rockets were fired. The Israeli army declined comment on that report too. In a separate incident, Israeli soldiers raiding the West Bank city of Nablus shot and killed a wanted militant of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, which is an armed wing of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat’s Fatah movement, medics said. Palestinian medics said the militant’s body was found near a mosque with

multiple bullet wounds. An Israeli military source said soldiers had opened fire on a wanted man after he tried to flee arrest and refused repeated orders to stop. In the West Bank town of Jenin, the home of a leading wanted militant, Zakariya al-Zubaidi of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, was blown up early today, but he was apparently not there at the time, witnesses said. — Reuters.

Gaza, Sep 29 — Palestinian gunmen freed an Israeli Arab producer for CNN television unharmed yesterday a day after kidnapping him in the Gaza Strip. Riad Ali said his captors told him they were members of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a militant group in Palestinian President Yasser Arafat’s Fatah movement, but the Brigades issued a statement saying they had no connection to the abduction, and condemning it as an act of chaos that hurt the Palestinian cause. Israel’s Channel 2 quoted Ali, who was seized while on assignment in Gaza with a CNN International correspondent, as saying the abductors had determined he had no links with Druze units in Israel’s army and border police. CNN’s Web site said that in a videotape recorded while he was in captivity, Ali called on the Druze, an Arabic-speaking minority in Israel, not to serve in Israel’s military, saying the cause of the Druze was the same as that of the Palestinians. The kidnappers did not identify themselves or make any public demands. Spokesmen for the main Palestinian militant groups denied any role in the abduction and called for Ali’s release. He was freed shortly after Palestinian officials said security forces had tracked down the kidnappers. — Reuters.

Sderot, Israel, Sep 29 — Palestinian militants eluding an army crackdown killed two Israeli children in a rocket attack from Gaza today and troops killed nine Palestinians in raids in the coastal strip and the West Bank. The renewed rocket fire despite an Israeli incursion aimed at snuffing out such attacks was a blow to the Jewish state as it seeks to prevent militants portraying its planned pullout of settlers from Gaza next year as a victory. Two makeshift Qassam rockets hit a residential block in the town of Sderot close to Israel’s fenced border with Gaza, killing a girl aged two and a boy aged four as they played on the eve of the Jewish festival of Sukkot. Thirteen other residents were injured in the town that has borne the brunt of Qassam attacks, emergency services said. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon threatened that Israel “would respond with severity and use all measures to respond and stop the firing of Qassam,” an aide said. A rocket killed two Israelis in the town three months ago but hundreds of missile volleys from the Gaza Strip have done more to spread terror than inflict casualties during the past four years of conflict. Earlier today, Israeli forces shot dead a Palestinian gunman and youths aged 17 and 14 in a crowd of stone throwers. A 13-year-old boy was killed in another Gaza incident. Two Palestinian militants were killed in raids in the West Bank.

Shortly after the Sderot attack, Israeli helicopters launched three air strikes in Gaza’s Jabalya refugee camp, a stronghold of Islamist militants behind rocket attacks. An Israeli military source said the helicopters had targeted Palestinians as they were preparing to fire a Qassam rocket. Three Palestinians, including a policeman, were killed and at least eight others wounded. In yet another air strike, Israel destroyed an Islamic charity office in a caravan in Gaza City. The Israeli army said the office funded attacks on Israelis. — Reuters.

Gaza, Sep 30 — Two Palestinian gunmen fired on an Israeli army outpost in the northern Gaza Strip today, killing a soldier before being shot dead, a military spokeswoman said. The predawn gunbattle occurred outside the Jabalya refugee camp. The military spokeswoman said the two gunmen approached the outpost unnoticed and opened fire with assault rifles and grenade launchers at troops inside. One soldier was killed and two others wounded before the two gunmen were killed by return fire moments later, she said. The militant Islamic group Hamas claimed the attack which was launched under cover of heavy fog in the Gaza Strip. — Reuters.

NEPAL

Kathmandu, Sep 28 — A strike by rebels shut down more than a third of Nepal today, including Kathmandu, the latest stoppage in their campaign for a communist republic after last month’s crippling road blockade of the hill-ringed capital. Most buses and taxis stayed off the streets in Kathmandu in response to the two-day strike called by the Maoist rebels in the east of the kingdom to protest the killing of two leaders by government troops early this month. Soldiers carrying automatic weapons patrolled the streets of the capital and stood guard at government buildings. There were no reports of violence, an official said. Few of Kathmandu’s 1.5 million people dared to defy the strike, fearing attacks from rebels. Thousands of children stayed home as schools and colleges closed. Businesses were also expected to remain shut. Residents said the temple town of Janakpur and the business centre of Biratnagar in east Nepal were closed. Last week, the government called on the Maoists to attend fresh peace talks, but they refused saying the administration was simultaneously planning a military offensive against them. — Reuters.

London, Sep 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Nine suspected Maoist rebels were gunned down and a bomb ripped through a bank in the Nepalese capital Kathmandu as a guerrilla strike shut shops and transport in much of the Himalayan kingdom. Eight rebels died in four gunbattles with troops, police said today. Another Maoist was gunned down as he threatened shopkeepers to enforce the strike in the southeastern Ilam district, police official Krishna Basnet said. A blast shattered windows of the Nepal-Bangladesh Bank and

several houses at Lalitpur on the capital's outskirts but caused no casualties, police said. They described the bombing as a scare tactic to enforce the two-day stoppage called by the Maoists, who are fighting to overthrow the monarchy. "Two Maoists in a taxi stopped at an engineering college outside the bank and left a bag of explosives, which the driver threw out causing the blast. We think the goal was to blow up the taxi," Lalitpur Chief District Officer Thanesore Devkota said. "This was an attempt by the Maoists to scare people into observing their strike," Devkota told AFP. Suspected rebels stopped and set ablaze 10 vehicles in the central Dhading district. They were headed to Kathmandu as part of a month-long tour of Asia by activists lobbying for land rights for peasants. Police said the attackers did not harm the 19 activists and five journalists on the People's Caravan for Food Sovereignty, who were mostly from other Asian countries. Most stores remained closed in Kathmandu and other cities in eastern Nepal and long-distance bus services were halted. But police said there was more traffic on the roads of the capital than during past Maoist strikes, which saw a complete shutdown. The government had threatened to withdraw official cars from public employees who observed the stoppage. The rebels in past strikes have destroyed cars whose drivers defied their orders. The home ministry has promised to compensate 90 percent of any damages inflicted during the shutdown. Streetside vendors also defied the strike today, which fell on the second day of the Kumari harvest festival. The Maoists have pledged not to interfere with the five-day pageant which is a major tourist attraction. The Maoists called the strike today and tomorrow to protest at the alleged killing of two senior rebels by troops on Sep 3. An army spokesman denied troops killed the pair.

London, Sep 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A strike called by Maoist rebels shut down much of Nepal for the second day as the government considered calling a ceasefire to jumpstart talks to end the bloody conflict. Most shops were closed in the capital Kathmandu and other parts of eastern Nepal and traffic was half the normal volume on the final day of the strike called to protest troops' alleged killing of two senior Maoists. The strike came after Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba invited the Maoists to resume negotiations to end the civil war. Maoist chief Prachanda last week said he would only sit down for talks if the rebels, who are fighting to overthrow the monarchy, were certain that King Gyanendra backed Deuba's peace initiative. Deuba, who was appointed by the king in June and leads Nepal's broadest coalition in two years, held new meetings with his allies today to draft a response to Prachanda's statement. The mainstream communists, who are Deuba's largest coalition partner, pushed for an immediate ceasefire. An official close to

Deuba who requested anonymity said the prime minister was leaning towards calling a unilateral ceasefire largely to ensure the backing of Madhav Kumar Nepal, without which his government could collapse. Nine Maoists were killed in clashes across Nepal yesterday. The rebels have frequently attacked motorists and shopkeepers who disobeyed previous strikes. Long-distance bus operators said they were not reassured by government promises of compensation if the Maoists damaged their vehicles in the latest shutdown. "If we run buses during the strike the Maoists will take revenge, be it days or weeks later. We prefer to suffer losses for 48 hours," said P.B. Adhikari of the Nepal National Transport Commuters Association.

Kathmandu, Sep 29 — Nepali troops shot dead 11 Maoist rebels today as the government prepared a response to the latest terms for fresh talks by the guerrillas who shut down nearly half of the kingdom on the second day of a strike. A police spokesman said seven Maoist rebels were killed after a firefight with a police patrol at Khaskusma, 280 miles west of the capital Kathmandu. "The firefight took place after the police, acting on a tip from villagers, patrolled the area and encountered the rebels," police spokesman Rabi Thapa Chhetri said. Elsewhere, soldiers shot dead four Maoists in separate gunbattles. There has been no major fighting in the impoverished nation since March but eight people die each day on an average in unabated violence after talks between the government and Maoists, who want to topple the constitutional monarchy, failed last year. Maoist chief Prachanda, responding to Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba's latest offer last week to resume the dialogue, was seeking assurances the prime minister had the backing of warring political parties and King Gyanendra to negotiate. Information and Communication Minister Mohammed Mohsin said a peace panel of top leaders of the four-party ruling coalition was meeting today to craft a response to the rebels. "We are trying to formulate a consensus approach for the dialogue to restore peace," Mohsin said. The fresh bid for peace came as schools, colleges, businesses and most public transport in Kathmandu and east Nepal were shut for the second day in response to the strike called by the rebels to protest the killing of two guerrilla leaders this month. — Reuters.

NIGERIA

London, Sep 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Gunbattle between security forces and Islamic militants fighting to create a Taliban-style state in Nigeria left 29 people dead, most of them Islamic militants, police said today. Ade Ajakaiye, police commissioner for Borno state, said 27 militants and two police were killed in the fighting yesterday in the Gworza hills, near the border with Cameroon. Police and army troops had been pursuing the militants since Monday,

when they attacked two police stations in Bama and Gworza - towns 40 kilometres apart in Borno state - killing four police officers and two civilians. The attack was the first reported since their initial uprising was put down in January. Security forces said they recovered 22 assault rifles and large quantities of ammunition in the operation. Five militants who fled across the border into Cameroon were arrested by authorities there and will be returned to Nigeria, Ajakaiye said. Authorities did not know the identities of the 27 militants who were killed, "but we know they belong to the Taliban group," Ajakaiye said. Nigerian army spokesman Colonel Mohammed Yusuf confirmed that troops of the army's 21 Armoured Brigade had been involved in the operation with the police to flush out the militants.

Lagos, Sep 28 — Nigerian rebels fighting for sovereignty of the oil-producing Niger delta told oil companies in the world's seventh largest exporter to shut production before they begin an "all-out war" on Oct 1. The Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force, in a communique issued late yesterday after a meeting of its central command, also advised all foreigners to leave the delta, according to the group's leader Mujahid Dokubo-Asari. The delta pumps all of Nigeria's 2.3 million barrels per day output. The communique accused Royal Dutch Shell Group, Nigeria's largest oil producer, and Italy's Agip, a unit of ENI, of "collaboration with the Nigerian state in acts of genocide against our people." Asari told Reuters after the meeting his group would not attack oil pipelines because it did not want to pollute the delta environment, but foreign oil workers would be targeted from Oct 1. The violence has so far had a minimal effect on oil supply, but companies fear a repeat of last year's Ijaw rebellion which forced them briefly to shut 40 percent of production. Shell has already evacuated more than 200 staff from the fighting. Nigerian oil is produced by five multinational oil companies comprising Shell, ExxonMobil, Total, ChevronTexaco and Agip. The country is the fifth largest supplier to the United States. "Anyone who assists the Nigerian state to make money in Ijawland (the delta) will be seen as a collaborator and an enemy and will be targeted," Asari said. He also said yesterday's meeting established that membership of the loosely knit volunteer force now numbered over 200,000 and his arsenal includes machine guns, assault rifles and rocket launchers. — Reuters.

London, Sep 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Youths in Ofagbe, Isoko North Local Government Area of the Delta State, have imposed a curfew on the town after last weekend's violence that left five people dead and many others injured. Also the traditional ruler of the town, Odiologbo Ikpoku Ovie 11, had fled into self exile in Port Harcourt. The traditional ruler who spoke from hiding yesterday said his elder sister, and two other younger ones, were burnt alive when his palace

was set ablaze by rampaging youths on Saturday (Sep 25). The State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Charles Akaya, yesterday, however, warned that those fomenting trouble in Ofagbe and other parts of Idokoland “would face the full wrath of the law”.

Abuja, Sep 29 — The Nigerian government and rebel militia fighting in the oil-producing Niger Delta agreed a truce today while talks took place on rebel demands for autonomy, a rebel leader said. Warlord Mujahid Dokubo-Asari, speaking during a break in the talks with President Olusegun Obasanjo, repeated his warning to foreign oil workers to leave the region, which pumps almost all of Nigeria’s 2.3 million barrels per day output, until a final deal was achieved. “We have finished the first round of talks with the president. There should be a cessation of hostilities on both sides. Apart from that, we have not agreed anything else for the time being,” Asari said. Talks were set to resume around midnight, local time, he added. Asari’s militia, called the Niger Delta People’s Volunteer Force, had threatened to launch an offensive codenamed Operation Locust Feast on Friday (Oct 1) unless a deal was reached on autonomy and oil revenues for the impoverished Ijaw people of the delta. “The cease-fire is just for the duration of the talks. Operation Locust Feast is still dependent on the outcome of the talks. Foreign nationals are still advised to leave the delta because they are part of the overall situation,” Asari said. The rebels, who have been fighting sporadic battles with troops since last year, issued a communique on Monday telling foreign nationals to leave the delta ahead of what Asari described as an “all-out war on the Nigerian state.” He advised oil companies in the world’s seventh largest exporter to shut down their oil wells. Oil prices broke above \$50 per barrel for the first time on Monday after Asari issued the communique, as dealers saw a further tightening of already precarious global oil supply. US futures closed down 40 cents at \$49.50 per barrel today on word of the cease-fire and after the US government reported a surprise increase in crude stocks. Multinationals have largely ignored the warning but they have stepped up security in the vast area of mangrove swamps and creeks which produces almost all of the OPEC nation’s oil. Nigeria’s top producer, Royal Dutch Shell Group, said it evacuated more than 200 workers from two oilfields located near fighting, but so far only small amounts of oil output have been affected. — Reuters.

PAKISTAN

London, Sep 26 — A press report, dated today, states: At least three policemen were killed in a suspected sectarian attack by unidentified gunmen on a senior police official in southwestern Pakistan yesterday. Nisar Kazmi, a deputy superintendent of police and a Shi’ite Muslim, was on his way to his office when three gunmen opened fire on his vehicle in Quetta, capital of southwestern Baluchistan

province. Mohammad Riaz, a deputy inspector-general of police, said three policemen were killed on the spot while Kazmi and two other policemen were wounded. “Kazmi was apparently the target of the attack because he was involved in the investigations of several sectarian cases,” he said. One of the gunmen was shot during the attack and later died. Police said a Klashnikov rifle taken from the dead gunman was marked with the words Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ), an outlawed Sunni Muslim militant group blamed for most of the sectarian bloodletting in Pakistan in recent years. Dawood Badini, an LeJ activist who was arrested this year, last week told a court that he had organised at least three major attacks on Shi’ite Muslims in Quetta in recent months in which more than 100 people were killed. In a separate incident, the security forces arrested Mohammad Sadiq, an activist of LeJ, in the eastern city of Lahore in connection with an assassination attempt of President Pervez Musharraf in December. (See issue of Sep 15.)

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Pakistani officials say police have killed one of the most wanted militants in the country, a man suspected of being a top al Qaeda operative. Amjad Hussain Farooqi was killed in an early morning raid in the small city of Nawab Shah, southern Pakistan, Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said today. Farooqi, who had a price of two million rupees (\$34,000) on his head, has been accused of being involved in a spate of attacks. Identified as a member of the Islamic militant group Harkat-ul-Jihad-e-Islami (Movement of Islam’s Holy War), Farooqi was a suspect in two assassination attempts against Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf last year. Farooqi is also a suspect in the kidnapping and beheading of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl two years ago, Ahmed said. Yesterday’s raid was launched after police received a tip that Farooqi was hiding there, officials said. Several other people were arrested in the four-hour shootout yesterday, but Ahmed declined to identify them.

RUSSIA

London, Sep 24 — A press report, dated today, states: At least five rebels were killed in a latest crackdown operation by the Russian federal troops in Chechnya’s Kurchaloi district, Interfax news agency quoted a senior local official as saying today. The bodies of five rebels had been found and the latest report suggested that the number could be much higher, the agency quoted Chechnya’s First Deputy Prime Minister Ramzan Kadyrov as saying. Kadyrov, who is also head of Chechnya’s security service, said no Russian soldier was killed or injured in the operation. The Russian government is intensifying crackdown operations in its breakaway republic of Chechnya after a series of deadly terrorist attacks.

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated today, states: The Russian army says it has killed five Chechen rebels

including a Turkish “mercenary” during clashes south-east of the republic’s capital, Grozny. The fighting took place late yesterday near the village of Serzhen-Yurt, army spokesman Ilya Shabalkin said. The Turkish fighter was named as Hasan Umac and his passport was shown on Russian television. In Grozny yesterday rebels killed four Russian servicemen, the army said.

SAUDI ARABIA

Riyadh, Sep 26 — Saudi security forces, battling a wave of al-Qaeda attacks in the world’s biggest oil exporter, clashed with suspected militants in the capital Riyadh today. Police arrested one suspect after the shootout in the southern Shifa district, which broke out with the occupants of a car after it tried to speed away from a patrol, an Interior Ministry security spokesman told the Saudi Press Agency. No policemen or bystanders were hurt, the spokesman said. The shootout in Riyadh came hours after a Frenchman who worked for French defense electronics firm Thales was shot dead in Jeddah. It was the second such killing this month by suspected al-Qaeda militants. — Reuters.

SOMALIA

London, Sep 24 — A press report, dated Sep 23, states: Fighting has erupted between the forces of the self-declared Somaliland Republic and those of Puntland, an autonomous region of Somalia. The clashes broke out yesterday near the town of Las Anod in Sool, one of two areas claimed by both regions. It is the first time forces from the neighbouring regions have fought each other. Meanwhile, the UN has warned of a possible famine if fighting continues in southern Somalia. Rival warlords have been fighting near the port of Kismayo, disrupting efforts to help those affected by the region’s drought. “Unless the conflict can be stopped very soon, we could be witness to the kind of famine conditions experienced in 1992,” said United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator Maxwell Gaylard in a statement issued in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. Both Puntland and Somaliland blame the other for starting the hostilities in Sool. Puntland says it lost one soldier in the battle. Somaliland claims to have captured three Puntland militiamen. Up to eight armoured vehicles belonging to Somaliland were involved in the clashes, our correspondent says. Somaliland’s Foreign Minister Edna Adan Ismael said the fighting started when food aid was being distributed. “It’s not a war, it was a chasing away of bandits who were trying to disrupt and cause enough confusion to loot rations,” she said.

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Mediators have welcomed the return of a Somali warlord to the peace process in neighbouring Kenya. General Morgan was the only major faction leader not taking part in the election of a new president. He returned to Nairobi on Saturday (Sep 25) after his forces had

been battling those of a rival faction around the key southern port town of Kismayo. However, some rival warlords are questioning whether he should be allowed to sit in the new parliament. Some also want him to be prosecuted for his part in the fighting. The parliament, selected last month by rival clans and warlords, is due to elect a president on Oct 10, but Gen Morgan was not nominated to be an MP. Mediators, however, feel that the peace process would be stronger if Gen Morgan were inside, rather than outside.

SUDAN

London, Sep 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Darfur rebels have launched an attack outside the western Sudanese region of Darfur for the first time, the interior ministry says. Eight people were killed in neighbouring West Kordofan state when rebels raided a police station and market in Ghubaysh, a statement said. Nigeria's President Olusegun Obasanjo has said the African Union (AU) can rapidly deploy 5,000 troops to the region, if funding is provided. The UN has threatened oil sanctions if Khartoum does not stop the violence. North Darfur Governor Osman Yusuf Kibir said the rebels seized four government vehicles in the raid on the village. He said rebels also killed two students and injured a number of policemen in another attack on Wednesday (Sep 22) 20km from El-Fashir, the capital of North Darfur.

THAILAND

London, Sep 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Violence in Thailand's restive southern provinces has taken a turn for the worse even as the authorities scramble to hand out bulletproof vests to officials prosecuting militants and consider requests for transfers from judges. In the latest incident of violence — which has claimed 350 lives so far this year — a gunman on a motorcycle killed a policeman yesterday. This comes just a day after a state official was fatally shot and a grenade attack wounded nine guards in the Muslim insurgency-ravaged region, officials said. Sergeant Banjob Boontho, 52, was shot while driving to work in Pattani province when a motorcycle pulled alongside his car and a pillion rider opened fire, said police Lieutenant-Colonel Kovit Ratanachote. The same method has been used in most attacks by insurgents fighting for independence in Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat provinces. These are the only Muslim-majority area in mostly Buddhist Thailand. Last Sunday, a suspected Muslim guerilla on a motorcycle shot to death an Irrigation Department official. On the same day, a man on a motorcycle hurled a grenade at security guards at a Yala fairground, injuring two soldiers and seven village volunteer defence personnel. Government leaders have described the bloody rebellion as Thailand's worst unrest in 50 years, while Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra admits it is the biggest crisis of his political career. Yesterday, officials said 60 vests will be handed out to court officials

responsible for prosecuting militants in the southern courts. Their two-year contracts to work in the region will also be cut down to one. It will help reduce the number of deaths of officials in the south, said Mr Rewat Chamchalerm, a senior prosecutor in Bangkok.

Labour Disputes



BRAZIL

London, Sep 24 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The bank worker strike which began eight days ago looks like it will continue. It is estimated that 200,000 bank employees are striking in around 130 cities throughout the country. Yesterday an attempt to resolve the impasse failed when management presented the same proposal the workers rejected at the beginning of the strike and the workers rejected it again. At the moment, no new round of negotiations is scheduled to take place. On Sep 19, bank workers in Brasilia met in a general assembly and voted to continue their strike which began on last Wednesday (Sep 15). The striking bank workers decided that they would have more pickets in front of the main offices of the country's biggest bank, the state-run Banco do Brasil, as well as the private-sector giants, Bradesco and Itau. They have also scheduled marches at various locations. The president of the bank workers union in Brasilia, Jacy Afonso, made it clear at the general assembly that the pickets must not interfere with client access to the banks. Court injunctions have already been issued ordering the union to allow clients to enter the banks. It is reported that in Brasilia 95% of the branches of the Caixa Econõmica Federal (also state-run) and Banco do Brasil only have ATMs working for clients. The striking bank workers are demanding salary adjustments to cover losses due to inflation, plus a real increase of 17.68%, along with a share of bank profits.

CANADA

Vancouver, Sep 24 — Members of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (grain inspectors employed by the Federal Government) today took action against their employers and, as a result, loading procedures for five vessels at the port of Vancouver were discontinued. It is understood that the job action will cease at 2300 today, however, the union has advised that they may have further rotating strikes until their contract is resolved. — Lloyd's Agents.

Vancouver, Sep 25 — Canadian Grain Commission workers who weigh and inspect grain exports staged strikes yesterday at the ports of Vancouver, Montreal and Thunder Bay, officials said. The workers at Vancouver planned to return to the job today, but a union official warned of more job action if negotiations with the federal agency did

not make progress. A Public Service Alliance of Canada official refused to say how long the walkouts in Thunder Bay and Montreal would last, but called it a "strategic action that was likely to be repeated in the future." The Vancouver picket line set up by grain weighers was honoured by grain inspectors and other longshore unions, stopping the loading of four ships at the port's five grain terminals, officials said. The weighers did not set up a picket line in Thunder Bay and the one ship at the facility was being loaded using management personnel. No ships are currently receiving grain in Montreal. The commission's unionized employees bargain in three separate groups. The weighers are in a legal strike position, but the inspectors and office personnel will not be legally able to set up picket lines until next month. The union says commission employees are underpaid compared to similar workers in the private sector, but the federal agency has proposed a contract that would reduce their wages. The union also is involved in contract disputes with several other federal departments, such as Revenue Canada and Parks Canada, and has been staging rotating strikes across the country. Grain commission spokesman Paul Graham said the agency would not take any legal steps to end the walkouts. "It's still very early in the process," he said. — Reuters.

London, Sep 29 — A press report, dated today, states: After 12 weeks a strike at Iron Ore Co. of Canada has ended with employees voting in favour of a new collective agreement. The 1,400 workers will return to their jobs Tuesday (Oct 5). The new deal expires Feb 28, 2007. Key to the agreement was the signing of temporary employees to permanent status. The contract includes modest increases in wages and benefits.

INDIA

London, Sep 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Tea production ground to a halt in the northeastern Indian state of Assam in a strike by workers seeking better conditions from the struggling industry after a deadly outbreak of disease. The one-day strike at Assam's 800 plantations was expected to cause the loss of two million kilograms of tea, said Dhiraj Kakoty, secretary of the Assam chapter of the Indian Tea Association industry body. A union, the Assam Tea Tribes Students Association, called the strike seeking better health care for workers and bonuses ahead of a Hindu festival. "In some areas, tea garden managers and officials tried to break the strike but our alert volunteers prevented them from doing so," the union's president Durga Bhumij said today. The union says 600 tea workers and their relatives have died over the past three months due to malaria and waterborne diseases such as gastroenteritis and diarrhoea. Industry officials admit the dilapidated plantations need better water and health facilities but have not provided a figure on casualties. The state government says improvements are the responsibility of the industry. "The

state government failed to come to any settlement with the protestors to break the deadlock and the result is a total shutdown in all the tea gardens," said Madhusdan Khandait, secretary of the Assam Chah Mazdoor Sangha, the main union representing Assam's nearly one million tea workers.

NEPAL

See under "Political & Civil Unrest."

NETHERLANDS

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A Dutch public transport-worker strike in the province of North Holland stopped buses, trams, subways and ferries in Amsterdam and surrounding areas. The 66 bus lines, 16 tram lines, four subway lines and four ferry routes in Amsterdam, take some 160,000 fares daily, according to the Web site of GVB, the city's 104-year-old municipal transport service. Public transport is cancelled from 0300 hrs, today, until midnight. Drivers responded to a call by the FNV Bondgenoten labour union to strike as a protest against plans by the cabinet that include lengthening the work week to 40 hours from 36 hours.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, Sep 24 — Over 750 rice mills remained closed in Sindh and Balochistan Provinces of Pakistan for the last three days on a strike called by the Sindh Balochistan Rice Mills Association to lodge protest against a lack of interest shown by the private sector and government in purchasing 100,000 tonnes of rice worth Rs2 billion. Rice dealers in Sindh and Balochistan also closed their business to express solidarity with the rice millers. As a result, it is feared that around 25,000 labourers have been rendered jobless due to the strike of rice mills. Today, an important meeting of the rice mills association would be held to discuss further strategy. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Sep 25 — The Sindh Balochistan Rice Millers and Traders Association (SBRMTA) has ended their strike after lodging a protest for the last three days on the intervention of federal state Minister for Agriculture Muhammad Ali Malkani, who contacted President SBRMTA Gada Hussain Mahessar and promised to discuss their problems with Federal Minister for Agriculture Sikandar Bosan and Federal Commerce Minister Humayoon Akhtar Khan. Senator Dr Muhammad Ali Brohi also contacted the rice millers and assured them of an early resolution of their problems. The strike badly hit the daily wagers and the cultivators of rice due to closure of rice mills and markets in interior of Sindh. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SOUTH AFRICA

London, Sep 30 — A press report, dated Sep 29, states: A final agreement on pay has been reached between unions and government following one of the biggest strikes in South Africa's history. Five of the eight public sector unions, representing more than 75% of public servants, accepted the three-year

deal. The agreement allows for a 6.2% wage increase, with one per cent more for "satisfactory work". The deal came after the government increased its previous offer by a further 0.2%. Pay increases for 2005 and 2006 will be 0.4 percent above the projected inflation increase for the relevant financial year. The Treasury initially argued that it could not afford to increase wages by that much but it has delayed proposed benefit increases in order to offset the impact of the pay rises. However, not all unions were happy with the agreement. The South African Police Union (Sapu) refused to sign as did nurses union Denosa. The police labelled it a "slavery agreement". "The agreement is pathetic and does not serve the needs of our members," said Sapu general secretary Les Mafenya.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sep 24 — Air refuellers at London's Heathrow Airport were due to begin a 48-hour strike today after last-ditch pay talks collapsed. The Transport & General Workers Union (TGWU) said the strike at Heathrow today and tomorrow was inevitable after staff rejected the latest pay offer from air refuelling firm AFS. About 40 workers were planning to strike from 0430 hrs. The walkout would cause flight disruptions as the company owned 40 percent of Heathrow's refuelling business, the union said in a statement. About 40 airlines are expected to be affected, including British Airways, Virgin Atlantic, American Airlines, Qantas Airways Ltd, United Airlines and Air Canada. British Airways said the airline had contingency plans to avoid flight disruptions. Meanwhile, talks resumed yesterday to avert a planned strike by almost 600 baggage handlers and maintenance staff working for air services provider Servisair at Gatwick. Servisair staff are threatening a walkout over working conditions and the suspension of a senior union steward tomorrow and on Thursday next week. — Reuters.

London, Sep 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of baggage handlers at Gatwick airport staged a 24-hour walkout on Saturday in a dispute over workloads. At least 300 Servisair staff failed to turn up for work, the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) said. Flights were reported to be leaving on time, and a Servisair spokesman said contingency plans meant no disruption to the public had occurred. In a separate dispute, a two-day strike by refuelling staff at Heathrow has been halted after a deal was agreed. Gatwick airport said managers had been drafted in to handle passengers' luggage and scheduled flights were continuing as normal. The Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) said the Gatwick strike had been "solidly supported". Andy Dodgson, TGWU spokesman, said the strike had been a success and insisted the workers were not trying to disrupt flights. He said the dispute involved around 600 Servisair workers, of which at least 300 had been due in at Gatwick on Saturday morning - but none had turned up. He confirmed

that Gatwick staff will stage another 24-hour walkout on Sep 30 if the dispute continues. Servisair is one of four baggage handling companies at Gatwick, covering more than 20 airlines including Ryanair, Air Malta, Britannia, Thomas Cook, Easyjet, Excel Airways, Mytravel, Continental and Delta. The row centres on new working practices introduced earlier this year, which the TGWU said presented health and safety issues for its members. The dispute is said to have worsened after a shop steward was suspended, leading the union to claim he had been "victimised". At Heathrow, about 40 members of the TGWU walked out at 0430, BST, yesterday and had been due to stay on strike for 48 hours. That dispute was suspended last night after a new pay offer from refuelling company AFS was made. After a meeting this morning, the decision was ratified and all future strike action was called off. The TGWU said the deal was worth 11.1% in the first year.

London, Sep 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Baggage handlers at Gatwick airport are staging a second 24-hour walkout in a dispute over workloads which they say are too heavy. Hundreds of Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) members employed by ground services company Servisair walked out at 0300, BST, today. A strike on Saturday (Sep 25) failed to disrupt flights as travel companies drafted in extra staff to handle baggage. The TGWU announced on Tuesday (Sep 28) two more 12-hour walkouts on Oct 6 and 8. Madeleine Richards, TGWU regional industrial organiser, said while the action is being escalated, the union is keen to discuss a resolution to the dispute with Servisair, saying: "Servisair was faced by a massive walkout on Saturday, which it didn't expect, and a massive cost to bring in three times the number of managers to do the work of the baggage handlers. It makes little sense to bear those costs again when it could and should return to the negotiating table and resolve this dispute." Airlines including British Airways and Virgin Atlantic use different baggage handling companies and are not affected by the strike. Servisair is one of four baggage handling companies at Gatwick, covering more than 20 airlines including Ryanair, Air Malta, Britannia, Thomas Cook, Easyjet, Excel Airways, Mytravel, Continental and Delta. The company said contingency plans were in place to minimise disruption today and customers would be informed of developments.

Awards & Settlements



DRUNK-DRIVING ACCIDENT, NEW HAMPSHIRE, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated today, states: An Essex Superior Court jury has awarded two

Newburyport families \$8.6 million in damages for a drunk-driving accident that killed a 16-year-old girl and permanently injured her boyfriend. The jury found that the driver, William White, who was convicted of vehicular homicide in April, and Gateway Country Store of Seabrook, N.H., which sold his underage friend beer the day of the accident, were liable. David and Mary Zinck were awarded more than \$7 million in damages for the death of their daughter Trista. Her boyfriend, Neil Bornstein, suffered a fractured leg, fractured skull, and brain contusions, and received \$1.4 million. An additional \$200,000 was awarded to his parents. Gateway's attorney, Stephen Colella, said his clients would appeal the verdict, which was announced Friday (Sep 24).

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 26 — A press report, dated Sep 25, states: A Norfolk Superior Court jury has awarded a Milford driver, paralyzed after her car was rear-ended by a 78,000-pound tanker truck, a record \$9.5 million, the largest in the state for such an injury. Rhodes, 46, an antiques dealer and part-time accounting instructor at Regis College, was on her way to a Holliston antique shop on Jan 9, 2002, when a Medway police officer stopped traffic because of some work being done along the side of Rte. 109. Rhodes' was the only car stopped by the officer when a 78,000-pound tanker truck loaded with liquid asphalt crested a hill behind her. Rhodes, who is paralyzed from the waist down, sued the truck driver, Carlo Zaleski of New Jersey, and the company who owned the asphalt, GAF Materials Corp. The jury made the award last week. Zaleski's lawyer, Lawrence Boyle of Boston, said his client, who was covered by an insurance policy held by GAF, admitted being at fault in the accident. But Boyle said police should have warned drivers better about the temporary stop.

SUBWAY ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 24 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A jury awarded \$28.5 million to a former graphic design student whose hip was crushed by a subway train when she leaned over to pick up a Bible she had dropped onto the station platform. The jury deliberated about 2.5 hours late yesterday before awarding the money to Alice Huang, 21. The verdict included \$14.25 million for pain and suffering, and \$14.25 million for future medical costs and future lost earnings. Transit lawyers had argued Huang caused her own injuries because she put her head in the path of a moving train. The defense countered the subway conductor was supposed to make sure no one was in a position to get hurt. Wallace Gossett, a lawyer for NYC Transit, said the agency will appeal. The accident occurred Dec. 10, 2001, as Huang, then an 18-year-old student at the School of Visual Arts, dropped her book as she was leaving a subway train in Manhattan. When she bent over to

retrieve it, a train began to move out of the station, striking Huang in the head and spinning her around. Huang's leg got caught between a subway car and the platform, crushing her hip. Huang was hospitalised for four months and underwent 16 surgical procedures, said her lawyer, David J. Dean.

Railway Accidents



BENALLA, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Sydney, Sep 28 — Investigators are continuing to search for the cause of the freight train derailment in Victoria last week that forced the closure of the main Sydney-Melbourne line for almost a day. The Pacific National train, which was on its way to Melbourne, derailed about 0445, Sep 23, about five kilometres north of Benalla. Four of the rear wagons, which contained cement, came off the track but did not spill their contents, a Pacific National spokesman said. However, there was a significant amount of damage to the track and ballast. Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) crews worked around the clock to repair the track and services were restored about 0300, Sep 24. The Australian Transport Safety Bureau is investigating the incident. There is some speculation that train derailed when the rear wagon hit a soft spot in the track caused by recent wet weather. — "Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News."

KARANJWADI AREA, INDIA

See "India" under "Weather & Navigation."

NEWMAN AREA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, AUSTRALIA

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A triple road train carrying 90 tonnes of the explosive chemical ammonia nitrate has lost a trailer on the Great Northern Highway near Newman in the north of Western Australia. About 25 tonnes of the chemical has been strewn across the road, blocking traffic. The truck was transporting the chemical to a mining explosives company when it appears a trailer connection came loose causing the last car to tip over. Kelvin Portland from the Newman Volunteer Fire Brigade says steps are being taken to ensure the chemical does not ignite. "At the moment we've got a local contractor here who does all the rubbish and he's gonna have a go with the road sweeper," he said.

SAN ANTONIO AREA, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 26 — A press report, dated Sep 25, states: The rear 50 cars of a freight train detached and rolled backward for two miles near San Antonio, smashing into another train, a Union Pacific spokesman said. The Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Union Pacific trains collided about 2300, Friday, derailing about 25 cars from both trains and spilling magnesium

chloride from one car. There were no reported injuries and no one was evacuated from their homes. Union Pacific spokesman John Bromley said unlawful riders on the eastbound Burlington Northern Santa Fe train may have pulled a brake lever, detaching the cars that hit the Union Pacific train. Magnesium chloride is neither flammable nor toxic, said Randy Jenkins, district chief of the San Antonio Fire Department. Trespassers are common on trains, Bromley said, and regular riders know how to stop a train. "It's rare they're looking to harm anyone or anything," Bromley said. "I think they just wanted to get off." It's the city's third train derailment this year. This is the second time this year Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe trains have collided in the area. Previously, a Union Pacific train derailed near the location of Friday night's derailment.

SHELBY AREA, MONTANA, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 28 — A press report, dated Sep 27, states: Forty-two cars of a 109-car grain train derailed today about six miles south of Shelby, spilling tons of wheat along the tracks but injuring no one. Burlington Northern Santa Fe spokesman Gus Melonas said the derailment just north of the Marias River may have spilled as much as 5,000 tons of grain. He said each car was loaded with 120 tons of wheat. The battered cars lay scattered upside down or on their sides, some of them resting in an accordion pattern. He said railroad investigators have not determined cause. Clean-up crews totalling about 60 workers, from Billings, Havre and Gillette, Wyo., were using special equipment and vacuum machines to clean up the grain, while huge tractors with side booms moved the cars off the tracks for salvage. Melonas said the line, from Laurel to Shelby and on to Sweet Grass, might be cleared and reopened by this afternoon. "We expect the majority of the cars will be cut up and scrapped on site over the next few weeks," he said. The railroad hopes to salvage as much of the grain as possible for milling, although spilled grain sometimes has to be downgraded and sold as feed. The train was travelling from Selby to Kalama, Wash.

Robberies & Thefts



DIAMONDS, PARIS, FRANCE

London, Sep 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Thieves stole two diamonds worth more than \$14.2 million from a display case at a Paris antique show near the Louvre yesterday, police said. The mid-afternoon theft occurred at the 22nd "Antiquary's Biennial" trade show at the Carrousel du Louvre after a worker stepped away for a break, police said. The stand was operated by Swiss

watchmaker and jeweller Chopard, show organisers said. The suspects made off with a 47-carat white diamond worth \$7.4 million and a 15.74-carat blue diamond valued at \$6.8 million, police said. An initial police investigation found no alarm system or surveillance cameras at the display window. There was no sign of a break-in, police said. "It happened in a few seconds, surely. The two stones disappeared," show president Christian Deydier told reporters. "Everything is in the hands of the police."

Computer Systems



AIRLINE CHECK-IN FAULT

Frankfurt, Sep 23 — Lufthansa had to cancel about 60 European flights, and its services around the world were delayed following a computer fault in its check-in system today, the German airline said. The company's Star alliance partners — Britain's bmi, Poland's LOT and Austrian Airlines — were also affected by the problem with the Unisys computer system, Star said. The flight cancellations affected about 6,000 passengers, while short-haul and long-haul departures were delayed by up to two hours, Lufthansa said. Some freight normally carried by plane had to be moved by truck. Lufthansa said the check-in system was up and running again by 1030, UTC, but added that delays were continuing. The airline said it hoped services would return to normal towards the end of the day. At Berlin's Tegel airport there were long queues as clerks had to handwrite tickets and tell passengers there was no assigned seating. A Lufthansa clerk said the problem was not caused by a virus but by the launch of a new computer programme overnight, which brought the system down. A spokeswoman for bmi, which uses the same check-in computer system, said the airline's network also suffered delays, though bmi had not cancelled any flights. An Austrian Airlines spokesman said it too had no cancellations, although there were some delays. The problem also affected Lufthansa's regional airlines, including Eurowings and Air Dolomiti. Unisys's German subsidiary confirmed that Lufthansa uses its computer system for check-in operations but declined to comment further. — Reuters.

Miscellaneous



COLLAPSE OF BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION, DUBAI AIRPORT, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A wall on a huge

construction site at Dubai airport has collapsed causing many casualties, the official United Arab Emirates news agency says. Officials said at least 10 people have been taken to hospital and rescue teams were searching for more victims. Dubai is currently undergoing a \$4.1 expansion programme. The accident occurred in the new third terminal which is due to open for passengers in 2005. It happened at 1100 hrs (0700, UTC) according to building workers at the airport. The reason for the collapse was not immediately known.

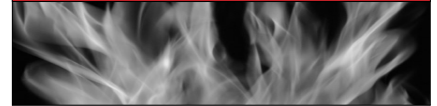
OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Thailand has confirmed a case of human "bird flu" which has sparked fears of possible human to human transmission. The victim's sister and niece died from suspected "bird flu" earlier this month, but the Thai government said the 32-year-old woman had been in contact with dead birds, and there was no evidence she caught the disease from relatives. At least nine people have died from bird flu in Thailand so far this year, but all are thought to have contracted the disease from poultry. The latest victim, named as Pranom Thongchan, is the second confirmed case since the latest outbreak began in July. She is reported to be recovering in hospital. Six nations in the Asian region have reported outbreaks of bird flu in their poultry population since July, and more than 100 million birds have been culled this year in an attempt to stem the disease.

London, Sep 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Thailand's Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra yesterday declared war on bird flu with a one-month deadline for authorities to wipe out the epidemic. Mr Thaksin demanded joint efforts from provincial governors and the Public Health and Agriculture and Cooperatives ministries to put an end to the second outbreak of avian influenza by the end of next month. "I have 31 days (for you) to stamp out bird flu, from Oct 1 to Oct 31," he told a meeting of provincial governors in Bangkok. "Bird flu is our common enemy and needs to be destroyed." Provincial officials would check every household in their areas for signs of the virus. If they found sick chickens, they could destroy them immediately without waiting for test results. Existing disease control measures would be strengthened because governors could ask for help from every unit in their areas, said Yukol Limlamthong, chief of the Livestock Development Department. Mr Yukol denied that existing disease control measures in which an increase in unusual chicken deaths is used as an index to detect the virus had failed to control the disease. However, he said small chicken-raising ventures may have eluded the system, adding more cooperation was needed to improve surveillance. Concerns about the disease overshadowed the meeting aimed at improving the efficiency of provincial governors, after reports that the virus may have jumped from one human to another. Pranee Thongchan

died of bird flu on Sep 20, after caring for her ill daughter, Sakuntala Prempasee, suspected of having caught the same disease after staying in bird flu-stricken areas in Kamphaeng Phet. Pranee and her daughter are now dead. The health ministry confirms both caught the virus that re-emerged in July. A third person confirmed as having the virus is Mrs Pranom, Pranee's elder sister. Mrs Pranom's condition was improving at Kamphaeng Phet Hospital yesterday. Her four-year-old son, Kittipong, also suspected of having bird flu, was discharged yesterday. At a meeting of the national committee taking on bird flu at the Public Health Ministry, Deputy Prime Minister Chaturon Chaisaeng criticised the host ministry and the Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministry for their inability to curb the problem. However, officials from the Livestock Development Department said bureaucratic reform was the real culprit, as it had left the agency understaffed with only 4,000 officials working across the country. A plan to relaunch a chicken-eating campaign was proposed during the meeting to boost consumer confidence but Mr Chaturon turned down the idea, saying the timing was not right.

Fires & Explosions



COTTON MILL, SINDH PROVINCE, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Sep 27 — About 30,000 maunds of cotton were destroyed when the huge fire broke out in a privately owned Cotton mills-Sakhi Jam Dattar ginning factory on the Nawabshah-Sixty Miles road in Sindh Province of Pakistan on Saturday (Sep 25). Dr Dayaram, the nephew of the factory owner informed local media that the cotton stock valued at Rs20 million. The fire brigades of different stations of Sindh took eight hours to extinguish the fire. The cause of the fire could not be ascertained. — Lloyd's List Correspondent

DAIRY, FORT WAYNE AREA, INDIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 28 — A press report, dated Sep 25, states: A fire at a family-owned dairy farm in northeastern Indiana killed 27 cows and caused \$1.5 million damage. The fire, yesterday, destroyed an 11,500-square-foot barn and milking operation at Herr Dairy Farm about 30 miles north of Fort Wayne. Ten other cows were badly injured, said Dennis Herr, who co-owns the farm of about 430 cows. Kendallville Fire Chief Mike Riehm said the cause had not been determined as of yesterday evening.

FACTORY, GORT, COUNTY GALWAY, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Managers at a meat

plant in Gort in County Galway say there may be some temporary lay-offs after fire destroyed a pork boning hall and some offices. Firefighters from Galway and Clare fought for three hours to bring the blaze at Duffy's Meat Plant under control and managed to save the main killing and boning section. The plant employs 140 people. The blaze broke out at 0700 hrs this morning and the alarm was raised by workers who escaped unharmed. The cause of the fire is as yet unknown.

FACTORY, LAVAL, QUEBEC, CANADA

London, Sep 27 — A report from LaSalle, PQ, states: A press report, dated Sep 26, states: It took firefighters almost 12 hours yesterday to control a major fire that broke out in a Laval industrial park in the early morning. The five-alarm blaze in the Chomedey district ignited at 0406 hrs when a piece of machinery malfunctioned at the Dynapak plant. The company manufactures styrofoam meat trays. Four employees managed to escape without injury, said Laval police spokesperson Constable Guy Lajeunesse. Plumes of thick black smoke filled the air for hours but Lajeunesse said frequent monitoring of the air quality showed it was not a health hazard. The blaze has been ruled accidental and there are no estimates yet about damage.

FARM, PLEASANT HILL, MIAMI COUNTY, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 24 — A press report, dated Sep 23, states: A fire in Miami County near Pleasant Hill destroyed three buildings on a farm and heavily damaged a garage on the property. The fire broke out in the 9100 block of Horseshoe Bend Road late this afternoon. Two large barns, and a horse stable were destroyed, a fourth building, a garage was also damaged. Firefighters from about a half dozen departments from Miami and Darke counties, along with the northern Miami Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross responded to the blaze. Fire investigators said farm equipment and freshly bailed hay were destroyed and several horses are escaped the fire without injury. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

FOREST, INDONESIA

London, Sep 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Choking haze from forest and ground fires blanketed South Kalimantan yesterday, forcing residents to wear face masks and causing flight delays, an official said. Since Monday (Sep 20), residents in the town of Banjarmasin in South Kalimantan province have been urged to wear face masks while going out, said Hari Yudo, an airport spokesman. "The haze began to thicken this week. The local government distributed masks but due to limited availability, not all residents have received them. Therefore, they are urged to stay home and not to go out unless necessary." Close to noon, visibility was reduced to a mere 700 metres, Yudo said. The haze, believed to

have been caused by residents who cleared land by setting fire, had forced the daily delays of two morning flights since Monday, he said. "This is a problem because it is a tradition that is hard to eradicate," Yudo said, adding some residents had complained of breathing and eye problems. Sumatra and Kalimantan are the areas usually hardest hit by the haze, an annual dry-season hazard in parts of Southeast Asia. Officials have blamed the haze on illegal land clearing by small farmers and large plantation firms ahead of the planting season. Air pollution is costing Indonesia 400 million dollars a year, a figure which could increase tenfold by 2010 unless remedial steps are taken, the Asian Development Bank said this month.

FOREST, SPAIN

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated Sep 26, states: Firefighters had to evacuate some 400 people, including 40 trapped in a church while attending Sunday mass, as they battled a forest fire near the eastern Spanish city of Gerona, local government officials said. Firefighters had still to bring the fire under control this evening after helping to safety people worshipping at the Santa Caterina chapel near the village of Montgri. Residents of several villages around the small municipality of Bellcaire were also evacuated as a precaution, their homes near to the mountainside at Sobrestany, where the blaze broke out.

LUXURY HOMES, CROOKSTON, GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

London, Sep 28 — A press report, dated Sep 26, states: Eight luxury mansions worth over £2million were burned to the ground in a mystery blaze last night. The unoccupied homes, which cost up to £300,000 each, were under construction in a Persimmon Homes development in Crookston, Glasgow. Most of the houses had already been sold. The exclusive Laurels estate area was gutted by the blaze before firefighters were able to stop it spreading further. Police and fire investigators will today examine the debris. A Strathclyde Fire Brigade spokesman said it was too early to comment on the cause.

MOTORWAY SERVICE STATION, GREATER MANCHESTER, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sep 29 — A press report, dated Sep 28, states: A man started a major fire at a service station after losing £200 on a slot machine, a court has heard. The fire at the Moto Birch services on the M62 in Greater Manchester caused damage costing about £7m. Jason New, 31, of Foxdale Avenue, Blackpool, admitted starting the blaze in October last year. Minshull Street Crown Court was told that New set fire to the one-armed bandit with a disposable lighter. He will be sentenced on Nov 16. Andrew O'Byrne, prosecuting, told the court that New, of Foxdale Avenue, Blackpool, had lost £200 on the machine and became "angry and aggrieved". He was seen

going to the shop to buy a lighter and head back to the area where the games machine was. He then set fire to it. The fire destroyed the services' shopping and restaurant areas and took 74 firefighters from 13 stations across Greater Manchester to get it under control. Temporary facilities are still being used at the services following the fire, although a new complex is planned.

POWER PLANT, WU'AN CITY, CHINA

London, Sep 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Thirteen people were killed in an explosion at a power plant in Wu'an city, in northern China's Hebei Province, when the facility started trial operation. The blast yesterday afternoon also injured a number of people, Xinhua news agency reported, citing sources from the Hebei provincial safety authority. The report did not specify the type of power plant affected. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

PREMISES, QUEANBEYAN, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

London, Sep 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A man suffered critical burns to his entire body and two people remain unaccounted for after a possible gas explosion in the New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory border town of Queanbeyan. ACT emergency services commissioner Peter Dunn said the explosion occurred at 0845, AEST, today in a double storey block of 16 flats, severely damaging two units. He said a man received horrific burns to his body while two residents were yet to be accounted for but it was possible they had not been at home. Mr Dunn said another four people received minor injuries and were treated at the scene, in Carter Street. "We think it's a vapour explosion, possibly gas," he told the John Laws radio show. NSW Ambulance commander Denis Bevan said the injured man had received burns to 100% of his body and would be transferred to Sydney. "The whole front of the building is missing," he added. An ACT emergency services spokesman said the Australian Federal Police bomb squad had been called to the scene but a NSW police spokesman said there was no suggestion the blast had been a terrorist attack. Emergency services have sealed off the blast scene. Mr Dunn said ACT emergency services had worked in cooperation with NSW at the request of NSW authorities.

SCHOOL, CAMBRIDGE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A primary school has suffered damage during an overnight fire. More than 100 firefighters took eight hours to bring the flames under control at Mayfield Primary School in Warwick Road, Cambridge, yesterday. Surrounding roads were cordoned off and residents warned to stay indoors after the fire

started just before 2030, BST. Most of the school building was saved. The cause of the fire is now being investigated, and forensic officers are carrying out an examination. Lawrie Booth, deputy chief fire officer of Cambridgeshire said: "Firefighters managed to contain the spread of the fire at the school hall, which prevented the whole of the school being destroyed".

SCHOOL, HARUNDALE, MARYLAND, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 30 — A press report, dated Sep 28, states: Anne Arundel County firefighters said flames were shooting through the roof when they got to the scene of a two-alarm fire at an elementary school on Marley Station Road early this morning. Firefighters were called to Marley Elementary School shortly before 0300 hrs, today. Fire investigators said the fire was deliberately set and police have the people in custody. The school's kitchen and roof suffered the most damage, but fire officials said up to nine separate fires set around the building caused extensive smoke damage. It took nearly 60 firefighters about an hour to control the flames. Damage is expected to exceed \$10 million. One firefighter was injured. Before a motorist reported the fire, police were already investigating a complaint about people throwing flammable liquid at cars. Officers arrested two 17-year-olds. They were charged with second-degree arson and destruction of property, breaking and entering and making false statement to a police officer.

WILDFIRE, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 24 — A press report, dated Sep 23, states: California firefighters are making progress on a 400-plus acre fire in the Los Padres National Forest, in South Monterey County. Officials say the fire is not threatening any homes at this time. But it has charred some trees and brush along a road about 20 miles west of King City. The fire started last night and is about 25 per cent contained.



ACCIDENT, ELIZOVO AIRPORT, RUSSIA

London, Sep 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A Tu-154 aircraft bound for Vladivostok damaged its wing as it was taxiing for takeoff at Elizovo airport, in Kamchatka, Sep 19. According to the Emergency Situations Ministry's Far East region branch, a leakage of kerosene occurred because of the damaged fuel tank, but ignition was avoided. There were 94 passengers aboard the Sibir company's airplane heading for Novosibirsk. No one was injured. The cause of the incident is being investigated.

CANCELLATION OF FLIGHTS

See "Airline Check-in Fault" under "Computer Systems."

CRASH, AUSTIN AREA, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 24 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Two people died today when a twin-engine aircraft crashed and burned about ten miles west of Austin, Texas. Emergency officials say one person survived, but was critically injured. He has been taken to an Austin hospital. Officials are not sure if that person was the pilot or one of the passengers. The Federal Aviation Administration reports the aircraft was bound for Lakeway Airpark. FAA spokesman John Clabes says the pilot had radioed about having engine problems. Clabes says the Cessna 421C was owned by a company based in Ingram, which is about 90 miles south-west of Austin. Clabes says the aircraft was inbound from Angel Fire, New Mexico.

CRASH, HANOVER AREA, INDIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated Sep 26, states: Two people were injured after a small plane crashed last night in southern Indiana south of Hanover. The Jefferson County, Indiana Sheriff's Department says the crash occurred just after the plane took off from a private air field. It lost altitude for an unknown reason, and crashed near the 7000 block of South River Bottom Road. The two injured people were removed from the plane and taken to University of Louisville Hospital with injuries. Their names were not released. Officials with the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board were investigating the scene.

CRASH, PETER PRINCE AIRPORT, MILTON, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 24 — A Cessna 182 (Skylane), while on a flight from Peter Prince Airport, with four persons on board, crashed about a quarter of a mile west of the airport, at 1512, UTC, Sep 23. The aircraft caught fire. All four persons on board were killed.

CRASH, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Sep 29 — A press report, dated Sep 28, states: A report from Pretoria states: An aviation student at the airforce's central flying school, who was earlier allowed to continue his training despite failing numerous exams, damaged a training aircraft in an accident at the school today. The student is unscathed, but apparently the Astra training aircraft's undercarriage and nose-wheel have been ripped off, the propeller is stuck in the ground, and one wing is damaged. Beeld has learnt the student was one of those who was involved in a high-level investigation into racism earlier this year after instructors said he would never be able to qualify as a pilot. The policy is that during training, if a student fails an exam as well as a

supplementary exam, he or she is taken off the course automatically. In the case of this student, he failed both exams, but higher authorities felt he would benefit from 40 additional hours of training. After completing the 40 hours, he attained 46%, but needed 60% to pass. Higher authorities did not accept the results, and the student was allowed to continue. This morning, the student apparently made exactly the same landing mistake as before. He pulled up the air brake while he was supposed to take off again directly after landing. A crosswind aggravated the problem, and the aircraft ended up making a crash landing. Experts said today that it is only a question of time before people died because of incompetence. Lieutenant Ronald Maseko, an air force spokesperson, said this afternoon a board of investigators had been set up after the accident. According to him the aircraft had only "light" damage.

EMERGENCY LANDING, BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

London, Sep 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Fatigue cracking had caused engine failure in an Air New Zealand aircraft which was forced to make an emergency landing at Brisbane airport December 8 2002, an investigation has found. The Boeing 767 had taken off from Brisbane for Auckland with about 200 people aboard when the pilot reported the failure of one of its two engines. The pilot returned to Brisbane and landed safely on one engine, although one of the aircraft's wings had been damaged by debris from the damaged engine. The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) said fatigue cracking in the blade slots of a high-pressure turbine disk led directly to the uncontained failure of the left engine of the aircraft. Its report said a large segment of the turbine disk punctured the engine casing and nacelle, before striking the engine pylon and an adjacent panel on the leading edge of the wing. The ATSB said while the reasons for the disk cracking were not conclusively established, the engine manufacturer, General Electric, had implemented changes to the disk manufacturing and repair processes and had revised the inspection requirements for the disks fitted to the affected engine model. The changes had since been mandated by both the US Federal Aviation Administration and the Australian Civil Aviation Safety Authority, the ATSB said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, INDIRA GANDHI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, INDIA

London, Sep 24 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A Thai Airways flight made an emergency landing at the Indira Gandhi International airport here after it developed a technical fault, airport officials said today. The Delhi-Bangkok flight, with 324 people including crew members on board, made an emergency landing around midnight after its nose-wheel became loose. The aircraft developed another

technical snag later, forcing it to abort its return flight to Bangkok early today, the officials said. Airport authorities received a wireless message from the pilot regarding the failure of the nose-wheel and declared an emergency at 2226, yesterday. For over two hours, the take off and landing of other aircraft was suspended. The aircraft landed safely at the international airport's main runway and all its passengers were taken away from the aircraft. It was then taken to an isolated bay for repairs. The officials said the airliner developed another technical snag when it was taxiing for its return flight to Bangkok early today.

EMERGENCY LANDING, LONDON (STANSTED) AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A search of an Olympic Airways passenger aircraft that made an emergency landing in London after a bomb scare has turned up no evidence of a threat, police said late yesterday. The search would possibly continue through the night, police added. The 293 passengers on board the New York-bound aircraft were being put up in hotels and could probably continue on their way to the United States today. Questioning of passengers and eight crew members had revealed no details about the background of the bomb threat, which was apparently transmitted through an Athens-based newspaper. The flight left Athens bound for New York but made an emergency landing at Stansted airport yesterday, escorted by British military aircraft after the pilot called for assistance. The Greek Transport Ministry in Athens said the bomb threat was sent to the Athens daily newspaper "Ethnos," just as the Airbus was in French airspace and heading over the English Channel. The Olympic pilot was informed at that point of the threat.

EMERGENCY LANDING, SHANNON AIRPORT, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

London, Sep 29 — A New York-bound Olympic Airways flight diverted to Ireland because of a bomb alert has resumed its journey. The Airbus A340, with 295 passengers on board, took off from Shannon Airport after a police search found nothing suspicious on board. The passengers had been taken off the aircraft and subjected to security checks by Irish police. An Athens newspaper received warning of a bomb on board, the airline said — the second such incident in three days. Greek officials have said the incident is an "absolute carbon copy" of an incident on Sunday (Sep 26). Then, Olympic Airlines Flight 411 landed at Stansted in the UK after a bomb alert. The second aircraft, with a crew of 12, took off from Athens at 1013, UTC, Olympic Airlines' Melina Pitta said. "There was a call to a local newspaper around 1245, UTC, saying a bomb on the aircraft would explode in an hour," she added. The airline spokeswoman said US authorities had refused permission for the aircraft to land at New York's JFK airport.

FLIGHTS DIVERTED/DELAYED, MELBOURNE AIRPORT, AUSTRALIA

London, Sep 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Flights have been diverted from Melbourne Airport for the second day in a row because of thick fog blanketing the runway. An airport spokeswoman said so far two international flights had been diverted because of the lack of visibility. "Fog is impacting on operations, but it's not as thick as yesterday," she said. "There have been two international diversions, yesterday there were seven, and we are hoping it will clear up soon." An Air China flight due in at 0635, AEST, and a Qantas flight from Los Angeles due in at 0800, AEST, were both diverted to Sydney. The spokeswoman said the decision on whether or not to divert was left to the pilot of the aircraft.

N16849

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Wind up to 60 mph prevented helicopters from lowering rescue workers to the wreckage of a tour helicopter that crashed in a remote mountainous area of Kauai. County officials said the military was asked for a more powerful helicopter so that another attempt could be made today to reach the Bell 206B helicopter that crashed Friday (Sep 24) with five people on board. "This wreckage is located at about 2,700 feet on about a 60-degree slope," fire department battalion chief Bob Kaden said yesterday. Officials said they did not know whether there were survivors, but said the aircraft burst into flames after crashing into a ridge. On board were the pilot, a 36-year-old man, a 30-year-old woman and a German couple, officials said. Their names have not been released. The helicopter, which belonged to Bali Hai Helicopter Tours, was reported missing Friday after failing to return from a tour on time, officials said. A crew on a Coast Guard helicopter spotted the crash site Saturday. The pilot formerly flew with India's air force and had flown tours for two months, said Coast Guard Lt. Danny Shaw. The helicopter was about 26 years old, according to the National Transportation Safety Board.

London, Sep 27 — Bell 206B, N16849, operated by Bali Hai Helicopter Tours Inc., crashed into mountainous terrain and was destroyed 8 miles west of Lihue, Port Allen, Hawaii, Sep 24. Five persons on board were fatally injured.

N29650

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated Sep 26, states: Two people suffered minor injuries after their plane crashed into a fence along Interstate 85 last night. The single-engine Cessna came down shortly after 2230 hrs, near exit 40. It came to rest on top of a fence between the interstate and a frontage road. Fire Chief J.T. Tinggen said the pilot told him the plane ran out of fuel. Officials said the plane belonged to an Upstate church, but could not immediately confirm which church. The pilot and a passenger were treated for minor injuries. The Federal Aviation

Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating the crash.

London, Sep 27 — Cessna 177, N29650, privately operated, reported low fuel and landed on a road at Greenville, South Carolina at 0053, Sep 25. Damage was substantial.

N497AE

London, Sep 29 — Eurocopter AS 350 B3, N497AE, operated by Enchantment Aviation Inc., while repositioning on helipad at the medical centre, lost tail rotor capability, spun and landed on its side at Las Cruces, New Mexico, at 0543, Sep 28. The aircraft was destroyed and the one person on board received minor injuries.

N57003

London, Sep 23 — Boeing A75N1, N57003, operated by F. & F. Aviation Services Inc, with two persons on board, crashed into a house at 495 Bayport Avenue, Bayport, New York, just south of Bayport Aerodrome, at 2040, UTC, Sep 22. The aircraft sustained substantial damage, unknown if persons on board were injured. Damage to the house unknown and no ground injuries reported.

N6522T

London, Sep 23 — A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft with seven people on board crashed this morning at Hallo Bay, on the mainland west of Afognak Island, the Coast Guard reported. Spokesman Roger Wetherell said four people were known to be injured. The condition of the three others was not immediately known, he said. A Coast Guard helicopter was en route and expected on scene at noon. Hallo Bay is 75 miles northwest of the city of Kodiak. The aircraft may have been a float plane, Wetherell said. It was reported to be partially on land and partially in water. A witness used a maritime distress channel to report the crash.

London, Sep 24 — Britten-Norman BN-2A (Islander), N6522T, operated by Homer Air Inc, while on a taxi flight from Homer, Alaska, to Hallo Bay, Alaska, with seven persons on board, crashed on a beach in the vicinity of Hallo Bay, at 1905, UTC, Sep 23. One of the passengers suffered serious injuries and three others suffered minor injuries.

N67520

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A pilot walked away uninjured after crashing his single-engine plane in an open field in western Ohio, the State Highway Patrol said. Ryan Bailey, 22, of Richmond, Ind., was heading to Moraine Airpark just south of Dayton when he began experiencing engine trouble and crashed in the field yesterday, Trooper Bryan Cook said. Bailey attempted to land at Wright Brothers Airport but crashed about one half mile from Springboro, which is about 15 miles south of Dayton. Bailey was the only person on board. Bailey told police that he had spent the day practicing how to land the plane, said

Sgt. Lisa Walsh of the Springboro Police Department. The Federal Aviation Administration and the patrol are investigating.

London, Sep 27 — Cessna C152, N67520, privately operated, landed in a field and became inverted at Springboro, Ohio, at 2228, Sep 26. Minor damage.

N70953

London, Sep 28 — Cessna U206, N70953, departed Crooked Lake, Ontario, for a five-minute flight to Entwine Lake. During the initial climb, at approximately 800 feet, the engine began to lose power and the aircraft would not maintain altitude. The pilot elected to force-land the aircraft in a nearby unnamed lake. The lake was too small for a normal landing and the pilot ditched the aircraft into the water at 0914, Sep 26. The pilot and two passengers deplaned with minor injuries and swam ashore shortly before the aircraft sank. The three occupants walked through the bush back to the campsite at Crooked lake, where they were picked up the next day and taken to a hospital.

N750RW

London, Sep 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Two men aboard a small plane that crashed during an air festival in Fullerton, California, over the weekend remain in critical condition. Authorities say Jay Yoshinaga and Anthony Albanese are being treated at the U-C Irvine Medical Centre. Their plane crashed almost immediately after taking off from the Fullerton Municipal Airport on Saturday (Sep 25). It missed the control

tower and slammed into a parked car in which two women were sitting. The plane broke apart on impact and erupted in flames. The women were not seriously hurt.

London, Sep 27 — Bushmaster 2000, N750RW, departed runway 24 west of taxiway charlie, pulled up to climb to avoid ramp personnel, and crashed into a vehicle south of tower onto avenue at Fullerton, California, at 2018, Sep 25. The aircraft was destroyed.



CANADA

See under “Labour Disputes.”

INDIA

Kochi, Sep 30 — Container movement at Kochi Port will be paralysed for two days due to the mechanical breakdown of the port’s equipment/crane. It is reported that repairs to the cranes and other equipment are being carried out and operations are expected to return to normal by the weekend. — Lloyd’s Agents.

SYRIA

Lattakia, Sep 25 — Waiting time is presently 24 hours at Lattakia and five days at Tartous. — Lloyd’s Sub-agents.

UNITED STATES

London, Sep 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Transpacific container lines said port congestion and

the inland gridlock in America are hurting their costs and transit times, as the Transpacific Stabilization Agreement said today it will extend its \$400-per-40-foot-box peak season surcharge by a month for all-water services from Asia to the U.S. East Coast. The peak season surcharge, applied on a voluntary basis by TSA carriers, will be extended until Nov 30, TSA said. After a meeting of carrier chief executive officers to assess market, operational and infrastructure conditions in the Asia/U.S. freight market, the TSA group noted concerns over the rising cost of maintaining service levels and schedule reliability in light of port and inland supply chain congestion. The TSA estimates carriers’ costs will increase “10 percent or more” in 2005 when compared to this year. “Member lines and their customers are grappling with transit time delays of eight to nine days that are largely beyond their control, and infrastructure gridlock that will easily take more than a year to fix,” said Brian M. Conrad, deputy executive director of TSA. “Carriers are forced to skip port calls, shift priority cargo to other sailings, burn more fuel to make up schedule time and incur added trucking costs by using alternative U.S. gateways, among other strategies,” he added. These extra costs are combined with the long-term increases in equipment, charter, feeder service, rail, truck, cargo handling, information systems, administrative and capital costs, TSA said. “This is a critical problem for our industry and one that carriers will be evaluating in coming months,” Conrad said. TSA carriers plan to meet in late October to further review the situation.

Port Delays

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	27-Sep-2004	Coal: 1 vessel berthed; 6 vessels due by 20/10; no delays expected. There will be a maintenance shutdown from 07.00 hrs. 4/10 to 07.00 hrs. 10/10.
Brisbane	27-Sep-2004	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 3 vessels due by 1/11; no delays expected.
Darlymple Bay	27-Sep-2004	Coal: 3 vessels berthed, 21 anchored; 42 vessels due by 26/12; 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	27-Sep-2004	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 anchored; 9 vessels due by 26/10; up to 9 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; East Intercourse Is land: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 6 anchored; 8 vessels due by 12/10; up to 10 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	27-Sep-2004	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 2 vessels berthed, 1 anchored; 37 vessels due by 18/10; up to 9 days delay expected subject to port congestion and cargo availability; Barney Point: 4 vessels due by 4/11; up to 1 day’s berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion. There will be a maintenance shutdown from 06.00 hrs. 19/10 to 18.00 hrs.
Hay Point	27-Sep-2004	Coal: 2 vessels berthed, 10 anchored; 11 vessels due by 7/10; 1-9 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion.
Newcastle	27-Sep-2004	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 33 vessels due by 15/10; Dykes 4+5: 21 vessels due by 13/10; 3 unallocated vessels due by 11/10; 1-6 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal and cargo receipt.
Port Hedland	27-Sep-2004	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), “A” berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 7 vessels due by 6/10; 2-11 days delay expected due to berth congestion and

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Port Conditions

		<p>cargo availability; shiploader No. 2 will undergo maintenance from ca. 30/9 to 23.59 hrs. 1/10 "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 6 vessels anchored; 3 vessels due by 6/10; up to 11 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 3 vessels due by 12/10; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; Westyard "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 anchored; 3 vessels due by 6/10; 2-7 days delay expected due to berth congestion, maintenance shutdown 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.</p>
Port Kembla	27-Sep-2004	Coal: 15 vessels due by 28/10; CB1: 1 vessel due 25/9; up to 4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Walcott	27-Sep-2004	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 5 anchored; 14 vessels due by 22/10; 1-4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; as a result of a heavy schedule for July and maintenance requirements, it is extremely likely that vessels will berth out of order. In the next few days there will only be one lump re-screening plant available, which will mean not being able to load two lump vessels at the same time. Shippers advise that stores, air freight and crew baggage can no longer be delivered to vessels or taken off at berth. With immediate effect, all stores, airfreight and bags must be delivered/removed by launch.
Brazil		
Paranagua	28-Sep-2004	Eleven vessels berthed of which 3 fertiliser dischargers, 2 reefer loaders, 1 pellets loader, 2 container loaders/dischargers, 3 other loaders; 11 vessels waiting in roads of which 8 to load (2 pellets, 3 sugar, 1 reefer, 2 others), 3 fertiliser vessels to discharge; 40 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio Grande	28-Sep-2004	Seven vessels berthed of which 1 fertiliser discharger, 3 potassium chloride dischargers, 1 urea discharger, 1 soya meal loader, 1 sawn timber loader; 4 vessels waiting in roads; 23 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Santos	28-Sep-2004	Twenty-four vessels berthed of which 4 bulk fertiliser dischargers, 1 bulk LPG dischargers, 1 bulk citrus juice loader, 1 frozen juice loader, 1 bulk salt discharger, 2 full container loader/discharger, 12 sugar loaders, 1 bulk pellets loader, 1 other loader; 16 vessels waiting in roads; 103 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Sao Sebastiao	28-Sep-2004	Six vessels berthed, 2 waiting in roads; 3 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Vitorea	28-Sep-2004	Two vessels berthed of which 1 malt discharger, 1 cellulose loader; Terminal Vila Velha: 1 cellulose loader, 1 fertiliser discharger, 1 full container loader/discharger, 1 pig-iron loader; 3 iron ore loaders; Praia Mole: 1 coal discharger, 3 steel products loaders; Portocel: 1 cellulose loader; Ubu: 1 iron ore loader; 27 vessels waiting in roads; 13 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Tubarao	28-Sep-2004	
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	27-Sep-2004	Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (1 profiles, 1 billets, 1 general cargo, 1 scrap, 2 coils, 1 copper anodes, 1 wheat), 3 discharging (1 profiled iron, 1 iron/concrete, 1 zinc concentrate); 4 vessels waiting in roads of which 3 to load (1 billets, 1 equipment, 1 empty), 1 for bunkers; 13 vessels due of which 7 to load (3 steel sheets, 1 equipment, 1 coils, 1 profiles, 1 LAB), 6 to discharge (1 concrete/iron, 1 iron ore, 1 zinc ash, 1 lead concentrate, 1 coal, 1 equipment).
Chile		
Valparaiso	27-Sep-2004	Four vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 2 vessels anchored; 12 vessels due this week.
Egypt		
Alexandria	27-Sep-2004	Thirty-three vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 29 general cargo, 1 containers, 2 tankers, 1 bulker; 5 vessels at inner anchorage, 7 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	27-Sep-2004	Twenty vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 13 general cargo, 4 bulker carriers, 3 containers; 6 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.
Dekheila	27-Sep-2004	Thirteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 5 general cargo, 1 tanker, 7 bulk carriers.
Suez Canal	27-Sep-2004	Nineteen vessels transiting Northbound, 22 Southbound.
Israel		
Ashdod	28-Sep-2004	No labour problems. Three general cargo vessels loading at berth, 13 vessels discharging at berth (12 general cargo, 1 bulker), 6 vessels loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 1 car carrier, 1 tanker); 12 vessels waiting at anchor to discharge (10 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 5 vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge (4 containers, 1 car carrier); 2 vessels awaiting orders; 7 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	28-Sep-2004	No labour problems. Four vessels loading at berth (2 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 10 vessels discharging at berth (7 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 6 vessels loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 1 tanker); 4 vessels waiting at anchor to discharge (2 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 8 vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge containers; 2 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 17 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.

Port Conditions

Mozambique		
Maputo	24-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 1.018 to 1.023. 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. Both container gantries are operational.
Matola	24-Sep-2004	coal terminal is operational. Ressano Garcia, Goba and Limpopo railway lines are all operational. Eight vessels are currently in port berthed, of which 4 loading (1 timber, 2 chrome, 1 gas), 4 discharging (2 rice, 1 bulk wheat, 1 containers/general cargo); 19 vessels due by 16/10 of which 6 to load (1 ferro chrome, 2 aluminium, 1 magnetite, 1 bagged sugar, 1 bulk sugar), 9 to discharge (2 aluminium, 2 petcoke, 1 frozen fish, 1 iron/ vehicles, 1 cooking oil, 1 pitch, 1 clinker), 4 to discharge/load containers.
Pakistan		
Karachi	27-Sep-2004	Six vessels loading at berth (1 MOL, 1 chemicals, 1 clinker, 2 cement, 1 rice), 3 discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 1 general cargo, 1 phosphate), 2 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (2 containers, 1 cement), 2 container vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 7 vessels due (3 containers, 1 crude oil, 1 chemicals, 1 palm oil, 1 lube oil), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	27-Sep-2004	Three vessels discharging at berth (1 rape seeds, 1 iron ore, 1 other), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at QICT berth; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (1 containers, 1 project cargo), 5 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 1 project cargo, 1 palm oil, 1 yellow peas, 1 other vessel).
Russia		
Makhachkala	29-Sep-2004	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed; 1 vessel due 27/9.
Novorossiysk	29-Sep-2004	Ten vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 1 scrap, 1 steel billets/coils, 1 copper, 2 wheat, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 2 bulk NPK, 1UAN solution, 1 aluminium; no vessels waiting in roads; 53 vessels due, of which 49 to load (2 bulk cement, 1 steel billets, 2 pig-iron, 5 coils, 5 copper, 7 aluminium, 5 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 wheat, 1 tin plate/steel sheets, 2 steel billets/coils, 1 pipes/steel sheets, 1 bulk urea, 1 zinc, 5 bulk NPK, 1 coils/steel sheets, 1 lead/aluminium, 2 ammonium sulphate, 1 beetroot, 1 lead, 1 UAN solution, 1 HBI, 1 WRIC, 1 other vessel), 4 to discharge/load containers. Oil terminal: 1 tanker berthed loading crude oil; 3 tankers in roads, all to load crude oil; 9 tankers due, all to load, of which 7 crude oil, 2 fuel oil.
Tuapse	29-Sep-2004	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, all loading, of which 1 crude oil, 1 fuel oil, 1 gasoil; 1 naphtha vessel in roads; 8 vessels due by 29/9, of which 6 gasoil, 1 crude oil, 1 fuel oil.
Slovenia		
Koper	27-Sep-2004	Port working normally; no berthing delays. Eleven vessels berthed of which 2 harging/loading containers, 4 bulk carriers discharging ore/minerals/solid chemicals, 1 vessel discharging aluminium products, 2 vessels loading general cargo, 1 car carrier discharging/loading vehicles, 1 tanker discharging mineral oils; 16 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 3 to discharge/load containers, 2 bulk carriers to discharge coal/minerals, 3 bulk carriers to load coal, 1 barge to load coal, 3 vessels to load sawn timber/general cargo, 2 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 1 reefer to discharge refrigerated goods, 1 tanker to discharge mineral oils.
Spain		
Cadiz	27-28-Sep-2004	Nine vessels in port of which 5 operating (3 Ro/Ros, 1 containers, 1wheat), 4 vessels under repair; no delays.
Sagunto	27-28-Sep-2004	Twenty-three vessels in port operating of which 14 discharging (13 steel products, 1 vehicles), 3 loading (1 steel products, 1 cement, 1 baled scrap), 6 Ro/Ros discharging/loading general cargo; no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays.
Sri Lanka		
Colombo	27-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. Ten vessels loading at berth (9 containers/feeders, 1 Ro/Ro), 16 vessels discharging at berth (12 containers/feeders, 1 bulk cement, 1 general cargo); no vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 1 bulk cement vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 2 vessels under repairs, 6 dry-docked, 1 under arrest, 1 at new tanker berth; 9 vessels due (7 containers/feeders, 1 bagged fertiliser, 1 bulk cement), with no delays expected.

Port Conditions

Ukraine

Ilichevsk	27-Sep-2004	Thirteen vessels in port operating, of which 11 loading (7 steel products, 2 ore, 1 wheat, 1 ore), 2 discharging/loading containers; 2 vessels in roads of which 1 to load steel products, 1 to discharge/load containers; 10 vessels due, of which 7 to load (6 steel products, 1 equipment), 2 to discharge ore, 1 to load/discharge containers.
Mariupol	27-Sep-2004	Fifteen vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 7 steel, 1 pig-iron, 2 fire-clay, 2 coal, 1 ammonium saltpetre, 2 barley; 10 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 5 steel, 2 coal, 3 fire-clay; 56 vessels due, of which 49 to load (24 steel, 2 pig-iron, 10 coal, 1 coke, 7 fire-clay, 1 fire-clay/containers, 1 barley, 2 ammonium saltpetre, 1 sunflower beans), 4 to discharge (1 containers, 2 equipment, 1 equipment/containers), 3 to discharge/load (1 equipment/slabs, 1 containers/fire clay, 1 containers).
Odessa	27-Sep-2004	Seventeen vessels in port operating, of which 10 loading (4 metal, 1wheat, 1 cars, 1 oil, 1 barley, 1 vegetable oil, 1 general cargo), 4 discharging (1 baggage, 1 bananas, 1 citrus, 1 vegetable oil) 2 loading/discharging containers, 1 passenger vessel; 3 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 fuel oil, 1 oil, 1 gas; 58 vessels due, of which 36 to load (26 metal, 2 wheat, 1 wood, 2 ferro alloy, 5 fuel oil), 3 to discharge (1 wheat, 1 sugar, 1 vegetable oil), 19 to discharge/load containers. Oil products: 1 vessel berthed loading crude oil; 3 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 fuel/crude oil, 1 LPG, 1 crude oil; 5 vessels due by 1/10, all to load, of which 3 gasoil, 1 fuel oil, 1 LPG.

United States

Houston	28-Sep-2004	Channel open under normal traffic. Pilots report normal 40 ft. 0 ins. max. draft in Houston ship channel; Cargill terminal: 2 days delay at berth No. 1; Berth No. 2 blocked by Berth No. 3; LDC Dreyfus terminal: 1-2 days delay.
Kalama	28-Sep-2004	Kalama export terminal: 3 days delay; United Harvest terminal: no delays.
New Orleans	28-Sep-2004	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 3-4 days delay expected; Cargill-Westwego: 2-3 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 2-3 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 4 days delay expected; ADM/Destrehan: 2-3 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 2-3 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 1 day's delay expected; Peavey/Paulina: 2 days delay expected; Zen-Noh/Convent: 2 days delay expected; Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays; Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: 2 days delay expected; Mile 158.0 Cargill (K2) - Convent: 1 day's delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 2 days delay expected. Nine-day forecast for Carrolton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to increase to 5.4 by 7/10. Mississippi River recommended draft restrictions: SW Pass to New Orleans (Mile 090.0) - 47 ft. for all vessels; New Orleans (Mile 090) to Baton Rouge (Mile 233.5) - 45 ft. for all vessels; Mississippi River Gulf outlet: 36 ft. bw.; vessels with drafts up to 47 ft. have been handled up to Mile 180 in the past, but are approved by pilots on a case by case basis, based on current river conditions.
Portland	28-Sep-2004	Columbia Grain terminal: 3 days delay; CLD Irving terminal: 4 days delay; CLD, O Dock terminals: no delays.
Tacoma	28-Sep-2004	Temco terminal: 1 day's delay.

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