

'Russian roulette' of oily water filters leads to huge fines

A 'fallacy' that devices work claims Hong Kong owner, writes David Osler — Friday September 30 2005

SHIPOWNERS are forced to play "Russian roulette" with the possibility of huge fines for deliberate pollution offences, because oily water separators simply do not work, a Hong Kong shipowner told the Maritime Cyprus conference this week.

According to Robert Ho, president of Vancouver-based Fairmont Shipping, it is a "fallacy" to believe that the devices actually separate oil from water.

In a controversial speech, he alleged that their main function is to be there because the Marpol anti-pollution convention requires them.

But reliance on such kits means that the Marpol compliance is essentially ad hoc, he charged.

Poorly configured

Many secondhand vessels have poorly configured waste handling systems, indicating that poor practice is commonplace on many ships.

Mr Ho asked why bypasses continue to occur, even though they are illegal and massive criminal penalties can result.

Before the current regulations were introduced in 1992, most ships had tanks in place to hold oily water.

The dirty oil was incinerated after natural separation, and the remaining water was flushed into open seas.

As a result, discharges carried no more than 100 parts of oil per million.

After the introduction of oily water separators, the standard became 15 parts per million.

Maximise

Shipyard criteria since then have included the desire to maximise cargo capacity, and lay out and holding tanks have been sacrificed.

But much of the equipment now in use cannot tackle relevant fuel grades.

Officers and crews have to find ways round problem, sometimes legally and sometimes illegally.

"Crews are faced, on some occasions, with having to clear dirty water out of the system over a 10-hour period," Mr Ho told delegates.

"I am certain a majority of shipowners and managers are oblivious to what is going on surrounding this system, unaware that they are engaged in a game of Russian roulette as to who will be caught out by the authorities."

Fines were no longer levied at around \$10,000 or so, but can now come in between \$400,000-\$25m.

It is the "easy way out" to blame officers and crew when equipment, although compliant with regulations, is not up to the job.

Mr Ho said he strongly believed owners were ultimately responsible and should enhance layout and equipment.

Rather than just continuing to lobby and complain about the recent legislation introduced in many countries, he said, stakeholders are better served if the real issues are addressed.

Dumping

The practice of dumping bilge waste does much to harm the image of shipping in the eyes of the public, Mr Ho said, and is illegal.

He believes it should be eradicated.

Shipowners should adopt a zero tolerance stance towards it and "work with the International Association of Classification Societies, shipyards and equipment manufacturers to develop solutions and equipment that actually works".

Existing ships should be investigated to correct inefficiencies. Standards need to be both mandatory and to be implemented as soon as possible, Mr Ho stressed.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>AEGEAN BREEZE</i>	vehicle carrier	SGP	NK	27,876	12,527	1983	In collision with fishing <i>Zwerver</i> at the Thorntonbank Sep 16. Upper deck damaged. Waiting at Wandelaar for a pilot. Reported Sep 19 to have sailed for Bremerhaven following inspection.
<i>ATLANTIC HURON</i>	bulker	CAN	LR	22,746	36,920	1984	Arrived Goderich with a broken propeller prev Sep 15. Repairs were effected and vessel sailed for Halifax.
<i>BALTICA HAV</i>	general	BHS	GL	1,528	1,907	1983	Experienced engine trouble and grounded near Hagesund Sep 15. Refloated and towed to Hagesund. Minor damage sustained. Drydocked at Skudeneshavn Sep 17. Completed repairs Sep 19 and sailed Sep 20.
<i>CHAOYANGPING NO. 8</i>	product tanker	CHN	—	3,000	—	—	In collision with mv <i>Wu Shan</i> on Huangpu River, Shanghai, Sep 17. Holed. Spillage of 50 tons of gasoline into river. Spill cleaned up by authorities.
<i>FOWAIRET</i>	container	QAT	LR	48,154	49,993	1998	Grounded near River Buoy 53, River Schelde, in lat 51 24.42N, long 04 01.57E, Sep 20. Tugs on scene. Danger of breaking up. Fuel tanks cracked, leakage of fuel. No 5 hatch under water. Refloated Sep 20. At Flushing Sep 21.
<i>JAMES</i>	tug	USA	—	40	—	1982	Capsized in San Antonio Bay, about 20 miles south-west of Port O'Connor, Intracoastal Waterway, Sep 18 while towing a drilling platform. Coast Guard working with owners to co-ordinate salvage.
<i>SAFE CONCORDIA</i>	semi-sub HI vessel	PAN	AB ABS	16,700	—	2005	Had electrical malfunction in thruster Sep 12 shortly before arrival in Bass Basin. Second thruster malfunctioned Sep 18. Proceeding to Melbourne Sep 21 for repairs which are expected to take at least 6 weeks.
<i>STURDY FALCON</i>	general	VNM	—	8,414	15,210	1980	Arrived East London Sep 8 with water ingress into No 1 hold through damaged shell plating. Cement box stemmed inflow of water. Discharge commenced Sep 18, repairs to start Sep 20.
<i>TATA 1</i>	fishing	MAR	(BV)	314	—	1976	Sank near Laayoune Sep 17 following a collision with fishing <i>Alif</i> . Crew rescued by <i>Alif</i> .
<i>UMFOLOZI</i>	container	CYP	GL	8,328	11,744	1982	In collision with dredger <i>Ingwenya</i> while leaving Walvis Bay 16 Sep 2005. Holed. Returned safely to quayside but sitting on the bottom. In stable condition. About 100 tonnes of heavy fuel oil and diesel spilled. Clean-up in hand.
<i>WU SHAN</i>	general	CHN	CS	2,258	3,402	1991	In collision with mv <i>Wu Shan</i> on Huangpu River, Shanghai, Sep 17.
<i>ZWERVER</i>	fishing	BEL	—	366	—	—	In collision with vehicle <i>Aegean Breeze</i> at the Thorntonbank Sep 16. Bridge damaged. Proceeded to Zeebrugge. Reported Sep 19 berthed at Ostend.

CONTENTS

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

Marine, including Overdue & Missing Vessels	1
Piracy	11
Seizures & Arrests	12
Pollution	13
Weather & Navigation	14
Earthquakes	23
Volcanic Activity	23
Political & Civil Unrest	23
Kidnappings	26
Labour Disputes	26
Awards & Settlements	27
Railway Accidents	27
Robberies & thefts	28
Miscellaneous	29
Fires & Explosions	30
Aviation	31
Product Recalls	34
Port Conditions	34
Port Conditions charts	35

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



2053 DAEJIN
See Leader I.

AALFJORD (Norway)
Trondheim, Sep 19 -- Owner's insurance company inform that general cargo Aalfjord will most probably be left on the bottom of the sea. -- Lloyd's Agents.

AEGEAN BREEZE (Singapore)
Maassluis, Sep 16 -- At 0025, Sep 16, there was a collision between vehicle Aegean Breeze (27876 gt, built 1983) and fishing Zwerver (366 gt), port number ZB-596. Aegean Breeze has touched Zwerver and the bridge of Zwerver is damaged. Zwerver will continue her journey to Zeebrugge. Aegean Breeze seems to have damage to the upper deck and is waiting at Wandelaar pilot station for a pilot. However pilot service is suspended because of weather conditions. The collision took place at the Theertonbank. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.
Zeebrugge, Sep 19 -- Fishing Zwerver is now berthed at Ostend. Following an inspection, vehicle Aegean Breeze sailed for Bremerhaven. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

ALIF (Morocco)
See Tata 1.

ALLIANCE (Germany)
Genoa, Sep 16 -- Local Port Authority reports that research Alliance is still at Genoa, in dry-dock. ETS next week. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ANGLIAN SOVEREIGN (U.K.)
Maassluis, Sep 21 -- Anchor handling tug/supply Anglian Sovereign is still in dock. The people at Damen Shiprepair couldn't say when it will be ready. They are investigating the ship and trying to find out what to do. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

APACHE (U.S.A.)
Miami, Sep 15 -- Resolve Towing report that tank barge Apache came off the grounding on Sep 7 and is back in service. No damage, only paint scrapes. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ATLANTIC HURON (Canada)
Troy, Michigan, Sep 15 -- Bulk Atlantic Huron (22746 gt, built 1984) limped into the Goderich harbour with a broken propeller late last week. A team from Shelley Machine and Marine, Sarnia arrived with three new blades for the vessel and spent the rest of the day and much of the night doing the repairs. The vessel was empty when it arrived, making the tricky repairs easier to accomplish. Repairs were completed and it took on wheat and departed for Halifax. -- Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

ATLANTIS (Germany)
London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated Sep 15, states: The repair of ferry Atlantis (1525 gt, built 1972) which is at Cuxhaven with a broken crankshaft can now go ahead. Shipowner Cassen Eils has found a spare engine, which is now in England, but will be delivered to Cuxhaven in November. For the 2006 season Atlantis is to operate again on charter of the Foerde shipping company between Bremerhaven and Helgoland.

AYGAZ 4 (Turkey)
London, Sep 21 -- Lpg Aygaz 4, Dortyol for Yarimca, passed Dardanelles Sep 19.

AZTEC (Greece)
London, Sep 22 -- Crude oil tanker Aztec arrived New York Sep 19 from St. Petersburg.

AZUR (Antigua & Barbuda)
Szczecin, Sep 16 -- General cargo Azur is still moored in Gryfia Repair Shipyard, Szczecin. According to the representative of the shipyard the planned repairs to the main engine consist in the exchange of burst ram part crank and connected works. The vessel owner is waiting for the delivery of necessary parts. Repairs are estimated to last three to four weeks. -- Correspondent.

B. No.120 (U.S.A.)
See "Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts, United States" under "Pollution."

BALTICA HAV (Bahamas)
London, Sep 16 -- Information received from Sandnes, dated today: General cargo Baltica Hav (1528 gt, built 1983) from Storoy, experienced engine trouble and grounded near Haugesund at 2200, local time, Sep 15. Vessel only aground slightly, refloated and towed to Haugesund for inspection. No injuries to crew, and only minor damage to vessel.

London, Sep 20 -- Information received from Sandnes, dated today: General cargo Baltica Hav was drydocked in Skudeneshavn Sep 17. Vessel completed repairs 1600, Sep 19 and sailed from Skudeneshavn at 0800, local time, today for Sandnes. Vessel arrived Sandnes at 1200, local time, today and will continue to Sogndal Sep 21.

BALTIMAR VENUS (Bahamas)
Durban, Sep 22 -- General cargo Baltimar Venus (2854 gt, built 1990), Singapore for Durban, encountered heavy weather which resulted in the vessel experiencing heavy rolling of over 30 degrees and a roll period of about 6 sec. On Sep 1 while making daily rounds inspecting the cargo in the holds the Chief Officer reported damages to the vessel and cargo. At 0910, local time, Sep 1, in lat 06 12S, long 82 30E, due to the shifting of the cargo in the 'tween deck the vessel sustained damage to the hull and cargo and altered course and reduced

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speed to reduce the rolling and pitching. Additional lashing and tightening was placed on all cargo in the lower hold and 'tween deck. The vessel arrived Durban Sep 15 and berthed alongside Maydon Wharf 12. Inspection on arrival revealed that shifting and damage had been sustained to the cargo on the 'tween deck and lower hold forward areas. The vessel had sustained structural damage on the port and starboard of the single cargo hold at the 'tween deck between frames 78 and 82 with inner bulkheads suffering penetration. The following structural damages were sustained: Port side: Inner bulkhead, gallery floor, frame 80 (HP 180), frame 81 (HP 110), frame 82 (deep web), flange bar, vertical box profile, brackets and support inserts. Starboard side: Inner bulkhead, gallery floor, frame 80 (HP 180), frame 81 (HP 110), air truck casing, frame 79 horizontal gusset, flat bar stiffener, vertical box profile and support inserts. Cargo discharge operations were completed Sep 16 with repairs to the vessel commencing on Sep 17. The vessel at present is due to sail pm today with the next port of call reported to be Mossel Bay -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Baltimar Venus sailed Singapore 1135, Aug 25.)

BARKA (Turkey)

Istanbul, Sep 21 -- At 2320, local time, Sep 20, while transiting the Dardanelles, general cargo Barka (697 gt, built 1980), Gemlik for Eleusis, had engine breakdown and anchored near Cardak.

BELO HORIZONTE (Hong Kong)

London, Sep 16 -- A press report, dated Sep 15, states: Fire crews today fought a blaze on a cargo ship packed with 10,000 tonnes of coal. The fire broke out in one of the holds of bulk Belo Horizonte docked at Hunterston port in North Ayrshire. Three fire crews battled to control the blaze overnight and today two relief crews took over. This morning smoke could be seen billowing from the ship's hull and seeping out through the deck. Staff at the port, in Fairlie near Largs, raised the alarm at 1630 hrs, yesterday when fire broke out in one of seven holds of the Hong Kong-registered vessel. Only a small part of the massive cargo of coal caught fire but firefighters with breathing apparatus fought to prevent the blaze spreading. The ship's 22 crew members were not hurt and were allowed to stay on board. Billy Sim, assistant divisional officer with Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, said: "It's a deep-seated smouldering fire in one of the holds. Fires of this type are very serious incidents. This is likely to be a protracted incident and fire crews will be in attendance for some considerable time. Our crews immediately set up covering jets to prevent the fire escalating and to protect the contents of the adjoining holds from further damage. We have sent relief crews out this morning. We will continue to be in attendance for

the rest of the day." The ship is docked in one of Hunterston's deep water ports. Fire investigators were at the 120-acre yard today but the cause of the blaze is still unknown. Mr Sim added: "Fire crews are working with the Port Authority and are excavating the contents. They are wearing breathing apparatus and using a jet to damp down the fire. We have three fire appliances and a specialist high-reach vehicle on site. The cause of the fire is as yet unknown and an investigation will be carried out." Today experts from port owners Clydeport and fire crews began shifting coal from the smouldering hold to a safe one, using industrial-sized grabbers. The mounds of coal had to be sprayed with water to cool them down before being moved. This process was expected to take most of the day to ensure the area was safe. A Clydeport spokesman said: "Hunterston terminal is one of the main coal import sites in the UK. Staff there have tremendous experience and there are procedures for dealing with this kind of situation."

Glasgow, Sep 19 -- Bulk Belo Horizonte sustained no damage as a result of the fire. The vessel completed discharge and sailed Sep 17. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CHAOYANGPING NO.8 (China)

London, Sep 18 -- A press report, dated Sep 17, states: Two vessels collided on the Huangpu River, causing a leakage of 50 tons of gasoline, at 1140, local time, today, in Shanghai, according to sources with the Shanghai Municipal Maritime Bureau. Product tanker Chaoyangping No.8, a 3,000 ton-class tanker loaded with gasoline, collided with another 3,000 ton vessel carrying rolled steel, at the water space near the Jungong road pier of the Huangpu River, and the fourth and fifth cabins on the right side of Chaoyangping No.8 were broken with two holes, and 50 tons of gasoline spilled into the river, with the formation of a 100-metre by 220-metre smeary spill on the river. Another vessel was also affected. Emergency efforts were taken by the Shanghai Maritime Bureau, and all nearby vessels evacuated, and all the gasoline on the accident vessel unloaded. An investigation is underway into the cause of the accident.

London, Sep 18 -- Following received from Beijing MRCC, timed 0115, UTC: The other vessel involved in yesterday's collision on the Huangpu River was called Wu Shan, no further details, (? general cargo Wu Shan (2258 gt, built 1991). (Note -- Wu Shan arrived Busan Sep 10 from Shanghai.)

London, Sep 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: Maritime rescuers say they had completely cleaned up a 50-ton gasoline spill on the Huangpu River yesterday, which resulted from a collision between an oil tanker and a cargo vessel on Saturday morning (Sep 17). Authorities were concerned the spill could lead to an explosion, particularly as it was located only a few dozen metres from a river bank

that is home to several oil refineries. Pollution of the river and tap water sources was also a concern. Product tanker Chaoyangping No.8, an oil tanker registered in Zhejiang Province, was carrying 3,000 tons of gasoline to the Gaoqiao Oil Purchase and Supply Station in Pudong just before noon on Saturday when general cargo Wu Shan, a 3,000-ton cargo vessel from Fujian Province, rammed into it. The collision took place near a dock on Jungong Road. Sailors on the oil tanker said the cargo vessel was banking out of its berth to leave the port when it crashed into the tanker. The oil vessel's first mate, Yu Songbo, said the cargo vessel failed to sound its siren three times before backing up, as required by rules, which led to the accident. Clean-up workers spent more than four hours removing all of the fuel from the tanker, and then cleaned up a 20-metre-long stretch of spilled fuel. The collision left two holes in the side of the oil vessel and two oil-storage cabins on its right side began to pour gasoline into the river. The captain immediately ordered the crew to open the spare cargo holds to take in fuel from the broken cabins, but sailors quickly lost control of the situation. Escorted by alert maritime patrol boats, the oil tanker arrived at the Gaoqiao oil station just after 1300. "Gasoline vaporizes very quickly under the sun," said an unidentified maritime official. "The gas vapors are very dangerous in terms of causing explosions." Nearly 100 firefighters and at least seven fire engines arrived on the scene to prevent a blast. Firefighters continually sprayed the air with water to dilute gas fumes, and police blocked off a one kilometre area around the dock. Pedestrians walking past the area were told to turn off any electronic devices to avoid creating a spark. Several witnesses said when the vessel first arrived at the dock they could hardly breathe because the air was filled with a strong smell of gasoline. All of the oil still stored on the vessel after the collision was successfully transferred to the oil station early yesterday morning.

London, Sep 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: A small vessel (general cargo Wu Shan) is under investigation for smashing into an oil tanker on the Huangpu River Saturday (Sep 17), causing the tanker to spill some 50 tons of oil. Product tanker Chaoyangping No.8, carried 3,010 tons of oil from Dalian, Liaoning Province to Shanghai when a small vessel from Fuzhou, Fujian Province rammed into it on the Wusongkou waters at noon. The collision created a one-metre hole in the middle of the right side of the tanker, causing oil to pour out. "We warned it (the ship), but it didn't swerve aside," the tanker's chief said. After the oil began to leak, captain Kong Jiangzhong said he immediately ordered his staff to funnel the oil from the leaking cabins into a sewage cabin. He called the maritime police and fire fighters at the same time. The tanker was finally moved to the wharf. Xue Dezhong, an

official from the city's maritime authorities, said since the collision happened two nautical miles from the wharf, the leakage was not very serious. "Luckily, it was the ebbing time," said a staff worker from a nearby wharf. "The oil dispersed quickly. By 1500 in the afternoon, the strong smell had almost died out." The hole was closed up at 1600, and the oil was diluted enough to be considered safe at 1700.

CHIEN-HSING (China)

London, Sep 20 -- A press report, dated Sep 18, states: The Coast Guard yesterday rescued eight crew members from Chinese general cargo Chien-hsing after the vessel ran into shoals off the coastline of Kinmen Island (? Jinmen Island, lat 24 27N, long 118 23E). Chien-hsing, yesterday departed Guangzhou and was en route to Fuchien (? Fuzhou) when the accident occurred. The crew members on board abandoned ship and sent out S.O.S. messages to both the Chinese and Taiwanese authorities. The Coast Guards from Kinmen Island arrived on the scene in the nick of time and rescued the crew members minutes before the lifeboat sank. The refugees were sent back to China after nearby fishing vessels arrived.

COLLARROY (Australia)

London, Sept 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: Manly ferry Collaroy (1184 gt, built 1988) struck Circular Quay Wharf Two, Sydney, at approximately 1315 this afternoon. Two of the 200 or so people on board suffered minor injuries. Passengers were showered with glass as windows on board the ferry shattered on impact. Both the ferry and the wharf were damaged. Sydney Ferries chief executive Sue Sinclair said the incident would be referred to an independent investigator to determine the cause of the crash. It would be the third such incident under investigation in the past 12 months. Collaroy would not be used again until it had been cleared by a team of engineers and maintenance workers, she said. She could not say how long that process would take. Jetcat services would fill in for the service, she said. She said the Collaroy had "from time to time" had control problems but added that was common in Sydney Ferries' fleet and had not necessarily contributed to the crash.

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: The chairman of Sydney Ferries has resigned after drug and alcohol testing procedures were bungled following an accident earlier this week. Matthew Taylor tendered his resignation after ferry Collaroy, carrying 200 people, rammed into a wharf at Circular Quay on Monday (Sep 19). Sydney Ferries' general manager of safety, Robert Fornasari, has also quit. NSW Transport Minister John Watkins today said that after the accident, NSW police tested the ferry's master and engineer for alcohol, and a Sydney Ferries contractor conducted drug and alcohol tests on the engineer

and one general-purpose hand. But the master was not tested for drugs and three other general-purpose hands were left with incomplete drug or alcohol tests within the three-hour testing period. "This lapse in carrying out critical safety procedures is unacceptable," Mr Watkins told parliament today. He said Mr Taylor had tendered his resignation and would be replaced by Leighton Holdings chairman Geoff Ashton, who will step in as acting chairman. Opposition transport spokesman Barry O'Farrell said Mr Watkins should take responsibility for misinformation and bungling which followed Monday's crash. "The minister assured a budget estimates hearing on Tuesday that drug and alcohol tests had been administered," Mr O'Farrell told reporters. Mr O'Farrell said the case highlighted "serious systemic problems" within Sydney Ferries. Mr Watkins said he had originally been advised by the Sydney Ferries board and chief executive Sue Sinclair that all tests had been conducted. Inquiries into the accident were continuing and Sydney Ferries' drug and alcohol testing protocol would be reviewed, Mr Watkins said. "The cause of the crash is not yet known, but will be determined and appropriate action will be taken," he said.

COMAR PRIMO (Italy)

Ancona, Sep 19 -- Salvage operations on floating crane Comar Primo are still in progress. A salvage attempt was made Sep 18 but was unsuccessful due to a major leak. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CONCORDE (Luxembourg)

Vigo, Sep 19 -- Product tanker Concorde (3057 gt, built 2003) proceeded to the port of Vigo yesterday (Vigo roads at 1200, local time, and berthed at 1430) due to turbo charger damage. The vessel was escorted to berth by local tug Alejandro Jose as per Harbour-master's request, due to the dangerous methanol and coal tar cargo in transit. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CORNER BROOK (Bermuda)

Piraeus, Sep 16 -- General cargo Corner Brook was sold and renamed Ner B., under Comoros flag, with a new radio call sign of D6CV9. The vessel sailed from Piraeus port on Sep 5, bound for Turkey. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CROWN GARNET (Panama)

London, Sep 21 -- Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 1432, UTC: Ref Crown Garnet (10519 gt, built 1996) anchored at San Juan anchorage at 1806, local time, Sep 20, reporting a main engine governor activator problem. The vessel will be towed to a berth at San Juan for repairs.

London, Sep 22 -- Information received, dated Hong Kong today, states: Wallem Shipmanagement Ltd, managers of ref Crown Garnet state that while the vessel did report failure of the main engine governor to the US Costa Guard at San Juan anchorage, as per USCG regulations, the ship's

engines were safely manoeuvrable using manual local control at all times. The vessel berthed at San Juan entirely under its own power, with no towage being necessary. Harbour tugs only assisted as per custom of the port for normal berthing operation. Following an inspection, the USCG has released the vessel, which is sailing from San Juan fully manoeuvrable and under its own power for normal trading operations.

DISHA (Malta)

New Delhi, Sep 19 -- Tugs pulling Lng Disha (94058 gt, built 2003) smashed into a jetty at Dahej in Gujarat, damaging a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal, gas transporter GAIL (India) Ltd. said. The mishap at the country's busiest LNG terminal, occurred on Saturday (Sep 17), and plans were afoot to divert cargo to the country's only other LNG terminal, in Hazira, also in Gujarat, GAIL said in a statement late yesterday. "Tugs of Disha hit the dolphin piles of the jetty. The LNG ship was casting off after unloading the cargo," it said. India's Petronet LNG, which operates the terminal, has approached foreign firms to assess the damage and repair the terminal, GAIL said. GAIL, India's biggest gas transporter, has requested domestic gas producers to step up supply to help tide over a shortfall. -- Reuters.

London, Sep 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: Gail (India) Ltd today announced that strong winds of over 40 knots have caused an accident at the R-LNG Terminal Petronet LNG Ltd at Dahej, on Saturday, when the tugs of Lng Disha hit the dolphin piles of the jetty. The LNG ship was casting off after unloading the cargo. PLL is evaluating the extent of damage and working out immediate counter measures. Plans are also afoot to divert cargo expected on Wednesday to Shell's Hazira LNG terminal and maintain supply. Prosad Dasgupta, MD, PLL visited Dahej LNG Terminal for an on the spot assessment of the extent of repair work. PLL has already approached BNI, Netherlands and TTI, UK, the designers for executing the repair works. The Company main marketer and transporter of R-LNG from Dahej, has taken steps to maintain supply to customers and also evacuate gas from Hazira LNG Terminal of Shell. The Company has also drawn up contingency plan to maintain supply of natural gas to its customers using the available stock of LNG at Dahej terminal. In order to reduce the impact of the shortage of supply on customers caused by the accident, the Company has requested ONGC and PMT JV to augment their supplies.

London, Sep 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: Petronet LNG Ltd said its LNG jetty at Dahej was not affected by Saturday's minor mishap and that operations were safe and supplies unaffected. "Two of the 30 fenders or breasting dolphins were brushed/dented on Sept 17 when tugs of Lng Disha hit the Dolphin piles.

The jetty is fully safe," a senior company official said. Supplies of regassified-LNG have not been impacted due to the accident, the official said, adding BNI of Netherlands and TTI of UK, the designers who built the jetty, have been flown in to assess any damage. "No decision has been taken either to postpone receipt of the next LNG ship at Dahej on Sep 20-21 or to divert it to any other LNG terminal," he said. Initial assessment suggested that the jetty was in shape to receive the LNG tanker on Sep 21 but Petronet was taking no chances and had commissioned BNI to do a detailed assessment. "The other fenders are ok." The mishap occurred when strong winds of over 40 knots lead to snapping of the tow cord between the tug and Disha, resulting in brushing of two fenders by the tug. The LNG ship was casting off after unloading the cargo, the official said.

DOGGER (Bahamas)

Falmouth, Sep 19 -- General cargo Dogger completed repairs Sep 16 and sailed the same day for Brage. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ELQUI (Uruguay)

Stanley, Sep 16 -- Fishing Elqui is to be scuttled later this month. The vessel has been emptied of all fuels and stripped of anything that was moveable. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ESTEFOX (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Sep 20 -- Following received from Piraeus MRCC, timed 0735, UTC: General cargo Estefox, V2UL, (2610 gt, built 1980), Ukraine for Italy, cargo approximately 4,500 tonnes steel products, is still adrift with an engine problem. The vessel has not requested any assistance. (Note -- Estefox was reported in lat 37 50.62N, long 24 30.5E, with a mechanical failure.)

London, Sep 20 -- Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1430, UTC: General cargo Estefox is still adrift. Tug Agios Dimitrios is en route from Piraeus to assist and is due on scene at approximately 2030, local time, today.

London, Sep 20 -- Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 2000, UTC: General cargo Estefox: Tug Agios Dimitrios is on scene alongside the casualty. The tug has a line on board Estefox and crew are attempting to effect repairs.

London, Sep 21 -- Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0913, UTC: General cargo Estefox is presently under tow to Piraeus, ETA 1100, UTC.

London, Sep 22 -- Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0927, UTC: General cargo Estefox is now at Piraeus anchorage.

FLYING DOLPHIN X (Greece)

London, Sep 19 -- Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the morning of Sep 17, while hydrofoil Flying Dolphin X (142 gt, built 1978) was sailing from Piraeus bound for Aegina with 29 passengers,

it sustained damage to the port main engine. Following the incident the vessel returned safely to Piraeus with one engine in operation. Flying Dolphin X was prohibited to sail pending survey of the repairs.

FOWAIRET (Qatar)

Maassluis, Sep 20 -- C.c. Fowairet (48154 gt, built 1998), Thamesport for Antwerp (Europa Container Terminal), was grounded on River Schelde, near river buoy No.53, at about 0530, local time, today. Tugs underway. No damage known. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Sept 20 -- Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: C.c. Fowairet ran aground today one hour after flood when passing the Schelde upstream, close to buoy 53A. Tugs Barracuda, Gent., Evergem, Zeeland, Drado, WalcherenP., Union Diamond, Lieven Geveart and Union 9 gathered around the fully laden ship which is listing a bit to port. A first attempt to get the vessel free failed. The weather on scene is calm.

London, Sep 20 -- Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1028, UTC: C.c. Fowairet grounded near Flushing, in lat 51 24.42N, 04 01.57E, at approximately 0430, UTC, today. The vessel is now believed to be breaking up.

Zeebrugge, Sep 20 -- C.c. Fowairet is currently reported to be breaking up. Vessel traffic into and out of Antwerp has been halted as a result. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Sep 20 -- Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: C.c. Fowairet has been evacuated because it threatens to break in two. The vessel, which is lying on a sandbar close to Perkpolder, was coming from London and on the way to Antwerp, when it ran aground in spite of a pilot being on board at 0515, local time. The master at first refused to call for help. The ship has a load of 1,952 containers, 200 of them with dangerous goods. Police and fire brigade are on the spot as well as tugs from Multraship, Terneuzen, and Unie van Reddings en Sleepdienst (Union) from Antwerp. With the next flood at about 1700 hrs. the next attempt to free the vessel is planned. If it fails the vessel will have to be lightered.

Maassluis, Sep 20 -- C.c. Fowairet: Eleven tugs arrived on scene at 0730 hrs. The first attempt to refloat the vessel was suspended at 0815 hrs and will be resumed next high tide at 1715 hrs. At 1133 hrs there is a danger ship will break in two, because of that there is a possibility of leaking dangerous gas. Ships are not allowed to come in or leave because of this incident. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Maassluis, Sep 20 -- C.c. Fowairet has sustained cracked fuel tanks which have leaked 600 tons of fuel. During the course of this afternoon, salvors will try to pump out the remaining fuel and refloat the vessel at high tide. It is not presently certain whether the vessel will be able to proceed to Antwerp after being refloated. At 1320, local time, the vessel's No 5 hatch was reported to be

under water. The fuel tanks cannot be closed down because the stop-valves are also under water. Floating cranes are under way to remove the damaged containers with dangerous goods from the vessel. The speedway to Flushing has been closed down due to leaking gas. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Zeebrugge, Sep 20 -- C.c. Fowairet refloated at 1725, local time, and is returning to Flushing roads. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Sep 21 -- C.c. Fowairet, owned by United Arab Shipping Co that grounded on the River Scheldt near Antwerp early yesterday morning, was refloated last night. However, the 3,802 teu Fowairet has a four metre crack and will now be drydocked for repairs, UASC's president and chief executive Ken Sorensen said. The vessel, carrying nearly 2,000 containers, had been under pilotage heading for the Belgian port when it veered from the channel and became stuck in the mud. Although there was no immediate damage to the vessel, it later started to crack as the tide receded. But there was no danger of it sinking and the crew was safe. The company said the starboard oil tank appeared to have fractured, resulting in some pollution. "We are working very closely with the salvors and the local authorities to contain any fuel that has escaped," a company spokesman said. A barge was alongside to lighten the fuel load. The vessel is carrying 129 containers loaded with hazardous cargo, all of which are stowed safely with no damage reported. The vessel had come from Thamesport in the UK. UASC signed a Lloyd's Open Form with local salvors URS, part of the Smit group. The Kuwait headquartered company said the cause of the grounding was still unclear. "In the meantime, our focus is entirely on the safety of the crew, the minimising of any pollution risks and salvage of the cargo and ship."

London, Sep 21 -- Understand salvage services were rendered to c.c. Fowairet by URS Salvage & Maritime Contracting NV and Multraship Salvage BV under Lloyd's Open Form.

London, Sep 21 -- Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0750, UTC: C.c. Fowairet is now at Sloehaven, Flushing.

London, Sep 22 -- Work continued yesterday to save the c.c. Fowairet, which went aground in the River Scheldt on Tuesday (Sep 20). The United Arab Shipping Co vessel sustained hogging damage and flooding in No.5 hold and is now held in Flushing harbour pending discharge. There is a boom around the vessel and temporary repairs are being made to prevent any further oil leakage. UASC signed a Lloyd's Open Form contract with joint salvors Terneuzen-based Multraship Salvage and URS Salvage and Maritime Contracting. The vessel was loaded with close to 2,000 containers, 200 of which contain hazardous cargo. According to a Multraship statement, leakage from a cracked fuel tank has

been contained by anti-pollution craft using sweepers. The salvors mobilised 14 tugs, a floating crane and barges for the operation which began at high water in the evening as the master initially refused to accept a salvage contract, Multiraship said. The salvage firm's managing director Leendert Muller said yesterday: "Once again, this incident demonstrates how the authorities rely on expert salvors to invest in equipment and expert staff, and for them to be ready when an incident occurs. More and more vessels carrying dangerous cargo are transiting the River Scheldt and its highly populated areas, and authorities need to think carefully about the salvage capacity which is available. We are the only thing which prevents disaster, but so far we see no sign of the authorities factoring that into their plans or providing appropriate support."

GRAMPIAN DAWN (U.K.)

See *Grampian Princess* under "Miscellaneous."

GRAMPIAN PRINCESS (U.K.)

See under "Miscellaneous."

GRETE THERESA (Singapore)

Noumea, Sep 16 -- Chemical/oil carrier *Grete Theresa* is now safely at Noumea Terminal, and an inspection in respect of repairs has been carried out. -- Lloyd's Agents.

GSF ARCTIC I (Vanuatu)

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

HANNAH LEE

See *Spartia*.

HERA (Norway (Int. Register))

London, Sep 16 -- A SvitserWijsmuller Salvage report, dated Jul 11, states: SvitserWijsmuller Salvage BV's tug *Svitser Duke* was instructed on Jul 9 by owners and underwriters of *Lpg Hera* (9576 gt, built 1977), loaded with ethylene, to proceed towards the immobilised carrier. The vessel at that stage was located 35 miles south-west off the Iranian coast, 90 miles east-north-east from Bahrain. *Svitser Duke* mobilised immediately from its station in Qatar and after a bunker stop arrived on site at 1930, local time, Jul 10 and connected up to the vessel. *Hera* subsequently was towed to Bahrain where it was anchored at the anchorage on Jul 11. *Svitser Duke* was released from its services late that same evening. (Note -- *Hera* had sailed Jubail Jul 2.)

Bahrain, Sep 21 -- *Lpg Hera* arrived Sitra Inner Anchorage Jul 11 under tow. Vessel loaded an external power pack, procured from Asry Yard. Vessel sailed Jul 16 to outer anchorage, discharged the power pack on to a tug, and sailed for Dubai for drydocking. -- Lloyd's Agents.

INGWENYA (South Africa)

See *Umfolzi*.

IONIAN QUEEN (Cyprus)

Piraeus, Sep 15 -- Passenger ro/ro *Ionian Queen* sailed from Patras port on Aug 21, bound to Iguomenitsa/Bari. No repairs were reported. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ISERAN (France)

London, Sep 15 -- Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1602, UTC: Fishing *Iseran* arrived Newlyn at around 1200, UTC, and is presently alongside.

JAG LALIT (India)

London, Sep 16 -- Crude oil tanker *Jag Lalit* arrived and sailed Singapore Sep 10.

JAKOB MAERSK (DIS)

London, Sep 21 -- Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 1750, UTC: *Lpg Jakob Maersk* (23878 gt, built 1991), departed Trinidad yesterday, reported fuel leak problems about 170 miles off San Juan, today. Exact position not known. Vessel is now proceeding to Tampa.

JAMES (U.S.A.)

London, Sep 19 -- A Coast Guard Corpus Christi press release, dated Sep 18, states: The Coast Guard was notified at 0330 hrs that *James* (40 gt, built 1982) capsized in San Antonio Bay, approximately 20 miles south-west of Port O'Connor in the Intracoastal Waterway. All three crewmembers were recovered without injury by tug *Amanda*. Three tugs were towing a drilling platform in tandem when *James* overturned in the channel. The tug has an estimated 1,500 gallons of fuel remaining on board and containment boom has been placed around the vessel. The Coast Guard is working with the owners to co-ordinate the salvage and clean-up. A Coast Guard HH-65 helicopter from Corpus Christi flew over the scene to assess the situation. The Intracoastal Waterway is currently closed to all traffic, and safety broadcasts are being made to advise mariners of the closure.

JAMES A.HANNAH (U.S.A.)

Troy, Michigan, Sep 17 -- Tug *James A.Hannah* (592 gt, built 1945) reported a fire in the product boiler yesterday as the tug and barge was approaching Lock 2 while downbound in the Welland Canal. Originally the Captain stated that his crew was checking out the situation but a later call to Seaway Welland indicated the tug required assistance. St Catharines Fire Department was on scene quickly and the local Police cordoned off the area. The barge is carrying a cargo of liquid asphalt. -- Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping News.

JAMES PRIOR (U.K.)

London, Sep 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *James Prior* (191 gt, built 1963) has crashed into the underside of Battersea Bridge, causing traffic diversions during the evening rush hour while the structure was closed.

The gravel-carrying vessel became wedged under one of the arches this evening but was moved as the tide went out. Three people were on board the vessel when it hit the road bridge but are thought to have escaped injury. The bridge has been closed to traffic in both directions. A Scotland Yard spokeswoman said: "There were no injuries. The marine support unit have attended the scene. The bridge is currently closed to traffic as a precaution"

London, Sep 21 -- A Maritime & Coastguard Agency press release, timed 2058, UTC, Sep 20, states: London Coastguard assisted general cargo *James Prior* this evening after it became stuck under Battersea Road Bridge. The vessel called the Coastguard at 1735 this afternoon to report the accident. There were three crew on board, none of whom were injured. The wheelhouse was severely damaged, but there was no pollution. London Coastguard requested the launch of the Chiswick and Tower Lifeboats. In addition the Fire and Rescue Service vessel *Fire Dart* and police attended the scene. The Port of London Authority patrol launch *Ravensbourne II* was also on scene. In accordance with normal procedure, the master of the vessel was breathalysed by the Port of London Authority and the test was negative. Frank Aubin-Hart, London Coastguard Watch Manager says: "The vessel was successfully towed out from under the bridge by the tug *Rose Steel* and is now safely alongside. All search and rescue assets have now departed the area. The Marine Accident Investigation Branch has been informed. We have been working with the Port of London Authority who are now launching an investigation."

London, Sep 21 -- One of London's oldest bridges could be shut to traffic for weeks after it was hit by general cargo *James Prior*. Engineers were at Battersea Bridge today, inspecting damage caused when the vessel got wedged under one of the arches the night before. Three people on board escaped injury when the vessel hit the road bridge. It is not known how it became wedged. It is thought the bridge was quite badly damaged and may not open to cars for weeks and to buses for months. Engineers will return to the bridge at 1700, BST in a vessel with a special hoist to allow them to inspect the arches. A Transport for London spokeswoman said they would have a better idea tomorrow when the bridge would re-open. There was a high tide and the vessel was riding high in the water because it was not carrying any gravel. It was moved when the tide went out. The bridge is currently closed to traffic both ways but is open to pedestrians.

JOSEPH H.THOMPSON (U.S.A.)

London, Sep 21 -- A press report, dated Sep 20, states: Barge *Joseph H.Thompson* (14356 gt, built 1944) and pusher tug *Joseph H.Thompson Jr.* (841 gt, built 1990) ran aground

this morning en route to unload salt at the Cutler-Magner dock in Duluth. The vessel, a saltwater vessel which was converted to a self-unloading barge, passed under the Aerial Lift Bridge at 0814 but never made it to its destination. Lt. Scott Stoermer of the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit said the master of the vessel notified the Coast Guard of his predicament. The vessel has been given until 1500 to attempt to free itself. After that time, the Coast Guard may intervene. Stoermer explained that the Coast Guard does not want the stuck vessel to impede maritime traffic and hopes to see it extricated before sundown. In an effort to free the barge, the operator has unhooked the tug and pushed and pulled at the vessel from a variety of angles to little avail. As of late this afternoon, Stoermer said the crew also was ballasting down the barge's stern in attempt to budge the hull off the shoal, where it came to rest. Joseph H. Thompson is owned by Upper Lakes Towing Inc. of Escanaba, Mich.

London, Sep 21 -- Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 0215, UTC: Barge Joseph H. Thompson, being pushed by pusher tug Joseph H. Thompson Jr., is currently aground in Duluth harbour. A barge arrived alongside to lighten the vessel at 2100, UTC. No reports of any damage. The reason for the grounding is unknown at present.

London, Sep 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Ten hours after it ran aground in the Duluth Harbor Basin barge Joseph

H. Thompson was pulled free at 1830 yesterday and docked under its own power. The vessel ran aground yesterday morning en route to unloading 19,000 tons of salt at the Cutler-Magner dock in Duluth. The vessel was refloated after its owners unloaded some of the salt onto a contracted hopper barge, said Chief Steve Wolfe of the U.S. Coast Guard in Duluth. Wolfe said no damage to the barge was immediately noted. The ship later docked at the Hallett Terminal in Duluth, where more of the salt was off-loaded before it heads to Cutler-Magner today.

JOSEPH H. THOMPSON JR. (U.S.A.)

See Joseph H. Thompson.

KATHLEEN LOUISE 3 (South Africa)

London, Sep 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: The skipper of Saldanha Bay trawler Kathleen Louise 3 (length 20.45 metres, built 1999) has been lost at sea after his boat capsized and sank north of Robben Island last night. Eight crewmen were rescued, and two of them are in the Christiaan Barnard Hospital. A search for the missing skipper was called off after survivors reported that they had seen him go down with the boat while trapped in the wheelhouse. But Craig Lambinon, National Sea Rescue Institute spokesman, said the NSRI/CHC Heline rescue helicopter had gone out early today to search for the

skipper. The survivors spent an hour in the water before help arrived in the form of another fishing vessel. The SA Maritime Safety Authority would investigate the incident, said spokesman Saleem Modak. The 20m Kathleen Louise 3 had begun shipping water and listing late yesterday, said Pat van Eyssen, NSRI station commander in Table Bay. The boat had sunk in minutes, surviving crew said. Kathleen Louise 3 was on its way to St Helena Bay with a 60-ton cargo of fish when water flooded into its fish holds and it became unstable. The crew desperately began to bail, but they could not cope with the inrush of water. With her stability gone, it capsized and sank quickly. There was no clear indication why it had started taking water. "The NSRI was called at 2132 yesterday by Cape Town port control and told of the incident, about 12 nautical miles north of Robben Island," Van Eyssen said. "The boat, with a crew of nine, was said to be sinking in choppy seas with a swell of about 1.5 metres. "The wind was light, about 15 knots from the south-east. "Trawler Oceana Mercury went to help and rescued eight crewmen. A ninth person was missing. "Six of the survivors were in a satisfactory condition, but two needed treatment for injuries," Van Eyssen said. Both men were reported in a stable condition today, one with suspected rib fractures and the other with a suspected pelvic injury. Modak said the SA Maritime Safety Authority would investigate the incident to determine the cause of the sinking and procedures followed during the rescue.

London, Sept 19 -- Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1115, UTC: Trawler Kathleen Louise 3 sank in lat 33 38S, long 18 16E. Eight persons were rescued and one person still missing.

London, Sep 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: The search for a sailor who went missing off Robben Island in the Western Cape on Sunday night has been called off, the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) said. The man went missing around 2130 hrs when his vessel, trawler Kathleen Louise 3, capsized and sank after apparently taking on water and listing. Survivors reported that the vessel sunk in a short space of time after capsizing. "The search for the missing person has been called off and vessels in the area have been alerted to keep a look-out," Pat van Eyssen, NSRI Table Bay Station Commander said. "The situation has been handed over to the SA Police Services. The NSRI remain on stand-by and vessels in the area are alerted to be on the look-out." The Canadian Helicopter Company and the NSRI had been searching for the man since dawn. The area where the vessel went down is around 60 metres deep. The SA Police Dive Unit and the SA Navy Dive Unit may dive in the area today.

KIPEROUSA (Malta)

London, Sep 21 -- A SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV report,

dated today, states: Bulk Kiperousa: The cargo recovery operation at East London is still in full swing. Daily the SvitzerWijsmuller salvage crew boards the stranded vessel.

KOZNITSA (Bulgaria)

London, Sep 20 -- Bulk Koznitsa sailed from Malaga on Sep 16 bound for Sibenik.

LADOGA 101 (Russia)

St. Petersburg, Sep 21 -- General cargo Ladoga 101 is still aground. All cargo from the vessel was reloaded on to general cargo Ladoga 12. At present the specialists are inspecting the casualty in order to ascertain the extent of the damage. -- Lloyd's Agents.

LADY HAMILTON (Hong Kong)

London, Sep 20 -- Bulk Lady Hamilton arrived at Cadiz on Sep 18 from Thunder Bay.

LEADER I (Malta)

London, Sep 17 -- A press report, dated Sep 12, states: One fisherman was dead and another missing early Monday (Sep 12) after a fishing vessel collided with a Maltese-registered freighter in the South Sea, South Korea's coast guard said. Fishing 2053 Daejin (29 gt) sank after colliding with bulk Leader I (20394 gt, built 1984) at around 0330 in waters 33 kilometres southeast of Mara Island. (Note -- Leader I sailed Kinuura Sep 9 for China.)

Busan, Sep 21 -- Fishing 2003 Daejin, not 2053 Daejin as before reported, is lying sunk at the site without a salvage operation scheduled. We understand that a salvage operation for 2003 Daejin is reportedly unfeasible due to the deep depth of water at the site. Bulk Leader I sailed from the site bound for Incheon, Korea for loading cargo, on Sep 14. It was reported that Leader I sustained minor scratch and dents damage to its bow area as a result of the collision. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Sep 22 -- Bulk Leader I sailed Incheon Sep 17 bound Yingkou.

LONG XUYEN (Vietnam)

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

MAERSK BARCELONA (Bahamas)

See "Brittany, France" under "Pollution."

MALASPINA CASTLE (Cayman Island)

London, Sep 16 -- Bulk Malaspina Castle sailed Uusikaupunki Sep 13.

MICHELLE (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Sept 19 -- SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV reports state: Dated Sept 17: SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV continues operations to remove bunkers and other pollutant substances from the semi sunk general cargo Michelle. After a weather break of about a week, during which the work/crane barge Anna and tug Warlock shelter in Ymuiden, the

convoy departed for the operating theatre during this afternoon. It is the intention to anchor the barge on site as from daybreak tomorrow and to start up the planned removal operations. Dated Sept 18: SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV at about 1830, local time, today started the actual removal of the bunkers from Michelle. This could be achieved due to the pre-weather break executed preparational work including installing the necessary valves onto the bunker tanks of the casualty. It should be kept in mind that the water depth on site is 40 metres and that the casualty is resting on its side with its stern on the sea bottom and the bow still in a floating condition. Dated today: SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV at about 0030, local time, today has completed the discharge of oil from the first tank of Michelle. Some 30 cubic metres of heavy fuel oil was removed. Operations are to continue later today as the diving times are relatively short due to the spring tide which causes excessive currents in the area.

London, Sep 21 -- A SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV report, dated Sep 20, states: At about 1415, local time, yesterday, SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV started oil removal operations on the second heavy fuel oil tank of the semi sunk general cargo Michelle. At midday today some 80-85 cubic metres of heavy fuel oil was removed in total. Underwater operations in the meantime are started up to prepare the third, and lowest, heavy fuel oil tank for oil extraction.

MIEKE (South Africa)

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Luxurious charter yacht Mieke, formerly South Africa's only sail-driven commercial fishing boat, sank due to unknown causes off the coast of Mozambique on Sunday morning (Sep 18). The 33-metre Grand Banks classic schooner, owned by Port St Francis chokka fishing kingpin Anton Viljoen, was converted two years ago from a commercial fishing vessel into a luxury, floating, boutique hotel. It used sails as its primary means of propulsion. A spokesman for charter company Classic Sailing Adventures, who asked not to be named, said the six-member crew had fled the vessel in a rubber duck after "water just started coming in". No passengers were on board. "There must have been a hole, but we don't know the cause," she said. Nothing was salvaged from the vessel, which now rests on the ocean floor about 40km to 60km off the Mozambican coast, north of Beira. Once on shore, they were assisted by a group of construction workers who had been mining nearby. They took them to the nearest town. Most of the "traumatised" crew have returned to South Africa. The spokesman said they would soon be making statements about the incident to the vessel's insurance company. The 133-ton vessel was built in 1997, but rebuilt and refitted for charter in 2003, setting sail again last year.

MIKE (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Sep 16 -- Following received from Etel MRCC, timed 1035, UTC: General cargo Mike, V2EA, (1513 gt, built 1982) was reported at 0802, UTC, in lat 45 33.8N, long 01 02.9W, with rudder problems. Vessel is carrying out repairs at the moment, no estimated time for completion. (Note -- Mike was last reported to have sailed Santander Sep 12.)

London, Sep 16 -- General cargo Mike completed repairs and under way.

MILANO (Bahamas)

Lisbon, Sep 19 -- Ref Milano is still in port at Lisbon. The vessel's ETD is not presently known. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MINERVA NIKE (Greece)

London, Sep 19 -- Following received from Coastguard Solent MRCC, timed 1920, UTC: Anchored crude oil tanker Minerva Nike (57301 gt, built 2004) in contact with yacht Wave Chain, nine persons on board, in Sandown Bay at about 1947, local time, Sep 16. The mast of the yacht became entangled with the tanker's anchor and broke off. The Bembridge RNLi lifeboat was scrambled to the scene and took the yacht crew to shore. The lifeboat then returned to tow the stricken yacht to safety in Gosport Marina.

London, Sep 20 -- Crude oil tanker Minerva Nike arrived Fawley 0725, Sep 17, and sailed 2041, Sep 18, bound Primorsk.

MSC AL AMINE (Morocco)

Tunis, Sep 19 -- General cargo MSC Al Amine is still under repair in dry dock at CMR Menzel Bourghiba. The repairs are expected to be completed within two weeks. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MSC RAFAELA (Panama)

Harwich, Sep 16 -- C.c. MSC Rafaela (42307 gt, built 1996) sailed Felixstowe today but experienced technical problems and had to put back. Vessel is berthing at the present time, 1500, UTC. -- Harwich Haven Authority.

London, Sep 19 -- C.c. MSC Rafaela arrived Antwerp 0055, Sep 18, from Felixstowe.

MSC TRADER (Panama)

Antananarivo, Sep 22 -- We have been advised by the owners of general cargo MSC Trader (858 gt, built 1967) that a collision occurred between their vessel and a barge in the port of Antsiranana on Sep 20. Damage was noted on the barge but there was apparently no damage to MSC Trader. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NATIONAL PROSPERITY (Panama)

Taipei, Sep 20 -- Bulk National Prosperity completed repairs and departed Kaohsiung on Sep 11, bound for Port Hedland, Australia, for loading. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NEKRASOV (Russia)

London, Sep 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: Russian vessel

Nekrasov, carrying goods and passengers, has overturned and sunk in Dudinka port, reports say. Itar-Tass news agency said seven people were rescued from Nekrasov, although up to 20 were thought to be on board. The vessel was destabilised by a "cargo displacement", Siberian emergency services told Tass.

London, Sep 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least nine people were missing after vessel Nekrasov overturned on the Yenisei River in northern Siberia today, the Emergency Situations Ministry said. The vessel overturned during its approach to the major trading port of Dudinka, a ministry spokesman said. "We are looking for between nine and 12 people," he said. "There were between 15 and 19 people on board the , which was transporting cargo and passengers. Seven people were rescued." The vessel may have capsized due to its being overloaded, the spokesman said. The 33-tonne vessel was carrying 80 tonnes of cargo. Its owner, the Krasnoyarsk-based Farvater company, "was not licensed to carry passengers", the spokesman said.

London, Sep 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: Three crewmembers and four passengers of vessel Nekrasov (not Krasikov as before reported) that sunk in the port of Dudinka today have been rescued, a local official said. Eight people, including the master of Nekrasov, are still missing, Yevgeny Zhurbenko, deputy head of the regional department of the Emergency Situations Ministry, said. "Nekrasov sank to a depth of six to seven metres," he said, adding that 18 divers were currently searching for survivors. The ship, which sunk because it was overloaded, was carrying 80 tonnes of vegetables and fruit, 20 tons above its capacity, Zhurbenko said. The privately owned cargo-and-passenger ship sunk 10 metres from shore when it was entering port.

London, Sep 18 -- A press report, dated Sep 17, states: Divers made a vain attempt to examine general cargo Nekrasov, that sunk near the seaport of Dudinka, the north of West Siberia, a local official said. The divers saw nothing through portholes as the vessel is full of boxes with fruit and vegetables, Vyacheslav Shchukin, the vice governor of the Taimyr autonomous district, said. He added that the divers would make another attempt when the vessel was towed closer to the shore. Seventeen people were on board the Nekrasov. Three crew members and four passengers were rescued. The body of one sailor was found while nine people are still missing. The vessel, owned by a small Siberian firm, sunk about 100 metres from the shore. Overloading and unprofessional actions of the crew are the two versions of the tragedy. The vessel carried fruit and vegetables to Dudinka.

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: The operation on vessel Nekrasov has resumed at

Dudinka. Rescuers are to raise the stern part and remove cargo from it, the Emergencies Ministry's Siberian regional centre told Itar-Tass. It will allow examination of the rooms and sections of the ship to find the other dead bodies, an officer on duty said. The dead bodies of six people were found on the upper deck of the vessel overnight. All of them are identified. They were ship passengers. Two bodies remain in the ship, and more people than supposed may be on board the sunken freighter, the Taimyr region's deputy governor Vyacheslav Shchukin said. The crewmembers and passengers who survived do not know exactly how many people were on board the vessel. The bodies of the master, Andrei Vilda, and his senior assistant Sergei Golubkov were recovered during the rescue operation. Supposedly, five crewmembers and 12 passengers were on board the vessel. Three crewmembers and four passengers survived. Legal proceedings have been instituted over the shipwreck. There are three supposed causes under consideration -- overloading, bad weather conditions and wrong action of the crew.

NORTRANS (NIS)

Trondheim, Sep 19 -- Kaarbo Yard's trustee informs that fishing Nortrans, was sold on Sep 1 to Fosen Gjenvinning for scrapping. Fosen Gjenvinning estimate tug to commence towing of vessel this week, from Harstad to Fosen, outside Trondheimsfjord. Scrapping of the vessel will, however, not commence until spring 2006. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NOVA SCOTIA (Antigua & Barbuda)

Buenos Aires, Sep 21 -- Ref Nova Scotia is still under repair at Tandanor. Repairs expected to be completed by Oct 5 or 6. -- Lloyd's Agents.

OCEAN FOXTROT (Canada)

London, Sep 20 -- Anchor handling tug/supply Ocean Foxtrot (700 gt, built 1971) experienced main engine failure while underway in the port of Quebec at 0650, Sep 18.

OCEAN PARK (South Korea)

London, Sep 16 -- A SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage report, dated May 12, states: On Apr 21 SvitzerWijsmuller on received information that bulk Ocean Park (91951 gt, built 1986) developed engine trouble 300 miles east-south-east off Hokkaido. Tug De Song from partners COESS was mobilised from Shanghai shortly thereafter and arrived on site on Apr 28 to connect up with the casualty, which in the meantime had drifted further east. Upon having connected up the convoy headed for South Korea, thereby passing the Tsugaru Kaikyo, the straits between the islands of Hokkaido and Honshu, assisted by tug Kiyosumi on May 3. Despite numerous periods of bad weather, up to windforce 8-9 (gale-strong gale) Ocean

Park was re-delivered back to its owners on May 10 in the port of Chinhae, South Korea. De Song thereupon demobilised back to Shanghai. (Note -- Ocean Park subsequently arrived Saldanha Bay Jul 4 and sailed Jul 11.)

OLEANDER (Netherlands Antilles)

London, Sep 20 -- A press report, dated Sep 14, states: Bermuda Container Line's ro/ro Oleander (6299 gt, built 1990) is set to sail to Bermuda on Friday (Sep 16) after a mechanical failure last Saturday (Sep 10) forced it to abort a voyage. Oleander limped back to Port Elizabeth, New Jersey after its turbo-charger, broke down, reducing the vessel's speed to three knots, said BCL spokesman Robert Lewis. At that time, the vessel was about 40 miles out of Port Elizabeth, and returned to port at midnight. Repairs to the vessel were completed yesterday and it is due to be examined by class experts today. In the meantime, BCL transferred 28 refrigerated containers to Bermuda International Shipping Ltd.'s c.c. Bermuda Islander, which is due in tomorrow. Due to the high volume of refrigerated bookings already booked on Bermuda Islander, the company has had to employ a generator from Aggreko to provide additional power for the voyage. Mr. Lewis said Oleander is likely to have some 300 containers on board when it sails on Friday, with two weeks worth of cargo to transport. He said some containers may be delayed a week due to weight factors. (Note -- Oleander had sailed New York Sep 9, and sailed New York again Sep 17.)

ORIENT BRILLIANCE (Panama)

Lima, Sep 21 -- Bulk Orient Brilliance will be sailing to Callao under escort to carry out full repairs to make it seaworthy. Vessel ETD today and or yesterday for Callao. -- Lloyd's Agents.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA (Philippines)

Manila, Sep 19 -- The Philippine Coast Guard reported that a fire broke out in the engine-room of ro/ro Our Lady of Fatima (2366 gt, built 1972) at 0022, local time, this morning. The vessel was en route to the central Philippine port of Cebu from Ozamiz City on the north coast of the southern island of Mindanao when it caught fire off Siquijor island. The fire was placed under control at around 0055 and the vessel continued to Cebu on a single engine. There were no deaths or injuries to its 620 passengers. The cause and extent of the damage was not immediately known, the Coast Guard said. The Coast Guard said that it had sent a search and rescue vessel to escort the vessel to Cebu. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Sep 20 -- Ro/ro Our Lady of Fatima, which left the port of Ozamis City at 1900, local time, Sep 18, bound for Cebu City, caught fire in one of its engines about 10 nautical miles from

the port of Tagbilaran City, Bohol Province, at midnight Sep 18. No one was reported injured in the incident. Crewmen were able to control the situation and the vessel continued its voyage on one engine. The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) deployed one of its rescue vessel and some PCG firefighters boarded the vessel while it was sailing to Cebu City. The cause of fire was not mentioned in the report. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: No one was hurt when a Cebu-bound ferry allegedly caught fire off the coasts of Siquijor and Dumaguete slightly after midnight yesterday. Company officials said the vessel was in "no grave danger and risk to life" and that a statement will be released soon. Aboitiz Transport System-operated ro/ro Our Lady of Fatima left the Port of Ozamiz at 1900 Sunday (Sep 18) on its way to Cebu carrying some 600 passengers and 80 crew. After navigating some four hours passengers were awakened by smoke between midnight and 0030 yesterday. It arrived safely about 1700 yesterday. Maritime Industry Authority safety engineer Philip Geniston would not categorically say how the fire started but that "sparks emanated from the main engine." Geniston said crew saw sparks at slightly after midnight but Commodore Ramon C. Liwag of the Coast Guard regional command said they received the alert at about 0030 hrs. Geniston, who boarded the vessel when it docked at about 1700 yesterday, said that upon initial investigation, sparks emanated from the main engine's exhaust manifold causing fire to run through ducting lines of ventilating blowers. The fire was easily contained in seconds emitting so much smoke that it alarmed passengers. Geniston would not say how combustion, ignition and fuel could have caused exhaust manifolds to spark. "This will be the subject of a deeper investigation," he said. The vessel resumed its journey running on a single engine and arrived safely at port some 10 hours behind its expected arrival time of 0700 hrs. The Coast Guard immediately dispatched its search and rescue vessel and escorted the vessel to port.

Manila, Sep 20 -- Ro/ro Our Lady of Fatima arrived at the port of Cebu at 1600, local time, Sep 19 and all 620 passengers were disembarked safely, Cebu Ferries Corp. reported. Cebu Ferries, which operates the vessel, said that they were still trying to determine the cause of the fire. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Sep 20 -- Officials were quick to rule out terrorism as a cause of the fire which broke out inside the engine-room of ro/ro Our Lady of Fatima while on its way to Cebu in central Philippines yesterday. Philippine Coast Guard spokesperson Lt. Armand Balilo said that it was unlikely to be a result of a terrorist attack as initial indications point to mechanical problems as the cause of the fire. A

Maritime Industry Authority safety engineer inspecting the fire said that sparks emanating from the main engine's exhaust manifold caused fire to run through the ducting lines of ventilating blowers. It still has to be determined, however, what caused the sparks, he said. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Sep 21 -- The Maritime Industry Authority, MARINA, said that it has dispatched a safety inspection team to conduct a preliminary investigation on the cause of a fire which broke out inside the engine-room of ro/ro Our Lady of Fatima. The safety inspection team, which is based at the MARINA head office in Manila, will be flying to Cebu, where the vessel is now docked. The MARINA is the state agency administering and regulating the Philippine's maritime industry. Findings of the safety inspection team will be submitted to a Board of Marine Inquiry made up of representatives of the MARINA and the Philippine Coast Guard. The Board will determine responsibility for the incident. Based on the findings of the Board, the MARINA which is also a quasi-judicial body, will impose administrative penalties and sanctions on the offending -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Sep 22 -- Aboitiz Transport System vice-president for marketing and spokesperson Carol Lozano said that ro/ro Our Lady of Fatima is presently undergoing repairs to its engine at Cebu Port. "Damage to the engine was minor so we are expecting the vessel to resume normal operations by tomorrow," she said. The vessel's operator, however, said the cause of the fire could still not be established. "Our engineers are undertaking a thorough inspection of the engine to determine the exact cause of the accident," Lozano said. "The company will come out with a statement once the inspection is concluded," she said. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PACIFIC HOPE (Panama)

Buenos Aires, Sep 7 -- Bulk Pacific Hope arrived Rosario Sep 4 and sailed Sep 5. -- Lloyd's Agents.

PAXOS FLYING DOLPHIN (Greece)

London, Sep 16 -- Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Hydrofoil Paxos Flying Dolphin (142 gt, built 1981) Paxos to Kerkyra, 48 passengers on board, sustained damage to the port main engine, afternoon, Sep 14. Following the incident, vessel arrived safely at the port of Kerkyra escorted by a patrol boat of the coast guard. The Port Authority of Kerkyra prohibited departure pending inspection of the repairs and issuance of a class maintain certificate.

PERINTIS (Malaysia)

Jakarta, Sep 20 -- The boiler of floating production Perintis exploded 200 nautical miles north-east of Terengganu coast, Malaysia, about

0800, local time, Sep 11. Vessel at anchor near the Sotong Oil Platform. Two persons were in serious condition and two others escaped serious injury. Investigations are underway. -- Lloyd's Agents.

POLYHRONIS (Malta)

Ymuiden, Sep 16 -- SvitserWijsmuller Salvage BV and partners Resolve Marine Group successfully completed the salvage operation on bulk Polyhronis Sep 9 by delivering the refloated vessel back to its owners. -- Wijsmuller Salvage BV.

RAMFORM CHALLENGER (NIS)

London, Sep 21 -- Seismographic research Ramform Challenger arrived Rotterdam Sep 18.

ROGER BLOUGH (U.S.A.)

Troy, Michigan, Sep 20 -- A report, dated Sep 18, states: Bulk Walter J.McCarthy Jr. (35923 gt, built 1977) and bulk Roger Blough (22041 gt, built 1972) came into contact with each other early Sunday (Sep 18) morning near DeTour village, Michigan on the St. Mary's river, which ships transit on their way to or from the Soo Locks in Sault Ste. Marie, MI. Walter J.McCarthy Jr. was heading up bound coming from Lake Huron and Roger Blough also was up bound coming from Lake Michigan. Conditions in the area at the time of contact were foggy. The United States Coast Guard directed both vessels to go to anchor in the Hay Lake anchorage to undergo inspections. After inspections were complete, both vessels proceeded up bound for the locks with Walter J.McCarthy Jr. locking up first around 1530, local time and Roger Blough locking up around 1700. Both vessels checked out of the river system later Sunday night. Walter J.McCarthy Jr. had some visible scrape marks on her paint and Roger Blough had about a 60 foot crease in the hull above the waterline. Neither vessel took on any water from the incident. -- Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

ROSTOK (Russia)

Bucharest, Sep 19 -- The removal of general cargo Rostok is still in progress. The preparations for lifting the last wreck piece having reportedly commenced on Sep 13. It is estimated that the operations will last a further month. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ROTA (Belize)

Liverpool, Sep 21 -- General cargo Rota (2361 gt, built 1977) was in contact with the lock gates at Liverpool today. The vessel sustained no damage, however it is reported that there is damage to the lock gates. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ROTORUA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Sep 20 -- Ro/ro Rotorua (16075 gt, built 1993) experienced a fire in the engine uptakes while shifting berth at Montreal at 1359, Sep 18. Fire self extinguished shortly thereafter.

SAFE CONCORDIA (Panama)

Sydney, Sep 21 -- Origin Energy's offshore accommodation vessel for its gas project in the Bass Strait has broken down and is on its way in to the port of Melbourne for repair work. Semi-sub HL vessel Safe Concordia (16700 gt, built 2005), meant to provide accommodation facilities for maintenance and trade staff, arrived in the Bass Basin on Monday, (Sep 12). Origin Energy spokesman Angus Guthrie said today that shortly before arrival, Safe Concordia, had an electrical malfunction in one of the four thrusters used to propel and position the vessel. On Sunday, (Sep 18) a second thruster also had a malfunction. "Over the last week, the damage has been assessed, orders for replacement parts placed internationally and the feasibility of operating Safe Concordia with only three thrusters at any one time has been assessed," Mr Guthrie said. It would take at least six weeks to repair the damage to Safe Concordia, Mr Guthrie said. The vessel will not return to the Yolla platform until early November and commissioning of the project will hopefully occur in December, Mr Guthrie said. The Bass Strait project is a joint venture partnership between Origin Energy as operator, Australian Worldwide Exploration, CalEnergy and Wandoo Petroleum. Origin warned in July that costs at the \$450m BassGas venture might blow out by 25% because of rectification work. The construction of the Yolla gas field, 80 miles off the coast from Kilkunda in the Bass Strait, has been dogged by delays, Mr Guthrie said. It was due to start production in the fourth quarter of calendar 2006. Once complete it will supply 10% of Victorian gas for the next 15 years, the company said. - Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

SAFMARINE SOYO (Sri Lanka)

London, Sep 16 -- A SvitserWijsmuller report, dated Jul 15, states: General cargo Safmarine Soyo (10478 gt, built 1985) ran aground Jul 5 on the Congo River and initial attempts to refloat it were unsuccessful. SvitserWijsmuller Salvage was then instructed on Jul 8 to mobilise its salvage experts to advise on possibilities to refloat the vessel. A large salvage tug from SEMCO, at that stage in South Africa, was in the meantime instructed by the owners to proceed towards the grounding location as well. Salvage specialists from the SvitserWijsmuller salvage office in South Africa then were flown in arriving on board of the casualty on Jul 12 after which the condition and situation of the casualty were further determined. A salvage plan was set into motion to be ready upon arrival of tug Salviscount. The SEMCO tug arrived Jul 13 and was connected up according to the well-prepared salvage plan during the morning hours of Jul 14, after which the vessel was successfully refloated in the afternoon.

SCOT PIONEER (U.K.)

Aalborg, Sep 20 -- General cargo Scot Pioneer (1587 gt, built 1984) was towed into Frederikshavn 1650, Sep 18 by tug Thor, due to a gearbox problem. Repairs carried out and completed yesterday and the vessel sailed at 1615 yesterday for Inverness. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SEA ELEGANCE (Vanuatu)

Kolkata, Sep 22 -- Bulk Sea Elegance has now taken berth at Haldia port for the purpose of loading iron ore. On completion of loading, it will proceed to next port in China. Repair work to the damaged crane has not been done at Haldia. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SHAN HAI (China)

London, Sep 16 -- A press report, dated Sep 15, states: A crane operator from a local stevedore company was killed yesterday when the ship's crane which he was operating on bulk Shan Hai (27585 gt, built 1998) fractured and collapsed. The COSCO ship was working a cargo of steel products at Durban's A berth on the Point at the time but has since been detained from sailing pending an official enquiry. Shan Hai was originally expected to sail early next week. (Note -- Shan Hai arrived Durban Sep 14.)

SIROCCO (Netherlands)

London, Sep 21 -- General cargo Sirocco (3991 gt, built 2004), cargo bauxite, upbound, grounded between the buoys C6 and C8 in the Beauharnois canal at 2348, Jun 25. (Note -- Sirocco arrived Montreal Jun 27. Vessel arrived New Orleans Jul 12 and sailed Jul 17.)

SOLKA 2 (Russia)

London, Sep 16 -- General cargo Solka 2 (2457 gt, built 1970) bound Randers, touched the Oddesund bridge in the Limfjord, Sep 13. As pilot is compulsory for vessel on more than 299 grt passing the bridge, Solka 2 was awaiting the pilot. He was a little late and the vessel was too close to the bridge when the master discovered the heavy current in the area. The pilot, who had boarded and the captain tried to manoeuvre the vessel away from the bridge. They did not succeed as the vessel turned the side of the vessel on the bridge. The bridge sustained some damage and the vessel sustained some dents to the superstructure. The bridge was closed for a couple of hours.

Aalborg, Sep 21 -- General cargo Solka 2 drifted into the Oddesund bridge, Limfjord, at 1032, Sep 13. No serious damage was caused to either bridge or vessel. Vessel recommenced voyage immediately and bridge was re-opened after approximately two hours after everything was checked. Vessel is still trading as normal, and bridge working without problems. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SPARTIA (Greece)

Sydney, Sep 21 -- Poor lookout practice has again been singled out as a major factor in an Australian

transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) investigation into another collision between a bulk carrier and a commercial fishing vessel. The collision between Greek-flagged bulk Spartia (39783 gt, built 2000) and cray fishing vessel Hannah Lee was about 17 miles off Cape Bouvard, Western Australia, on Apr 15, 2005. It is the 23rd collision between ships and fishing vessels that ATSB has investigated since 1990 and failure to keep a proper lookout has been identified as a factor in each of those incidents. In this case the ATSB found that Spartia had detected the fishing vessel on radar about 20 minutes before the collision and maintained its course and speed in accordance with international collision regulations as Hannah Lee was on the bulker's port side. Hannah Lee's skipper was preoccupied with keeping his vessel on course and failed to see Spartia before the collision, the ATSB said. When it became obvious to Spartia's bridge team that Hannah Lee was not going to give way, the master ordered avoiding action," the ATSB said. "This manoeuvre was ineffective and Hannah Lee hit Spartia a short time later." No-one was injured in the collision and there was no resultant pollution, ATSB found. Investigators found that the lookout kept by Hannah Lee's skipper was "manifestly inadequate". "In addition, his judgement, actions and situational awareness, with regard to what was happening around his vessel were affected by fatigue," investigators said. The ATSB also concluded that Spartia's collision avoidance action was "too little, too late". The report recommends that state and territory marine authorities consider reviewing work practices on fishing vessels with a view to establishing fatigue management guidelines. -- Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

STURDY FALCON (Vietnam)

East London, Sep 19 -- General cargo Sturdy Falcon (8414 gt, built 1980) with a full cargo of bagged rice from Vietnam to West African ports, docked East London on Sep 8. The vessel was taking water in No. 1 hold from damage to the port shell plating. A cement box was constructed by the crew, which stemmed the inflow of water and the vessel put into East London for discharge of cargo from the hold and subsequent repair. Cargo discharge was completed on Sep 18 and repairs are due to commence on Sep 20. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

TANJA (Madeira)

London, Sep 16 -- General cargo Tanja arrived Nantes Sep 2 and sailed Sep 5.

TATA 1 (Morocco)

London, Sep 21 -- A press report, dated Sep 20, states: Fishing Tata 1 (314 gt, built 1976) sank in Laayoune's high seas South of Morocco on Saturday (Sep 17) after it ran against fishing Alif (433 gt, built 1990), reported the Moroccan daily Assabah.

The collision caused a leak in Tata 1 which let large amounts of water into the engine chamber. The water, which flooded the vessel, added 90 tons to the vessel which was already carrying 80 tons of fish. The extra load was too heavy for the vessel to bear, which made it sink in under 10 minutes. Fortunately, the crew managed to escape Tata 1 and join the other vessel. The reasons for the collision are not clear.

TENACITAS (North Korea)

Istanbul, Sep 16 -- General cargo Tenacitas completed repairs by its own means and sailed Canakkale at 2030, local time, Sep 13, on completion of inspection/formalities. -- Lloyd's Agents.

THOR R. (Denmark)

London, Sep 16 -- Trailing suction hopper dredge Thor R. arrived and sailed Esbjerg Aug 30.

TMM OAXACA (Antigua & Barbuda)

Veracruz, Sep 15 -- Understand c.c. TMM Oaxaca is expected to complete main engine repairs this week and undergo sea trials next week. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Veracruz, Sep 16 -- Owner's Superintendent of c.c. TMM Oaxaca informed us that the assembly of the vessel's main engine was completed on Sep 14. Various adjustments were completed on Sep 16 and the vessel is now on dock trials. It is supposed to go on sea trials Sep 17 and 18. If everything turns out well, the vessel will shift to the ICAVE container terminal on Sep 19 to load containers for various Central and South American ports and depart Veracruz on Sep 20. -- Lloyd's Agents.

TRADER (Antigua & Barbuda)

Malaga, Sep 22 -- General cargo Trader had engine damage and was to proceed to Malaga, but the damage worsened and the vessel had to be towed to Cartagena where arrived on Aug 29. The cargo is 178 tonnes of steel profiles. -- Lloyd's Agents.

TRANSFER (Antigua & Barbuda)

Belize City, Sep 15 -- Part c.c. Transfer is still in the same position, and there has been no change in the vessel's situation. -- Lloyd's Agents.

UMFOLOZI (Cyprus)

Cape Town, Sep 19 -- Understand that c.c. Umfolozi (8328 gt, built 1982) was involved in a collision with a dredger during the night of 16/17 Sep when leaving Walvis Bay. The vessel returned to an allocated quayside where it sank alongside. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 19 -- A press report, dated Sep 17, states: C.c. Umfolozi, on charter to Durban-based Ocean Africa Container Lines, was in collision with the National Ports Authority trailing suction hopper dredge Ingwenya (4420 gt, built 1981) outside Walvis Bay at approximately 2355, Sep 16. There were no injuries or fatalities to crew

on either vessel, both of which managed to return to harbour, where Umfolozi has gone alongside berth 7 and from where the discharging of its cargo of 225 TEUs has begun. The vessel has been holed and is flooded but is currently sitting in a safe position on its bottom at the shallow berth, with its decks and superstructure above the waterline. Fuel is leaking from a rupture in the tanks but this has been contained by means of booms surrounding the vessel. Umfolozi is carrying 220 tonnes of heavy fuel oil and 115 tonnes of marine diesel oil. A clean-up operation has begun. The container ship had sailed from Walvis Bay bound for Cape Town at 2300, Sep 16. A spokesman for Ocean Africa Container Lines said that the company was confident of maintaining existing services. He said Ocean Africa had recently taken the container ship Louis on charter as an "additional" vessel and there was also another new charter vessel to be named Limpopo which is due to arrive towards the end of October. It is understood that damage to Ingwenya, which is normally stationed at Richards Bay but was contracted to undertake dredging at the Namibian port, is not regarded as serious and the vessel is in no immediate danger.

London, Sep 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: A clean-up operation to limit possible environmental damage is underway at Walvis Bay after c.c. Umfolozi and trailing suction hopper dredge Ingwenya collided in the harbour on Friday night. About 100 tonnes of heavy fuel (HFO) and diesel spilled into the sea. The collision occurred within port limits at around midnight on Friday when Umfolozi was heading for Cape Town, and Ingwenya, was on its way into the Walvis Bay harbour. Umfolozi, carrying some 335 tonnes of fuel oil, was struck on its starboard side, ripping a large hole in the wing fuel tanks. There was no loss of life or injury reported on either ship. A Namibian Ports Authority spokesperson said the spill was contained with barriers. Clean-up operations are currently underway with the help of the Namibian patrol vessel Nataniël Maxuilili, which carries the necessary equipment. Umfolozi has been stabilised along a side berth after it took on water. By yesterday morning, the process of salving its cargo and fuel had begun. The extent of the damage to Ingwenya has not been fully determined yet, but it was classified as "superficial". Representatives of the owner of Umfolozi were expected at Walvis Bay yesterday. According to Ministry of Environment and Tourism Chief Warden Rod Braby, it is hard to estimate the possible damage to the marine ecology because of limited information. He said seals, penguins and cormorants would most likely be first to be affected but he hoped that booms large enough to contain the

spill had been in place soon enough to keep the oil from being swept to Bird Island, about five kilometres north of the harbour. The current windless conditions could prove to be an advantage in cleaning up the spill, since the oil would remain mostly in one spot, but wind could on the other hand help in the cleansing process because it would break up big patches into smaller tar balls which would be easier to suck up with the equipment used. Another environmentalist, Keith Wearne, Chairman of the Coastal Environmental Trust of Namibia, said there was currently no cause for environmental concern. He said the spill had successfully been contained within the booms in the harbour. There was no sign of spillage entering the lagoon. Also, since Bird Island is elevated on stilts above the water, there was no reason to fear that the population of birds would be affected, he said.

London, Sep 20 -- A press report, dated Sep 19, states: Cleanup operations are underway at Walvis Bay after 100 tonnes of oil leaked from the holed c.c. Umfolozi. The ship was in collision with railing suction hopper dredge Ingwenya shortly before midnight Sep 16 and barely made it back to harbour before settling on its bottom alongside the container terminal. The vessel has a large fracture on its starboard side and is now subject to tidal flow in all holds and the engine-room. The cargo of 225 TEUs has however been removed from the flooded vessel. Meanwhile port and environmental authorities are busy contending with the spilled fuel oil, the ship was carrying 220 tonnes of HFO and 115 tonnes of MDO, which began leaking immediately after the collision. Booms have been laid around the vessel and Namibian anti-pollution vessel Nataniel Maxuilili is assisting with the cleanup operation.

London, Sep 20 -- Understand salvage services are being rendered to c.c. Umfolozi by Smit Marine South Africa (Pty) Ltd under Lloyd's Open Form 2000.

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated Sep 21, states: The report of Sep 19 that all 220 containers have been removed from the holed c.c. Umfolozi is not correct. According to an informant, 128 containers still remain in the holds of the vessel, which lies alongside berth 7 at Walvis Bay. The holds are flooded and subject to tidal flow as the vessel sits on the harbour seabed with only its decks and superstructure clear of the water at high tide.

VIVI L. (Greece)

London, Sep 16 -- Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the morning of Sep 15, while ferry Vivi L. (983 gt, built 1977) was making preparations to depart from Igoumenitsa for Paxos, the vessel sustained damage to the port main engine. Following the incident the vessel was prohibited to depart pending inspection of the repairs. The

25 passengers were forwarded to their destination on board another vessel of the same line. On Sep 16 the Port Authority of Igoumenitsa permitted departure Vivi L. following repair of the damages and survey by the Marine Inspectorate of Igoumenitsa.

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

See Roger Blough.

WAVE CHAIN

See Minerva Nike.

WU SHAN (China)

See Chaoyangping No.8.

YEOMAN BRIDGE (Bahamas)

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

ZWERVER (Belgium)

See Aegean Breeze.



SOMALIA

London, Sep 20 -- A press report, dated Sep 19, states: The Somali pirates who hijacked Kenyan-registered general cargo Semlow laden with food aid off the north-eastern coast of Somalia have let it dock at a port north of Mogadiscio, the UN food agency WFP confirmed today. "We can confirm that the vessel has docked in the port of El Maan," said WFP spokesperson McGuffin by telephone. The crew of the vessel consists of eight Kenyans, a Tanzanian engineer and a Sri Lankan captain. The Somali pirates, who have been holding the vessel for over two months, reportedly told a Somali radio station that they would leave the vessel after its cargo has been offloaded and handed over the transitional government and that their allies would supervise the distribution of the food to residents of central Somalia. McGuffin said the UN agency had negotiated with El Maan port authorities through the Somalia transitional government to guarantee the free passage of food to the central region. The Semlow was hijacked on Jun 27 between Haradhere and Hobyo, some 400 km north-east of Mogadiscio, on its way to the Gulf of Aden port of Bossaso, in the self-declared autonomous region of Puntland. The WFP had announced a breakthrough in the negotiations on Aug 6 only for the pirates to renege later forcing the UN to renew appeal for the release of the hostages. The vessel had been chartered by the WFP to deliver some 850 tons of rice to survivors of the Dec 26 Indian Ocean tsunami, which devastated much of the country's north-eastern coastline.

Seizures & Arrests



ABBER 32 (Panama)

London, Sep 21 -- The Indonesian authorities are continuing to arrest tankers as the country cracks down on fuel smuggling. The Panama-registered tanker Abber 32 was detained at the port of Batu Ampur in Batam early on Monday morning (Sep 19) with a cargo of 50 tonnes of subsidised diesel fuel, the Jakarta Post reported. The vessel had been monitored over the past three months.

AFRICAN PRIDE (Panama)

London, Sep 15 -- Twelve Russian seafarers, facing oil smuggling allegations in Nigeria, have been released on bail, after the Russian embassy posted guarantees. However, the crew of Greek-owned product tanker African Pride still face a court hearing in October, Russian news agency ITAR-Tass reports. The accused, who have been held since October 2003, will stay on the premises of the Russian trade mission in Lagos. A Russian official told ITAR-Tass: "All conditions have been created for the Russians. Their relatives are expecting their return. All the issues regarding their stay and medical assistance to them have been resolved."

DANAPRIS 6 (Ukraine)

Naples, Sep 13 -- General cargo Danapris 6 has left Naples roads for Kherson and therefore no long under arrest. -- Lloyd's List.

DIAGORAS (Greece)

Piraeus, Sep 15 -- Passenger ro/ro Diagoras remains under detention. Its auction has been postponed indefinitely. -- Lloyd's Agents.

INDONESIAN FISHING VESSELS DETAINED BY AUSTRALIA

London, Sep 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: A warning shot had to be fired during the capture of illegal fishing boats in Australia's northern waters yesterday. Nearly 20 Indonesian boats, suspected of illegal fishing, managed to flee authorities. Three vessels were apprehended, 60 nautical miles west of Cape Leveque but the rest managed to escape. Fisheries Minister Ian Macdonald says about the same time four larger "ice" boats were caught off Arnhem Land. "Two of the vessels apprehended off the Wessels did have GPS units on board and one of them did attempt to get under way and a single warning shot was fired before it allowed itself to be apprehended by the Australian authorities and the other three vessels did stop when ordered to do so," he said. Mr Macdonald says the boats appeared to be working as a team. The boats and their crew will be taken to Broome and Darwin. The Federal

Government says it believes a quantity of reef fish and shark fin is on board the boats. The 15 crew picked up off WA are being brought back to Broome and are expected to arrive in the next couple of days.

JERBA (Tunisia)

Bizerta, Sep 19 -- Understand from the Port Authority that general cargo Jerba is still under arrest at Ml Bourguiba, and there are presently no prospects of the vessel's release. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

MASAI (Togo)

Vigo, Sep 19 -- According to the latest Port Authority list, dated today, fishing Masai is still at Marin. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MAWASHI AL-GASSEEM (Kuwait)

Adelaide, Sep 19 -- Livestock Mawashi Al-Gasseem is under arrest under a Federal Court order and is to be disposed of by tender, which closes Oct 18. The Federal Court has appointed Braemair Seascope to act as brokers. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MIRNA (Croatia)

London, Sep 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: Croatian general cargo Mirna departed yesterday from Tanjung Perak harbor in Surabaya, putting an end to diplomatic tension over its detention for allegedly transporting illegally logged timber out of the country. It was decided the ship could leave the harbor after its owner agreed to pay Rp 10 billion (US\$1 million) as a security deposit. "We finally received a permit from the Attorney General's Office to allow the ship to set sail to carry out repair work. The Croatian ship has been involved in a lengthy legal battle with Indonesian officials since August 2004, when it was stopped in Papua by the navy after loading merbau logs and was found to have incorrect papers. The ship was then taken to East Java as the case was being tried at the Surabaya court. Foreign ministry official Hazairan Pohan said the decision to let the ship go did not change its legal status. "The court proceedings will continue but the ship can set sail," he said, adding that the ship would return if required in the trial. He said the deposit money was a precaution in case the court found the ship's owner guilty and he was ordered to pay a fine.

London, Sep 19 -- Croatian shipowner Losinjska Plovidba has said its general cargo Mirna has been released from port in Indonesia after paying a \$1m "bail" to local authorities. Mirna was stormed by soldiers and its master and crew held at gunpoint last month just before it was due to sail from port in Surabaya. The vessel has been at the centre of a legal dispute since last August when Indonesian officials claimed the logging vessel was using improper travel documents. Losinjska Plovidba management initially said it would sue the Indonesian authorities over the seizure of the vessel but later

announced it was offering \$1m to "cover eventual fines if a new court case shows Mirna lacked valid documentation for transport in Indonesia". The East Java High Court had previously ordered the navy to escort the Mirna from port in Surabaya after ruling in favour of the company at a court hearing in May. Company director Zlatko Mokovic on Friday (Sep 16) confirmed the firm had made the \$1m payment so the vessel could leave port. But he added: "We still maintain that our crew did nothing illegal, which has already been proved in one court ruling." The vessel was escorted to international waters and began heading towards Singapore. Mr Mokovic said the ship's master and crew had been in touch with the company and that all of them "were doing well". The storming of the Mirnahad led to high-level diplomatic talks with Croatian President Stipe Mesic becoming involved in negotiations with Indonesian authorities to have the vessel released.

PATMOS (Greece)

Piraeus, Sep 15 -- Passenger ro/ro Patmos remains under detention. Its auction has been postponed indefinitely. -- Lloyd's Agents.

RODOS (Greece)

Piraeus, Sep 15 -- Ro/ro Rodos remains under detention. Its auction has been postponed indefinitely. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SENTINEL (Comoros)

Genoa, Sep 21 -- General cargo Sentinel is still under court arrest at Genoa. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ST.TROPEZ (Bahamas)

London, Sep 16 -- Passenger St.Tropez, arrested in Florida in June, after months of legal wrangling, was finally auctioned for \$3.8m on Tuesday (Sep 13), with giant shipmanager V.Ships outbidding 11 other parties in a courthouse auction in Miami. Sources suggested tension is likely to surface among the various claimants to the \$3.8m realised from the sale, which is insufficient to pay off all creditors. Crew wage claims totalled some \$300,000 at last count. V.Ships was believed to be fronting for unidentified buying interests, said to be Asia-based. Daniel Chui, managing director for V.Ships (Asia Pacific) Pte Ltd in Singapore, won the auction, but neither he nor the firm's attorney revealed the identity of the buyer. The buyer wants to remain "very, very confidential". V.Ships has until today to close the purchase. Informed sources said that St.Tropez would be moved to south-east Asia. Division of the cash is currently in the cross-claim stage between the claimants and could end up being litigated if anticipated mediation efforts fail. Such a denouement would add to the drama that has surrounded St.Tropez ever since its owner, Florida Entertainment LLC, filed for bankruptcy protection in February, in hopes of staving off an

arrest action initiated by one of the vessel's many creditors, the food and beverage concessionaire Admiral Cruises, which claimed it was owed \$1.6m. Several intervening claimants joined along the way, including mortgage-holder Nordea Bank, which claimed \$6m. Following a court order authorising the vessel's arrest in June, even the bankruptcy trustee joined the list of parties claiming a share of the sale proceeds. National Maritime Services of Fort Lauderdale, the substitute custodian appointed by the US marshal, has so far spent \$914,000 on the upkeep of St.Tropez. The figure is expected to rise to \$1m, at \$6,000 a day, by the time the buyer takes the ship away, said a company spokesman. He said the buyer has requested the firm to continue maintaining the vessel for up to another month. National Maritime Services' claim, by virtue of being deemed as a court cost, would be paid out first. Meanwhile, it is up to the remaining creditors to fashion out a compromise on the remaining cash. The crew is claiming priority for its claim. The original crew of St.Tropez, about 150, mostly Filipinos, is now down to about 25.

Pollution



ASSAM, INDIA

London, Sep 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: A team of US oil fire experts were due to arrive in a remote corner of north-east India today to cap a well spilling crude oil and to douse a towering blaze, officials said. A spokesman for Oil India Limited said the fire began yesterday and raged overnight near Dikom. "A team of American petroleum experts from Boots and Coots are arriving at the fire site this afternoon," OIL spokesman Prasanta Barkakati said from company headquarters in Duliajan, eastern Assam. Houston, Texas-based Boots and Coots International Well Control, Inc. is a leading company dealing with oil and gas well blowouts and fires. "Hundreds of fire fighters worked throughout the night to bring the blaze under control, using water cannons and foam," Barkakati said. "The fire is still raging. The heat generated from the oil well fire is believed to about 2,000 degrees Celsius (about 3,600 degrees Fahrenheit) and hence it is not possible right now for our workers to cap the oil spill," OIL's group general manager J.K. Talukdar said. "We hope the foreign team of experts would be able to do something." The cause of the fire had not been determined. Witnesses reported flames rising to 12 metres. "The oil spill and the subsequent fire has started affecting the locals with villagers as far as two to three kilometers (one-two miles)

from the fire site reporting their rice fields and ponds filled with a greasy layer," Bhuban Dutta, a community leader in Dikom, said. More than 3,000 people were evacuated and lodged at makeshift shelters with civil authorities providing food and medicines. "We informed OIL authorities Tuesday (Sep 13) morning that there was a leakage in the well," said Ranjit Dutta, leader of a local non governmental organisation called Save Dikom. Police said local firefighters arrived with 25 trucks yesterday afternoon, but were unable to move very close to the well with the fire raging.

London, Sep 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: American experts along with an ONGC crisis-management team were making all-out efforts today to put out the raging fire at the Oil India Ltd oil well in upper Assam. OIL spokesman Prashanta Borkotoky said 'that the two experts from American company Boots and Coots ever since they arrived last night were working round-the-clock to douse the flames at Dikom in Dibrugarh district. OIL is providing back-up support and equipment. A huge pond was being dug near the fire site for storing water to use it as a 'jet cutter' whereby a jet of water at high pressure would take the flame to one side and cut off its oxygen supply to finally extinguish it, Borkotoky said. Describing this as a highly-specialised job, he said the flames leaping to over 60 feet were expected to be extinguished within one week. He said there was no cut down in the production of crude oil and supply to the refineries as well as gas supply to the Assam Gas Company, tea gardens and domestic piped gas consumers. The oil well produced only about 70 kilo litre of Oil, while 1,200 plus kilo litres of crude oil was produced in the state per day and such there was no shortage of either crude or gas, he said adding the oil refineries in the state were functioning normally. The 500 families, mostly from the nearby tea gardens, were initially evacuated as a safety measure. As a thorough survey of the surrounding area showed there was no gas leakage and danger of outbreak of fire, he said, most of the evacuated people had returned home. A seven-member ONGC fire extinguishing team and equipment had also been requisitioned from Bombay High. Over 50 fire-tenders from OIL, ONGC, IOC, Assam Gas Company, state fire service, NEEPCO, IAF and army were battling continuously to keep the leaping flames from spreading until the global experts arrived yesterday. The devastating fire had broken out in oil well no.15 at Dikom on Thursday causing largescale oil spillage and an oppressive heat of 2000 degree celsius. The towering inferno could be seen for several kilometres away and the sky in the area was blackened with thick smoke, ashes and debris besides crude oil covering the ground.

London, Sep 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fire raged out of control at an oil well in northeastern India for a sixth day today, forcing state-run Oil India Ltd. to close down 30 nearby wells, a company official said. A team from Houston-based Boots & Coots International Well Control Inc., which specialises in extinguishing oil well fires, was at the site waiting for heavy pressure pumps, said J.K. Talukdar, who heads the oil company's eastern India operations. The equipment was likely to arrive later this week at the Dekom oil field, where nearly 300 firefighters and oil workers were battling to put out the fire, Talukdar said. The company was suffering heavy production losses because the 30 wells nearby have been shut down for safety reasons. The oil field, 345 miles east of Gauhati, the capital of Assam state, produces 3.5 million tons of crude annually. Authorities evacuated 5,000 people from villages and a tea estate in the area last week. There were no casualties.

BRITTANY, FRANCE

London, Sep 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: The owner of c.c. Maersk Barcelona (33400 gt, built 1976) suspected of causing pollution will have to provide a guarantee of Euro 500,000 so that the ship can leave the port of Brest where it was diverted. Maersk Barcelona was spotted yesterday by a plane of the customs with hydrocarbon traces in its wake stretching over a length of 61 kms and 100 metres broad. The ship was diverted yesterday evening to Brest where it arrived under escort this morning. (Note -- Maersk Barcelona had sailed Antwerp Sep 19 for Gioia Tauro.)

London, Sep 21 -- C.c. Maersk Barcelona was escorted by a French navy vessel into Brest this morning on suspicion of having caused pollution at sea 160km west of tip of the Brittany peninsula. Maersk Barcelona, which is being used by Maersk on time charter, was on its way from Antwerp to Gioia Tauro when it was spotted yesterday by a French customs service aircraft at the head of a slick of discoloured water late yesterday afternoon. The maritime prefecture in Brest claimed that the slick, which it estimated to be 61 kilometres long and 100 metres wide, was the biggest pollution slick ever spotted in the area and the vessel was ordered into port by the Brest public prosecutor. The vessel's manager V.Ships said that it was waiting for the French authorities to complete the investigation which got under way following the arrival of the ship in Brest to talk to the vessel's Ukrainian master. A spokesman said that, for the moment, it was not clear if something had gone wrong onboard the vessel and, if it had, what. French investigators are concentrating their attention on the vessel's oily water separator which was functioning shortly before the incident occurred. Tests carried out after the arrival of the vessel in port yesterday indicated

that it was working correctly but there were reports that an alarm had gone off onboard the vessel, indicating the possibility of a malfunction. The separator was shut down after the alarm sounded but was thought to have been functioning for about two hours.

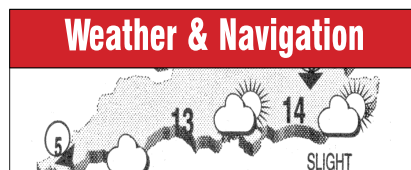
Brest, Sep 21 -- At about 1700, local time, Sep 20, c.c. Maersk Barcelona was off Brittany, about 90 miles to the west of Sein Island, when it was flown over by a French customs aircraft, which noticed the presence of oil residues lying in the wake of the vessel over 61 kilometres long and about 100 metres wide. The Public Prosecutors Office of Brest was advised accordingly and required the vessel to immediately divert towards Brest. The vessel obeyed the orders of the French navy and arrived at Brest on Sep 21. A guarantee will now be claimed by the High Court of Brest to release the vessel. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 22 -- A French prosecutor yesterday ordered payment of E500,000 (\$600,000) bail as the condition for the release of a containership suspected of having caused pollution 160 km west of the Brittany peninsula. The 2,328 teu c.c. Maersk Barcelona, which is owned by a German KG company and is being used by Maersk Sealand on time charter, was brought into the port of Brest under naval escort yesterday after having been spotted by a French customs service aircraft at the head of a slick of discoloured water late on Tuesday afternoon (Sep 20). The maritime prefecture in Brest claimed that the slick, which it estimated to be 61 km long and 100 m wide, was the biggest pollution slick so far spotted in the area. The order to come into port was given by the public prosecutor in Brest, who has jurisdiction for deliberate pollution offences in the Atlantic sector of France's exclusive economic zone. Maersk Barcelona's technical manager, V.Ships Hamburg, said yesterday evening that the vessel had undergone a full flag state inspection, including inspection of its oily water separator, in Antwerp on Sep 19 and that no deficiencies had been found. It added that the vessel's owners and managers were anxious to find the true cause of the pollution and were co-operating fully with the French authorities. There was no indication as to whether or not the vessel's Ukrainian master had been charged, but the fact that bail has been imposed suggests that the prosecutor considers that there is a case to answer. A spokesman said that, for the moment, it was not clear if something had gone wrong aboard the vessel and, if it had, what. French investigators are understood to be concentrating their attention on the vessel's oily water separator, which was functioning shortly before the incident occurred. Tests carried out after the arrival of the vessel in port yesterday indicated that it was working correctly but there were reports that an alarm had gone off aboard the vessel, indicating the

possibility of a malfunction. The separator was shut down after the alarm sounded but was thought to have been functioning for about two hours. The Maersk group yesterday confirmed that Maersk Barcelona had entered the port of Brest at the request of the French authorities but pointed out that the vessel was not owned or crewed by Maersk Sealand. It said that all enquiries should go, therefore, to the designated representatives of the vessel's owner, Munia Mobilengesellschaft.

BUZZARDS BAY, MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: The only person to be criminally charged in the April 2003 oil spill in Buzzards Bay has been sentenced to five months in federal prison. Franklin Hill, a tugboat mate, pleaded guilty in May to violating the Clean Water Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. He was sentenced yesterday by Magistrate Judge Robert Collings, who said Hill's conduct rose to the level of "recklessness." In a letter to the court, Hill said he took responsibility for his negligence and would be (quote) "forever sorry." The 53-year-old Jacksonville, Florida man was a mate on the tug which was pulling a barge (B. No.120) carrying fuel oil into the Cape Cod Canal. The tug and barge veered off course and hit a rock outcropping, ripping a hole in the bottom of the barge. The resulting spill of up to 98,000 gallons of oil killed hundreds of shore birds and closed shellfish beds in Buzzards Bay.



AUSTRALIA

London, Sep 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than 3,500 homes in Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast are still without power after a line of storms moved across south-east Queensland last night. Winds reached 90 kilometres-per-hour at the storm's peak. Windblown branches and debris brought down powerlines and caused power interruptions to more than 45,000 homes. But Energex spokesman Christian Dale says the storms have not been as bad as the company had expected. "So far the damage hasn't been too severe or intense, currently we only have about 3,500 customers affected," he said. Bureau of Meteorology spokesman Brian Rollstone says there has also been some rain. "It was a line of heavy showers that moved very fast through the south-east," he said. The weather bureau says winds are expected to ease this afternoon. State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers in Western Australia are attending to over 50 calls in the Perth metropolitan area

following this morning's wild storm. Many of the calls are from Subiaco where winds have ripped off roofs, uprooted trees and brought down power lines. Western Power says over 100 customers are without power but it should be restored within the next couple of hours. A high voltage line has also been brought down by trees in the hills suburb of Bickley. The Bureau of Meteorology says some areas have been hit by winds of over 100 kilometres-per-hour. SES spokesman Darryl Ott says most of the damage is in the northern suburbs. "The areas effected predominantly are up around the Padbury Kingsley area, Subiaco and Ocean Reef - Subiaco appears to be the worst-hit at present," he said.

London, Sep 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: The wild weather that buffeted south-east Queensland yesterday has passed without causing major damage. More than 100,000 consumers were left without power when wind gusts of more than 90 kilometres-per-hour lashed the region from Friday night (Sep 16). The State Emergency Service responded to more than 50 calls for help, although there were no reports of major damage.

BAY OF BENGAL

London, Sep 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: Six fishermen are missing and around 12,000 Bangladeshi villagers have been forced to flee their homes after rough weather hit the Bay of Bengal and tidal waves of up to 1.3 m swamped some coastal villages, officials said. Nearly 10,000 people took refuge in cyclone shelters near their homes when a levee was breached in a low-lying area of the southern Sandwip island yesterday, said Golam Rabbani, head of the Chittagong Red Crescent branch. Relief officials also evacuated a further 2,000 people from the southern district of Barguna after floodwater up to four feet deep inundated their homes, said Shamsul Alam, the district relief officer. Two trawlers with a total of 20 crew on board capsized. Fourteen men were rescued by another boat although six are still missing, Alam added. "We also have other reports that some deep-sea fishing trawlers did not return to their landing stations but we think they might have anchored at remote islands or in other coastal areas," he added. Relief officials said conditions in the Bay of Bengal were rough yesterday due to a depression which earlier hit the coast of India's Orissa state. In the coastal district of Cox's Bazar, some fishing trawlers had also failed to report to their landing stations. District relief officials said they did not intend to list them as missing yet as they expected them to turn up. Depression-induced tidal surges are a regular occurrence in Bangladesh's coastal areas which are home to 20 million.

Hyderabad, Sep 20 -- A severe storm ripped through southern India, killing at least 18 people and leaving some 50,000 homeless, officials said today.

Hundreds of trees and electricity poles were uprooted by strong winds and heavy overnight rains which triggered flooding in the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh state. Most of the victims were either electrocuted or died in house collapses, officials said. The airport in the port city of Visakhapatnam, 525 km east of Hyderabad, was closed because the runway was partially flooded. "All traffic, rail, road and air, has been suspended on the east coast for the next 24 hours in view of heavy rainfall predicted under the influence of the cyclone," said Shashank Goel, a top state disaster management official. Coast guard boats were searching for dozens of missing fishermen who did not return to shore yesterday. Low-lying colonies in many small towns have been flooded, Goel said. "Helicopters have been rushed to the districts to rescue people stranded on rooftops and trees," he added. Officials said they were bracing for more rain in the region although the storm itself had substantially weakened. -- Reuters.

London, Sep 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than 40 people have been killed and hundreds are unaccounted for in fierce storms and severe flooding in the Bay of Bengal since the weekend (Sep 17-18). At least 1,000 fishermen are said to be missing in the sea off Bangladesh. Indian authorities say hundreds are missing and dozens were killed in India's Andhra Pradesh state. Thousands of people there are homeless after monsoon rains swelled rivers and inundated villages, disrupting roads and trains, as well as power supplies. The weekend's storms brought heavy rains and caused the sea to rise up to 3m (10ft) in coastal areas along the Bay of Bengal. In Orissa state in eastern India, 11,000 people were evacuated from low-lying areas. State Revenue Minister Manmohan Samal told the BBC that over 25,000 hectares of rice crop was destroyed by the storm. In Bangladesh, 16 fishermen are thought to have drowned when their trawlers sank in stormy weather. Hundreds more are missing, and local media was reporting that anxious families were waiting along the coastlines for their relatives to return.

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 64 people have died and hundreds of thousands displaced after powerful storms left a trail of devastation across the Indian and Bangladeshi coasts in the Bay of Bengal, officials said yesterday. The southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh bore the brunt of the storms, which killed 58 people in the region, provincial Chief Minister Rajasekhara Reddy told reporters. "The situation is very grim and so far we have evacuated 150,000 displaced people to 473 (emergency) relief camps in 10 of the 23 districts hit by the storms," Reddy said in the state capital of Hyderabad. Reddy said 9,747 houses were completely damaged by the storms and another 82,353 homes

partially submerged in the coastal districts. Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Minister Crop Raghuvvera Reddy said the rains accompanied by buffeting winds had caused damage worth 180 billion rupees (\$420 million) to crops, state facilities and homes. Reddy, in a memorandum to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who is visiting Andhra Pradesh, also sought federal assistance of 120 billion rupees. "Apart from the financial assistance we have also sought 1.2 million tonnes of rice and the prime minister's response was quite positive," chief minister Reddy added. The torrent submerged roads and rail tracks as winds flattened tens of thousands of trees and power poles, witnesses said. Officials sounded a flood alert after opening the sluice gates of a brimming reservoir in the state's Vijaywada district, where a levee on the swirling Krishna river burst yesterday and flooded the township of Ajitnagar. The airport in the port city of Vishakhapatnam was closed for the third straight day yesterday, the air force said, adding that military helicopters were evacuating marooned people. In Orissa the administration evacuated 12,000 people from low-lying areas in 10 of the state's 30 districts, said revenue secretary Tarunkanti Mishra. He said more than 25,000 hectares of crops had been destroyed due to rains which have lashed the state since Friday (Sep 16). The weather office in the Orissa state capital Bhubaneswar forecast more rain for the province in the next 48 hours. Coastguard ships were scouring the bay for 73 fishermen reported missing from the two southern states. The lashing rains spilled into the southernmost state of Tamil Nadu, disrupting rail services. The storm also swept across West Bengal state, flooding islets dotting the Sundarban mangrove forests off the bay. In southern Bangladesh tidal waves of up to four feet Monday (Sep 19) swamped some villages and forced some 12,000 people to flee their homes, officials in Dhaka said. By yesterday most had returned home after the waters subsided. Shamsul Alam, relief officer of Barguna district where many fishing trawlers are based, said at least 26 fishermen had been reported missing but it was not clear if they had perished or were merely unaccounted for.

BULGARIA

Sofia, Sep 20 -- Heavy floods killed two women, forced at least 200 people from their homes and damaged hundreds of buildings in southern Bulgaria, officials said today. Meteorologists warned the country that more rain was expected over the next few days. An elderly woman was killed after her flooded house collapsed in a village near the town of Plovdiv, a civil defence spokeswoman said. Another woman died of heart attack after her house was hit by water. Heavy raining forced rivers to burst their banks and dams to overflow, flooding more than 400 houses in

villages in the southern region of the Balkan state, the civil defence said. -- Reuters.

HURRICANE "JOVA"

London, Sep 16 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Kenneth" centre located near lat 13.0N, long 122.6W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 25 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west or 275 degrees at nine knots. Maximum sustained winds 70 knots with gusts to 85 knots. Forecast position lat 13.2, long 123.7W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 75 knots, gusts 90 knots. Forecast position lat 13.5N, long 125.0W at 0600, UTC, Sep 17. Maximum winds 85 knots, gusts 105 knots.

London, Sep 22 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Hurricane "Jova": Hurricane centre located near lat 19.0N, long 147.7W, at 0900, UTC, Sep 22. Position accurate to within 45 nautical miles. Present movement towards the north-north-west, or 330 deg, at seven knots. Diameter of eye 10 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 90 knots with gusts to 110 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 25 nautical miles north semicircle, 20 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 55 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 50 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 45 nautical miles south-east quadrant and 40 nautical miles south-west quadrant. Radius of 34-knot winds 110 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 100 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 95 nautical miles south-east quadrant and 85 nautical miles south-west quadrant. Radius of 12-foot seas 180 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 160 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 110 nautical miles south-east quadrant and 95 nautical miles south-west quadrant. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Sep 20: Position lat 21.1N, long 149.4W. Maximum sustained winds 70 knots with gusts to 85 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 10 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 15 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 20 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 35 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 40 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 45 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 70 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 80 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 90 nautical miles elsewhere.

HURRICANE "KATRINA"

London, Sep 16 -- Drill platform GSF Arctic I in the Gulf of Mexico, broke loose from its moorings and pushed on top of a wellhead by Hurricane "Katerina", refloated by team of Smit Salvage.

London, Sept 16 -- A Coast Guard Baton Rouge press release, dated Sept 15, states: Oil Pollution containment and recovery operations continue today in Southeast Louisiana resulting from the destructive force of hurricane "Katrina". Federal, state and local officials in cooperation with industry partners continue to work together to

conduct aggressive response operations to contain and recover oil. The following information on each spill is current as of 1700 today: Federal, state and local agencies, as well as industry, are working closely together on recovery efforts. Aggressive oil containment and recovery operations are underway on each spill. Each company has ongoing damage assessments underway, as well as debris removal and cleanup efforts. The Unified Command is comprised of the following federal, state and industry partners: U.S. Coast Guard, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinating Office in cooperation with their Louisiana Trustees, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Environmental Quality, Murphy Oil Corporation, Bass Enterprises, Shell, Chevron, Venice Energy Services Company (Dynergy) and Sundown Energy. Major spills (over 100,000 gallons): Murphy Oil Corporation, Meraux, La., near mile marker 87 Mississippi River: On Monday (Sept 12) equipment and personnel were doubled and are now working 24-hour operations About 819,000 gallons of oil discharged of which about 305,000 gallons of oil has been recovered, about 196,000 gallons contained and about 312,000 gallons evaporated. Bass Enterprises Production Company, Cox Bay, La., near mile marker 35 Mississippi River: The product at the Bass Enterprises Production Company Cox Bay Facility is contained mechanically and naturally and is being recovered and pumped into barges for transport to reclamation facilities. About 3.78 million gallons of oil discharged of which about 960,000 gallons of product recovered, about 2,026,000 gallons contained and about 982,000 gallons evaporated. Shell, Pilot Town, La., near mile marker 3 Mississippi River: Vessels in the area must maintain slow speed, under 10 knots About 1,051,000 gallons of oil discharged of which about 718,000 gallons recovered, about 105,000 gallons evaporated or natural dispersion and about 129,000 gallons contained About 87,000 gallons uncontained Shell is assisting the local Parish with repairing the levee. Chevron, Empire, La., near mile marker 30 Mississippi River: All pipeline personnel in Louisiana have been located and are safe. In addition to aggressive oil recovery, debris removal and cleanup efforts are also underway. These operations are in accordance with Chevron's Incident Action Plan, which are submitted and reviewed daily by the Coast Guard. Work continues on a comprehensive damage assessment to facilities, pumps, motors, piping, electrical, and control systems. About 991,000 gallons of oil released of which about 983,000 gallons of oil naturally dispersed and evaporated, about 4,000 gallons recovered and about 3,600 gallons contained. Medium spills (10,000 to 100,000 gallons): Venice Energy Services Company (Dynergy), Venice, La., near Pass Tante Phine at the

main channel of the Mississippi River About 25,000 gallons discharged, 4,800 gallons of oil recovered. About 840,000 gallons potential discharge enclosed in bermed and boomed area Sundown Energy, West Potash, La: About 13,000 gallons of oil discharged, 153 gallons recovered, about 2000 gallons contained and about 5000 gallons onshore. Bass Enterprises Production Company, Point a la Hache, La: About 461,000 gallons of oil discharged, 235,000 gallons contained about 312,000 gallons evaporated. The site was previously inaccessible and over flights indicated minimal spillage. Prior to the storm, the company reported approximately about 457,000 gallons in the tanks An on-site inspection shows some oil contained in earthen dams and isolated in ditches surrounding the facility A recovery plan is being implemented At Pointe a la Hache, the product has been isolated and a containment and recovery plan is being implemented. Shell Pipeline Oil LP ø Nairn, La., near mile marker 35: About 13,440 gallons of oil discharged, 126 gallons recovered, 2,940 gallons contained, and 10,500 gallons on shore. Chevron, Port Fourchon, La: All pipeline personnel in Louisiana have been located and are safe. In addition to aggressive oil recovery, debris removal and cleanup efforts are also underway. These operations are in accordance with Chevron's Incident Action Plans, which are submitted and reviewed daily by the Coast Guard. Work continues on a comprehensive damage assessment to facilities, pumps, motors, piping, electrical, and control systems. About 53,000 gallons of oil released, about 21,000 gallons naturally dispersed, about 26,000 gallons recovered, about 21,000 gallons of oily/water mix recovered, 420 gallons contained. Approximately 35 minor spills are also being coordinated at this time.

London, Sep 16 -- The Ports Association of Louisiana (PAL) would like to assure the nation that Louisiana's shipping activities are continuing. Since the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Louisiana's ports and maritime industry along with a host of federal agencies are working together to ensure any interruption in the flow of commerce is minimized.

Of the six deepwater ports located in the State of Louisiana, only two have suffered extensive damage and are not operating at this time (Plaquemines and St. Bernard). These ports will operate at a reduced capacity once flooding subsides and power is restored.

All of Louisiana's 21 inland and, shallow-water river ports, such as the Port of Shreveport-Bossier, Port of Iberia, Port of Lake Providence, and the Alexandria Port Authority, remain fully operational. The deep draft ports of Lake Charles and Greater Baton Rouge were not affected by the hurricane and are fully operational. These ports are accepting ships and diverted cargo until the ports in Southeastern Louisiana can be

operational again. According to Joe Accardo, executive director of PAL, "the goal is to assist these ports and its customers by providing an alternate location until these ports are fully operational. The goal is to keep the commerce flowing and retain as much cargo as possible in Louisiana." The lower Mississippi River south of the Port of New Orleans is open to ocean-going vessels with a draft of 39 feet or less, while the stretch from New Orleans to Baton Rouge is functional with only minor restrictions.

The Port of New Orleans reported that is partially operational and making great strides to return to full functionality. On Friday, Sep 9th, the port received permission to begin restoration of truck transportation to the upriver terminals, including the Napoleon and Nashville Avenue terminals over the Crescent City Connection to Tchoupitoulas to the container terminal. There will be two checkpoints along the way and the same credentialing necessary at the Felicite Gate normally will be accepted along the way. Port officials estimate that the container terminal will be operational by Sep 14. As the outlook for the port improves, containerized cargo, steel, rubber, coffee and grain will continue to flow through the port's facilities.

For those port related workers who have no home to return to either permanently or temporarily, we will offer housing aboard one of three MARAD vessels steaming into the port this weekend and early next week; we will be able to handle 700-1,000 workers onboard for several months.

The Port of South Louisiana, the nation's largest port by tonnage and essential to the nation's agriculture exports, suffered only minor structural damage. Despite power outages, nearly all terminals are now up and running and the port is approximately 85% operational as the 39 foot draft limitation on the Lower Mississippi River limits total tonnage. Of the twelve grain transit facilities located throughout the state, only Harvest States in South Plaquemines Parish suffered extensive damage. A few are in need of minor repairs and electricity, while most are operating at this time.

Port Fourchon suffered both wind and water damage, but only minor structural damage, and is operating at 50% on generated power. They expect 85% capacity by September 16, 2005. Similarly, the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP) continues to unload supertankers as it operates at 70% capacity because the landside pipeline pumps need additional generated power.

The Ports Association of Louisiana is assisting all of these ports with as much support as possible as these ports become operational.

London, Sep 19 -- Following New Orleans update, dated Sep 18, states: The Captain of the Port (COTP) New Orleans, under the authority of the Port and Waterways Safety Act, has

continued the Safety Zone on the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal, 500 yards North and South of the Florida Avenue Bridge, extending the entire width of the canal, New Orleans, LA. This Safety Zone is needed to protect persons and vessels from the safety and navigation hazards associated with post-hurricane "Katrina" salvage operations. No vessel shall transit within this safety zone without the permission of the COTP New Orleans. Deviations from this rule are being granted on a case by case basis, however nighttime transits are not being permitted at this time.

London, Sep 21 -- A joint operation between the US Coast Guard and its state and industry partners to contain and recover oil spill as a result of Hurricane "Katrina" is said to be making good progress on multiple spills throughout southern Louisiana. Described as an "aggressive" response under the unified command, the operations have seen skimmers, booms, recovery vehicles and vacuum trucks, along with response boats and other craft deployed at the multiple spills which range from small ones to multi-million gallon incidents. The operation, which had earlier been hampered by access problems and difficulties associated with wreckage and debris mixed with the oil, is now progressing, although damage assessments continue. At the biggest of the spills, where some 3.78m gallons of oil had been discharged at Bass Enterprises Production Co's facility at Cox Bay, near Mile marker 35 on the Mississippi River, the product was being contained naturally and was being pumped into barges for ongoing reclamation. Nearly 1m gallons had been recovered in the operation leaving about 2m gallons contained and an estimated 1m gallons lost through evaporation. Around 70 people were deployed in the recovery operation which saw 9,600 ft of boom on site along with 11 skimmers and 47 response boats. More than 1m gallons of oil had also been discharged from Shell's facility at Pilot Town in the Mississippi Delta, although some 718,000 gallons had been recovered and 105,000 evaporated or naturally dispersed. Some 128,000 gallons were contained leaving about 87,000 gallons uncontained. The operation on this site, past which vessels in transit were required to maintain slow speed, included some 7,000 ft of boom and 19 response boats and vehicles. Shell was also engaged in assisting the local authorities in repairing the damaged levee. A round-the-clock operation was under way at the Murphy Oil Corp facility at Meraux near Mile marker 87 in the Mississippi River, which had recovered some 305,000 gallons from an estimated 819,000 gallons of oil discharged in the hurricane. Some 113 persons were on site, with 4,800 ft of boom, 21 skimmers and 18 vacuum trucks and 37 additional response vehicles. Barges, skimmers, pumps and other resources were deployed along with 127 emergency responders

at a Chevron facility near Mile marker 30 on the Mississippi where around 991,000 gallons had been released, engaged in oil recovery, debris removal and clean-up. In addition to the major spills recovery and cleanup, operations are proceeding at five medium spills, where between 10,000 and 100,000 gallons have been released, and some 35 minor spills of less than 10,000 gallons which are presently being co-ordinated by the Coast Guard. The International Spill Control Organisation says it is monitoring the efforts in the affected areas and will subsequently provide information on lessons from the huge operation.

HURRICANE "KENNETH"

London, Sep 16 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Kenneth" located near lat 13.0N, long 122.6W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 25 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west or 275 degrees at nine knots. Maximum sustained winds 70 knots with gusts to 85 knots. Forecast position lat 13.2N, long 123.7W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 75 knots, gusts 90 knots. Forecast position lat 13.5N, long 125.0W at 0600, UTC, Sep 17. Maximum winds 85 knots, gusts 105 knots.

London, Sep 22 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Kenneth": Storm centre located near lat 15.2N, long 135.0W, at 0900, UTC, Sep 22. Position accurate to within 45 nautical miles. Present movement towards the west, or 280 deg, at six knots. Maximum sustained winds 50 knots with gusts to 60 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 25 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 100 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 80 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 12-foot seas 100 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 120 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Sep 23: Position lat 15.5N, long 136.2W. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 100 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 80 nautical miles elsewhere.

HURRICANE "OPHELIA"

London, Sep 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: "Ophelia", downgraded from hurricane to tropical storm, moved out to sea early today after a three-day drenching that was far less severe than many had anticipated. Coastal residents to the south, where the storm's gusty wind ripped apart businesses and damaged homes, were hit hardest. While the storm's centre was expected to stay just off shore, the ring of high wind surrounding the eye could remain over the Outer Banks until midday today, the National Hurricane Centre said. Gov. Mike Easley said gauging the scope of the damage was difficult because of the storm's slow path, first affecting the state's southeastern coast on Tuesday (Sep 13) and then crawling north and east Wednesday

(Sep 14) and yesterday. "It's almost like working three different storms," Easley said. "Ophelia" was downgraded to a tropical storm and its sustained winds dropped to 65 mph, the hurricane center said early today. More than 12,000 homes and businesses remained without power late yesterday in eastern North Carolina, utilities said, down from a high of more than 200,000 overnight. The storm was blamed for one traffic death. Earlier, a surfer disappeared in rough water off the coast of South Carolina. On the Outer Banks, Dare County officials said Hatteras Island reported gusts to 95 mph. Other than power outages, the island was in pretty good shape, said county spokeswoman Sharon Sullivan. Ocean water was not expected to wash over the islands, although coastal storm surge flooding of four feet to six feet above normal tide was expected, along with large and battering waves. "Ophelia", an erratic storm that has looped and meandered north since forming off the Florida coast last week, stalled yestersday afternoon before drifting toward the east-northeast at about three mph, the hurricane centre said. At 0200 hrs, "Ophelia" was centered about 55 miles southeast of Cape Hatteras. It was drifting to the north and was expected to continue turning erratically out to sea, the hurricane centre said. A tropical storm watch was issued for southeastern Massachusetts, including Cape Cod, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard.

London, Sep 16 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Following received from The National Hurricane Centre, Miami, timed 0900, GMT, today: Tropical storm "Ophelia:" At 0500, EDT, the Canadian hurricane center has issued a tropical storm watch for south-western Nova Scotia from Yarmouth to Lunenburg. A tropical storm warning remains in effect from Cape Lookout, North Carolina, northward to the north Carolina/Virginia border including the Pamlico and Albemarle sounds. A tropical storm watch remains in effect from Point Judith, Rhode Island, to Plymouth, Massachusetts. Storm center located near lat 35.1N, 74.8W, at 0900, GMT, position accurate within 30 nautical miles. Present movement toward the north at four knots. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots with gusts to 65 knots. Forecast position lat 36.1, long 74.0W, at 1800, GMT. Maximum wind 55 knots, gusts 65 knots.

HURRICANE "RITA"

London, Sep 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of tourists jammed the highways yesterday after they were told to evacuate the lower Florida Keys because Tropical Storm "Rita" developed over the Bahamas and moved toward the vulnerable, low-lying island chain. A hurricane watch was posted for the entire Florida Keys, which means hurricane conditions of winds of at least 74 mph are possible

by late today. In Tallahassee, Gov. Jeb Bush declared a state of emergency for Florida, which gives the state authority to oversee evacuations and activate the National Guard, among other powers. "It does look like that there is the potential for it to become a hurricane, near or just before it reaches the Florida Keys," said Daniel Brown, a meteorologist at the National Hurricane Centre. Long-term forecasts show the system heading generally toward the west in the Gulf of Mexico toward Texas or Mexico later in the week, but such forecasts are subject to large errors. That means that areas ravaged by Hurricane "Katrina" could potentially be in the storm's path. Authorities urged residents in mobile homes to prepare for possible evacuations, too. At 1700, EDT, yesterday, "Rita" had top sustained winds of about 40 mph, just above the 39 mph threshold for a tropical storm. It was centred about 355 miles east-southeast of Nassau, Bahamas, and about 600 miles east-southeast of Key West. It was moving to the west near 10 mph. Monroe County emergency management officials told visitors to leave islands extending from the Dry Tortugas west of Key West to the Seven Mile Bridge near Marathon." Residents of South Florida and central and western Cuba also should closely monitor the system's progress, Brown said.

London, Sep 20 -- The Coast Guard is urging mariners to make final preparation immediately for Tropical Storm "Rita":

Monroe County:

All bridges in Monroe County, Fla., are closed and locked at this time.†They will not reopen to vessel traffic until further notice.

Miami-Dade County:

Bridges in Miami-Dade County, Fla., will be closed at sunset (Sep 19) and will be locked by 2300 hrs.

The port of Key West is closed until further notice to all vessel traffic.†Any vessel seeking entry into the Port of Key West is advised to seek an alternate destination.

Port of Miami, Port Everglades:

Vessels weighing more than 500 gross tons have been ordered to leave port unless they have been granted prior approval to remain by the Coast Guard. Only port operations in preparation of the storm are permitted to continue at this time. Any vessels scheduled to arrive in these ports are advised to seek an alternate destination. (See "Tropical Storm 'Rita'" in issue of Sep 20.)

London, Sep 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Army Corps of Engineers raced to patch New Orleans' fractured levee system yesterday and residents were forced to decide yet again whether to stay or go as a new, rapidly strengthening hurricane threatened to flood the city anew. The new threat was Hurricane "Rita", which strengthened into a 105-mph Category 2 storm as it barreled past the Florida Keys into the Gulf of Mexico. Forecasters said the storm could strengthen to a 131-mph-plus

Category 4 and hit Texas by the end of the week. But a slight turn to the right was possible, and engineers warned that even a glancing blow to New Orleans and as little as three inches of rain could swamp the city's levees. "The protection is very tenuous at best," said Dave Wurtzel, the Army Corps official responsible for repairing the 17th Street Canal levee, whose huge breach during "Katrina" caused the worst of the floods that wrecked the city. Mayor Ray Nagin and Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco strongly urged people along the Louisiana coast to be prepared to get out. The federal government's top official in the city, Coast Guard Vice Adm. Thad Allen, said the preparations in and around New Orleans included 500 buses for evacuation, and enough water and military meals for 500,000 people. "We are praying that the hurricane dissipates or that it weakens," said Blanco, who declared a state of emergency. In anticipation of another hurricane, the Corps drove a massive metal barrier across the 17th Street Canal bed to prevent a storm surge from swamping New Orleans again. Although engineers have left a large opening in the wall to allow floodwater to continue to be pumped back into the lake, it will have to be closed quickly if "Rita" or another storm threatens. Government engineers and private contractors also worked around the clock across New Orleans to repair the damage to the system of pumps, concrete floodwalls, earthen berms and canals that protect the below-sea-level city. In addition, the corps had 800 giant sandbags weighing 6,000 to 15,000 pounds on hand just in case, and ordered 2,500 more to shore up low spots and plug any new breaches. It was also putting pumps and other materials where they might be needed. "Rita's" threat to the levees already forced the mayor to suspend the phased reopening of the city and order a new round of evacuations. In some areas where bars, restaurants and shops were opening their doors for the first time since Hurricane "Katrina", people were boarding up windows and getting ready to leave town again. President Bush made his fifth trip to the Hurricane "Katrina" zone yesterday to meet with local business and political leaders in Gulfport, Miss., and received a briefing in New Orleans on preparations for Hurricane "Rita".

London, Sep 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Determined not to repeat the mistakes of "Katrina", Texas prepared for Hurricane "Rita" yesterday by ordering the state's first mandatory evacuation, declaring the state a disaster area and moving supplies to inland cities in anticipation of evacuees. Using a law passed this year, Galveston County officials ordered a mandatory evacuation of its coastal communities beginning tonight. Elderly residents living in nursing homes and assisted living centres were to be evacuated by

bus before dawn to shelters about 100 miles north in Huntsville. Hurricane "Rita" was upgraded to a Category 2 hurricane yesterday as it lashed the Florida Keys with flooding rain and strong wind. It was expected to be a Category 4 storm, the same size as "Katrina" by mid-afternoon today. It was expected to make landfall somewhere on the Texas Gulf Coast by Friday night (Sep 23). A state of emergency was declared yesterday evening for Galveston, where officials said they were focusing all their efforts on evacuations and preparing for "Rita's" possible arrival. Authorities said they would not forcibly remove anyone from their homes, but Mayor Lyda Ann Thomas urged residents to leave, warning that "If they don't want to leave, they are staying here at their own risk."

London, Sep 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Rita" strengthened into a Category 3 storm packing 115 mph winds early today after lashing the Florida Keys and sparking anxiety as it headed into the Gulf of Mexico. Florida Gov. Jeb Bush said more than 2,000 Florida National Guard troops and dozens of law enforcement officers were ready to deal with the storm's aftermath. At 0200, EDT, "Rita's" eye was about 145 miles west of Key West. The storm was moving west at 14 mph. Nearly 900 miles from Key West, officials of Galveston were already calling for voluntary evacuations, with mandatory evacuations to begin today.

London, Sep 21 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Hurricane "Rita:" Following received from the National Hurricane Center, Miami, timed 0900, UTC, today: At 0500, EDT, 0900, UTC, hurricane center located near lat 24.3N, long 84.6, position accurate within 15 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west or 280 deg at 12 knots. Maximum sustained winds 105 knots with gusts to 130 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 40 nautical miles NE and NW, 30 nautical miles SE and 25 nautical miles SW.

Miami, Sep 21 -- After lashing the Florida Keys, hurricane "Rita" was today upgraded into a more powerful Category 4 storm as it headed across the Gulf of Mexico on a course that could take it to Texas and dump more rain on Louisiana. The hurricane's winds increased to 135 mph as it headed into the Gulf. The storm hit the Florida Keys but did not get close enough to reach the vulnerable chain of islands with its most destructive forces. The upgrade put "Rita" in the same strength classification as hurricane "Katrina," which devastated parts of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama last month, and it sparked concern in financial markets that the new storm could wreak as much damage as Katrina's assault on the US Gulf Coast. US crude-oil prices rose and the dollar weakened against the euro. US stock futures also pointed to a lower market open. The hurricane's most likely future track would take it to Texas by the end of the week,

raising fears the sprawling storm could bring heavy rains to flooded New Orleans and threaten the recovery of oil production facilities in the Gulf of Mexico. With "Rita" looming, Louisiana declared a state of emergency and New Orleans, 80% of which was flooded when "Katrina" shattered its protective levees, was taking no chances. Mayor Ray Nagin said two busloads of people had been evacuated already and 500 other buses were ready to roll. Officials along the Texas Gulf Coast prepared for "Rita." An evacuation was ordered for Galveston and several schools in the region planned to cancel classes. About 1,100 hurricane "Katrina" evacuees still in Houston's two mass shelters faced another evacuation as the city found itself in Rita's possible path. They were being sent to Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. The hurricane's centre was about 195 miles west of Key West, Florida, at 0800, EDT (1200, UTC). The hurricane was headed west into the south-eastern Gulf of Mexico at about 14 mph, the US National Hurricane Centre said. The hurricane centre said "Rita" became a Category 4 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale, with sustained winds above 135 mph this morning. "The conditions over the central Gulf are much like they were for 'Katrina,'" hurricane centre deputy director Ed Rappaport told CNN. A major hurricane could send a 20-foot (6-metre) storm surge over the Texas coast by Saturday (Sep 24). Oil companies just starting to recover from "Katrina" evacuated Gulf oil rigs as "Rita" moved towards major energy production areas. The Navy began moving its remaining fleet of "Katrina" relief vessels, including assault vessel Iwo Jima, away from the Gulf Coast to ride out any potential battering from "Rita." US light crude oil rose \$1.80 per barrel to \$68, its highest level in three weeks. The dollar lost 1% against the euro and Swiss franc, and some analysts cited concerns that damage caused by the hurricanes could prompt the Federal Reserve to scale back plans to raise interest rates. President George W. Bush was briefed yesterday on the growing storm on board Iwo Jima, which is docked in New Orleans and has served as the military's "Katrina" relief headquarters. Bush said he had sent an admiral to Texas to co-ordinate any needed response to "Rita." Residents of the Florida Keys were grateful that "Rita" merely skirted their area. "We did not have the flooding I thought we'd have," Key West Mayor Jimmy Weekley said. "We were extremely lucky." All 80,000 residents had been ordered out of the Keys island chain but many stayed behind in boarded-up homes. The hurricane's winds pushed seawater, sand and seaweed onto the Overseas Highway, the only road linking the islands to the mainland and flooded some buildings. The storm swamped streets and knocked out power in Key West, the tourist playground at the western end of the island chain, but officials said the city

fared well. Bush signed an emergency declaration making federal assistance available to Florida, at the request of his brother, Florida Governor Jeb Bush. -- Reuters.

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated Sep 21, states: Gaining strength with frightening speed, Hurricane "Rita" swirled toward the Gulf Coast a Category 5, 165-mph monster today as more than 1.3 million people in Texas and Louisiana were sent packing on orders from authorities who learned a bitter lesson from "Katrina". With "Rita" projected to hit Texas by Saturday (Sep 24), Gov. Rick Perry urged residents along the state's entire coast to begin evacuating. And New Orleans braced for the possibility that the storm could swamp the misery-stricken city all over again. Galveston, low-lying parts of Corpus Christi and Houston, and mostly emptied-out New Orleans were under mandatory evacuation orders as "Rita" sideswiped the Florida Keys and began drawing energy with terrifying efficiency from the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Between 0200 and 1600, it went from a 115-mph Category 2 to a 165-mph Category 5. Forecasters said "Rita" could be the most intense hurricane on record ever to hit Texas, and easily one of the most powerful ever to plow into the US mainland. By late afternoon, "Rita" was centred more than 700 miles southeast of Corpus Christi. Forecasters predicted it would come ashore along the central Texas coast between Galveston and Corpus Christi. Tropical storm-force winds extending 350 miles across, practically the entire western end of the Gulf Coast was in peril, and even a slight rightward turn could prove devastating to the fractured levees protecting New Orleans. In the Galveston-Houston-Corpus Christi area, about 1.3 million people were under orders to get out, in addition to 20,000 or more along with the Louisiana coast. Special attention was given to hospitals and nursing homes. Crude oil prices rose again on fears that "Rita" would smash into key oil installations in Texas and the gulf. Hundreds of workers were evacuated from offshore oil rigs. Texas, the heart of US crude production, accounts for 25 percent of the nation's total oil output. As "Rita" swirled away from Florida, thousands of residents who evacuated the Keys began returning to find that the storm had caused little more than minor flooding. Crews worked to restore electricity.

London, Sep 22 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Hurricane "Rita": At 0900, UTC, Sep 22, a hurricane watch has been extended eastwards along the Louisiana coast to Intracoastal City. A hurricane watch is now in effect for the Gulf of Mexico coast from Port Mansfield, Texas, to Intracoastal City, LA. A hurricane warning will probably be required for portions of the hurricane watch area later today. A tropical storm warning is in effect for the south-eastern coast of Louisiana

east of Morgan City to the mouth of the Mississippi River. A tropical storm watch remains in effect on either side of the hurricane watch area, from east of Intracoastal City to Morgan City, and from south of Port Mansfield to Brownsville, TX. A tropical storm watch remains in effect for the north-eastern coast of Mexico from Rio San Fernando northwards to the Rio Grande. Interests in the north-western Gulf of Mexico should monitor the progress of hurricane "Rita." Hurricane centre located near lat 24.9N, long 88.0W, at 0900, UTC, Sep 22. Position accurate to within 15 nautical miles. Present movement towards the west-north-west, or 285 deg, at eight knots. Diameter of eye 15 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 150 knots with gusts to 185 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 40 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 50 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 60 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 100 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 90 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 80 nautical miles south-east quadrant and 60 nautical miles south-west quadrant. Radius of 34-knot winds 100 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 140 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 160 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 12-foot seas 275 nautical miles north semicircle, 200 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Sep 23: Position lat 26.1N, long 91.1W. Maximum sustained winds 145 knots with gusts to 175 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 50 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 60 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 70 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 80 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 100 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 110 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 120 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 160 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 180 nautical miles elsewhere.

INDIA

London, Sep 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 28 people have been killed as a result of rain related incidents, and a further 22 injured, in the Indian region of Uttar Pradesh. The heavy rains caused houses and walls to collapse, while in some areas power lines snapped and trees were uprooted, blocking traffic. Many of those killed and injured were trapped under collapsed structures, reports UNI. In Mukhlispur, one of the hardest hits areas, up to 60 millimetres of rain fell, as rivers across the region continued to swell with many now flowing above the danger mark. Meanwhile, rain and thunderstorms are forecast for the next 24 hours, with officials hoping that people will now be vigilant and evacuate any structures likely to be affected by the storms.

MYANMAR

London, Sep 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 27 people, including a dozen primary school children, are believed to have died in landslides caused by torrential rains

that hit four villages in southeastern Myanmar on Wednesday (Sep 14), a Red Cross official said yesterday. Twelve children died when one of the landslides hit a primary school in Kyauk-kar village of Tanin-tha-yi Division, about 550 kilometres southeast of Yangon, the official said.

NEW ZEALAND

London, Sep 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: Christchurch Airport had to suspend all flights out this morning and Lincoln University was closed as spring snow wreaked havoc in the South Island. Airport spokeswoman Nicole Were said it was still snowing at the airport and all check-ins had been suspended until 1430. Passengers had been told they could leave the airport terminal and re-book for tomorrow. "Flights were able to arrive but they haven't been able to de-ice the planes in time for departure." Ms Were said it was very unusual for snow to stop flights leaving. Snow has been falling throughout Canterbury today and Lincoln University spokeswoman Sarah Hannan said there was about 5cm lying on the ground. Christchurch City Council has shut off some sections of road due to the snow. Roads affected included Dyers Pass, Rd and Summit Rd. The council's rubbish and recycling contractor Onyx would not be collecting on the hills around the city. In other cities around the South Island, Dunedin and Invercargill police had not received any reports of snow. MetService lead forecaster Paul Bruce today said the snow would spread north. "It's snowing in quite a few places, even a few showers extending to the West Coast." Mr Bruce said 5-10cm of snow was predicted for Canterbury down to 100m and 15-25cm to about 300m. Otago and Southland were also getting snow showers but they would not be as heavy. Mr Bruce said Wellington would be feeling the southerly by about 1800, the Rimutaka Hill Road could see some snow and the Central Plateau and the Desert Road would get heavy snowfalls down to about 600m. Snow was unlikely to settle around Wellington as the ground temperature had been quite warm. Around the South Island, roads were treacherous this morning. State Highway 94 between Te Anau and Milford needed chains, and AA was advising chains to be carried throughout eastern Southland. Snow had also fallen on State Highway 1 between Ashburton and Rakaia, State Highway 75 between Little River and Akaroa, State Highway 77 between Ashburton and Mt Hutt, and State Highway 73 between Springfield and Arthur's Pass in Canterbury. Mr Somerville said all bus services would be suspended from midday. With snow still falling hill roads were slippery and dangerous and the council was advising drivers to keep off them if possible, he said. Many schools around Christchurch were either closed or closing because of the snow.

London, Sep 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: The big chill moved north last night, cutting roads in the central North Island. MetService spokesman Bob McDavitt this morning said the worst of the snow appeared to be past. "It was a snowy night, particularly in the pre-midnight hours, and there are still some rain and snow-bearing clouds we can see on the radar." Mr McDavitt said the MetService believed they would be able to drop its snow warnings this morning. Roads around the Central Plateau were hit hard by snow with State Highway 1 at the Desert Road and between Turangi and Taihape, State Highway 47 at National Park, State Highway 4 between Taumarunui and Raetihi State Highway 49 between Ohakune and Waiouru all shut about 2045 and were still closed this morning. Truckies travelling north had to wrap up and wait it out in Waiouru. State Highway 2 over the Rimutaka Ranges between Upper Hutt and Featherston was also hit by snow and closed temporarily but was open today. Mr McDavitt expected more snow to fall on the Rimutakas and further north today. After being hit hardest earlier yesterday, South Island roads were mostly open today. State Highway 87 between Mosgiel and Middlemarch was closed for snow, as was State Highway 1 between Waitati and Dunedin. No alternative routes were available. Transit and AA reported snow and icy conditions on highways throughout Otago and Southland, with chains required on State Highway 85 between Palmerston and Kyeburn and extreme care warnings elsewhere. Further north in the South Island, chains were also needed between Little River and Akaroa Mr McDavitt said frost in the coming days might be a problem for farmers and orchardists. Mr McDavitt said although the biggest snow showers were probably past, there could be more.

PHILIPPINES

London, Sep 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: Three people were reported missing as heavy rains and flooding hit the Philippine capital overnight, causing long traffic jams, the civil defense office said today. An undetermined number of people were forced to flee their homes in the Manila suburb of Muntinlupa due to flooding after almost two days of torrential rain. Amphibious vehicles and rubber boats were dispatched to Muntinlupa to help the evacuees and search for the missing. A major road leading south of Manila remained covered with water and was not passable to small vehicles, the flood control unit said. However, the flooding that hit many roads in Manila late yesterday had largely abated.

Manila, Sep 16 -- Five persons were killed and hundreds fled their homes as heavy rains flooded large parts of Metro Manila and nearby municipalities, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) said today. The Philippine Coast Guard said that a

river in the Manila municipality of Cupang, Muntinlupa, overflowed its banks this morning and drowned five people. Numerous houses were also swept away as rains continued to lash the city for two consecutive days. In response, the OCD said it sent amphibious rescue vehicles and rubber boats to evacuate families affected by the flooding. The South Superhighway, a major road leading south of Manila remained covered with water and was not passable to small vehicles, the OCD also said. The inclement weather was the result of the low pressure area affecting the main Philippine island of Luzon. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Sep 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least six people died and two babies remain missing after heavy rains hit the Philippines overnight, flooding parts of the capital, the Office of Civil Defence said yesterday. Three people were buried by a landslide in Banaue province on Friday (Sep 16), and two others drowned and seven were rescued after a motorboat overturned in rough waters in Mindanao on Thursday, the office said. A man drowned and two babies, aged one and two, were missing, swept away by rising waters in a Metro Manila suburb on Friday. The man's body was recovered yesterday in Muntinlupa, but his two young nieces remained missing as water receded after several days of teeming downpour. The Office of the Civil Defence said the flooding affected more than 25,900 people, including 2,242 who were evacuated from their communities in seven northern provinces and Metro Manila. Many have since returned home. The OCD said 43 villages in Pampanga and Nueva Ecija were still underwater yesterday.

London, Sep 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: Some 200 endangered families here were forcibly evacuated yesterday to safer places as rampaging floodwaters overflowing the Pampanga River since last Saturday (Sep 17) started eroding its banks and destroying some portions of the Arnedo Dike. Mayor Jerry Pelayo said that residents have abandoned some 138 houses, some of them made of concrete, as rainwaters from upper Nueva Ecija areas began gouging Candaba's banks. Wide portions of the Arnedo Dike in Barangays Lanang, Pansinao, Malisik and Maasim have collapsed, causing floods up to five-feet deep in Barangays Buas, San Agustin, Paralaya, Bambang, Pescadores, Mapaniqui, Barangca and Tagulod, Pelayo said. The local municipal agriculture office estimated that the floods have destroyed some 138 hectares of farmland planted to at least P10-million worth of rice crops and melons due for harvest next month. Floodwaters also destroyed the P5-million revetment project recently completed by the Department of Public Works and Highways. Regional Director Ramon P. Aquino said he has dispatched a team of engineers to Candaba to help in the rehabilitation of the flood-damaged areas. Pelayo

said that he has made representations with the Office of Civil Defense to provide aid to residents whose houses were in great danger of being washed away by erosion "in a day or two." He added that Sen. Francis Pangilinan has promised to help the evacuees with the 150-house Gawad resettlement project along the Arayat-Apalit levee.

Manila, Sep 20 -- The Philippine Coast Guard said that it had ordered the suspension of all port operations today in the coastal province of Bicol in southern Luzon island and neighbouring islands. The suspension was ordered as a precautionary measure as a tropical depression struck the eastern flank of the main Philippine island of Luzon today, bringing heavy rainfall and strong winds. Affected by the order were the ports of Legaspi, Tabaco, Matnog, Pilar, Bulan, Masbate and Virac. As a result of the suspension, five vessels with 373 passengers on board were left stranded in Bicol ports, the Office of Civil Defense reported. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Sep 21 -- The Philippine Coast Guard allowed ports in the southern Luzon province of Bicol to resume ferry operations today after a one-day suspension due to the onslaught of a tropical depression. The suspension was ordered as a precautionary measure as a tropical depression struck the eastern flank of the main Philippine island of Luzon, bringing heavy rainfall and strong winds. With the weather improving today, ferry operations between Bicol and neighboring islands were allowed to resume. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

RUSSIA

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: A severe windstorm is raging in Arkhangelsk. The wind breaks trees in the city. The port is closed for navigation. The storm has most severely hit the White Sea coast, where the wind speed reaches 32 metres a second, an officer on duty at the Emergencies Ministry's regional centre told Itar-Tass. Reports about broken trees, fall of electro-transmission line supports, torn wire and halted lighting come from various districts of the city. Headquarters have been set up to coordinate work to repair damage of the electricity system, the officer said. According to meteorologists, the windstorm is expected to begin subsiding in Arkhangelsk by midnight.

THAILAND

London, Sep 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: Flooding caused by a depression which moved on to Burma, yesterday, has damaged more than 30,000 rai of rice fields in Yasothon, Kalasin and Roi Et provinces, inundated 35 villages in Kanchanaburi, and forced four Bangkok schools to close temporarily. On Wednesday, downpours triggered by the depression caused flooding in the lower Northeast, the East, the

upper South and Bangkok. The flooding ruined more than 13,000 rai of blooming rice fields in Yasothon's Pa Tiu district, 2,000 rai in Kalasin's Yang Talat district and 20,000 rai in Roi Et's Selaphum district, which was left up to 0.5 metres under water. A two-metre high runoff from Khao Yai National Park killed more than 10,000 baby chickens in farms in Prachantakham district of Prachin Buri, but later receded with no impact on tourism at Takhro and Som Poi waterfalls there. While moving through the western region, the storm caused floods in 35 villages of Kanchanaburi's Huay Krachao district which were left 1.5 to two metres under water. Roads leading to 10 villages were impassable. The depression also left behind damage in many areas, including Tarn Khoo Bay, a popular tourist spot in Trat's Laem Ngop district, where three to five metre waves swamped many stores and houses. Trat authorities suspended ferry services between the mainland and Chang Island. In Bangkok, the floods forced Bodindecha School to close for two days and Protpitthayaphayap, Rattanakosin Sompote Lat Krabang and Thepsirin Romklao schools to close for one day. Yesterday, the Meteorological Department reported that the influence of the depression, which caused floods in 18 provinces of Thailand, would remain only in Tak, Kanchanaburi and Ratchaburi as it had entered the town of Marim in Burma and the Gulf of Martaban at 0800 hrs and 0900 hrs respectively. It forecast that it would rain in the afternoons and evenings in Bangkok, the central region, the eastern region and the lower Northeast, while cold breezes from China have started covering the North.

London, Sep 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: Residents in some northeastern and eastern provinces are being warned to brace themselves for heavy rainfall and possible flash floods tomorrow. Mukdahan, Amnat Charoen, Ubon Ratchathani, Chanthaburi and Trat are under threat of flooding as a tropical depression is expected to hit Vietnam. Yesterday, the depression came with wind speeds of 55kph at its eye and was about 350km from Vietnam's coast. The Meteorological Department has also warned of high waves in the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea for the next couple of days. Water run-off from Khao Yai yesterday flooded around 200 families in an old market community in Prachin Buri's Kabin Buri district. Parts of Nakhon Nayok's Ban Na district, where eight schools were closed for children's safety, were also inundated. Around 400 families in Chachoengsao's Ban Pho also found themselves submerged after the Irrigation Department released water from two reservoirs, Khwae Rabom in Sanam Chai Khet district and Si Yat, the largest reservoir in the east, in Tha Takiap district. In Kanchanaburi's Huay

Krachao district, around 1,800 households were cut off as the water level rose to 1.5 metres. Around 42,000 rai of farmland was submerged with damage estimated at 10 million baht. Authorities believed the water would recede and the situation would return to normal in a week. According to authorities, 12 provinces remained flooded. They were Nonthaburi, Samut Prakan, Pathum Thani, Prachin Buri, Suphan Buri, Lop Buri, Phitsanulok, Bangkok, Nakhon Nayok, Chanthaburi, Chon Buri and Rayong. Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, speaking in an interview from the US, said he was closely following the flood situation in Thailand. Mr Thaksin said the situation was under control and he had told various state agencies to look after the matter. Irrigation chief Samart Chokkanapitark that Bangkok would be safe from flooding. Four major reservoirs, Bhumibol dam in Tak, Sirikit dam in Uttaradit, Pasak Jolasid dam in Lop Buri and Chao Phraya dam in Chai Nat, could absorb water run-off from the North. However, a tidal surge at the end of this month could leave some areas of Bangkok inundated.

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Chiang Mai city was at a standstill after the Ping river overflowed late on Tuesday night, (Sep 20) inundating much of its inner area. Flood-affected residents lambasted state authorities for the lack of preventive measures in place, especially in light of the Aug 13 floods which caused over 100 million baht worth of damage. Chest-deep water was reported in several residential and commercial areas, including the popular Chiang Mai Night Bazaar, one of the areas badly hit by last month's massive flood. Elsewhere, several parts of Prachin Buri's Kabin Buri district were submerged. Some residents moved their belongings and took cattle to high ground. In Ayutthaya, participants at a workshop on water management held by the Water Resources Department yesterday lashed out at the Interior Ministry's plan to use the central plains as a flood-water retention area to save the capital from flooding.

TROPICAL STORM "DAMREY"

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Damrey" has left the main Philippines island of Luzon, with reports that six people have been killed and two others remain missing. Weather officials say the eye of the storm has moved north-west across the Balintang Channel and towards eastern China, with winds of 85 km an hour. The storm lashed north-eastern Luzon last night with gusts of up to 100 km an hour, dumping heavy rain. Parts of the town of Solsona were flooded, while floods and landslides also cut off major roads in at least six areas of northern Luzon. The storm has displaced more than 8,000 people and damaged more than 240 hectares of farmland.

London, Sep 22 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Damrey" near lat 20.1N, long 120.4E, at 0600, UTC, Sep 22. Movement past six hours 305 deg at six knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 50 knots with gusts to 65 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 75 nautical miles south semicircle, 35 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Sep 23: Position lat 20.6N, long 118.0E. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots with gusts to 70 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 25 nautical miles south semicircle, 20 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 75 nautical miles south semicircle, 60 nautical miles elsewhere.

TROPICAL STORM "PHILIPPE"

London, Sep 22 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Philippe": Storm centre located near lat 23.3N, long 57.2W, at 0900, UTC, Sep 22. Position accurate to within 75 nautical miles. Present movement towards the north, or 350 deg, at 10 knots. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 75 nautical miles east semicircle, nil elsewhere. Radius of 12-foot seas 125 nautical miles east semicircle, nil elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Sep 23: Position lat 28.1N, long 59.0W. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 100 nautical miles east semicircle, 25 nautical miles elsewhere.

TROPICAL STORM "VICENTE"

London, Sep 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Vicente" yesterday brought heavy rains to several northern provinces of Thailand, particularly Mae Hong Son which was hit by flash floods and mudslides. In Chiang Mai province, rains inundated several main roads, bringing traffic to a standstill. Areas most at risk of run-off were Fang, Mae Ai, Chai Prakan, Chiang Dao, Wiang Haeng and Phrao districts. In Mae Hong Son, the tropical storm flooded Pabong village in Muang district. Water in the village was almost two metres deep, making roads impassable. Bunsri Chaolaekha, of the Mae Hong Son provincial administration organisation, said six villagers were stranded in Ban Pabong as flash floods hit the village. A helicopter was sent to rescue the villagers. About 2,000 residents in three Muang district villages were cut off as mudslides engulfed a section of a road between Ban Kaenfa and Ban Klang. Several power poles were also damaged. Mae Hong Son governor Supoj Laowansiri ordered all relevant agencies to be on full alert. The Meteorological Department yesterday warned people living in the North to brace themselves for possible run-off and mudslides since the tropical storm, centred in Phayao, was moving northwest. At risk were Pai and Pang

Ma Pha districts in Mae Hong Son province, Mae Ramat, Tha Song Yang and Mae Sot districts in Tak province and Mae Fa Luang, Mae Chan and Mae Suai districts in Chiang Rai. Evacuation plans have been prepared. Northeastern provinces including Loei, Nong Khai, Nong Bua Lamphu, Udon Thani, Nakhon Phanom, Sakhon Nakhon and Mukdahan are also under threat. In Ayutthaya, the water level in Bang Ban district rose to nearly 50cm, flooding riverside houses. The Phom Phet historic fort at the confluence of the Chao Phraya and Pa Sak rivers was also flooded. Anek Sihamart, director of the archaeology office responsible for Ayutthaya, said repair of the historic fort was halted as the water rose. However, the inundation would not affect the structure of the fort since foundation piles at the front section of the fort had already been built, the director said. Interior Minister Kongsak Wantana yesterday held a meeting with the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration and relevant agencies to discuss measures to solve flooding, particularly in the capital. ACM Kongsak said the flood prevention plan would give priority to Bangkok since it was the country's economic hub. Some provinces may have to sacrifice certain areas to build water drainage routes which prevent flooding in Bangkok. "If we want less damage to Bangkok, water must be held in surrounding provinces. Those provinces will have to make sacrifices to hold back the floodwaters.

London, Sep 20 -- A press report, dated Sep 19, states: Three people were killed, two injured and four reported missing as tropical storm "Vicente" slammed into Vietnam's northern central provinces yesterday. The hurricane, domestically known as "Storm No. 6", forced some 9,000 families to evacuate and destroyed tens of thousands of hectares of crops in Nghe An, Thanh Hoa and Quang Ninh provinces and Hai Phong city. Strong winds of 62-88 km/h, heavy rain and high tides brought rough seas that seriously damaged dyke systems in the provinces. Nghe An had the heaviest casualties with two people killed during the storm, and two others injured when their room collapsed. Strong winds sank a 50-ton vessel with three aboard in Quang Ninh. Two were rescued, and the body of the third was recovered today. Three others were reportedly injured. Meanwhile, rescue teams in Hai Phong said they could not find a fishing boat with four on board who had sent SOS signals yesterday some 4.5 nautical miles away from Dau Island. Affected by the storm, heavy rains struck northern and central coastal provinces over the past two days, particularly from Nghe An to Quang Tri provinces.

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated Sep 21, states: Twenty people were killed or went missing as a result of the tropical storm "Vicente" and the follow-up flash floods and landslide, which struck central and northern

provinces, the Central Steering Board for Flood Control said today. Torrential rain accompanying the storm have stopped, making the water levels in the north and the northern central area's rivers recede. Meanwhile, water levels on the upper part of the Mekong river and its tributaries in the Plain of Reeds and the Long Xuyen quadrangle are rising above the highest alert level, said the central hydro-meteorology forecasting centre.

TYPHOON "NABI"

Busan, Sep 21 -- General cargo Long Xuyen was refloated and towed to the outer harbour anchorage, Pohang, Korea, on Sep 15. The vessel is being examined for possible repairs at the said anchorage. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

TYPHOON "SAOLA"

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: A strong typhoon is bearing down on Japan, with weather officials warning the storm will hit the main islands within days. The meteorological agency says Typhoon "Saola" has winds of up to 126 km an hour. It is likely to hit the central part of the main Japanese island of Honshu by Sunday morning (Sep 25).

London, Sep 22 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Typhoon "Saola" near lat 25.2N, long 144.3E, at 0600, UTC, Sep 22. Movement past six hours 290 deg at 17 knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 70 knots with gusts to 85 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 15 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 25 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 80 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 85 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Sep 23: Position lat 27.8N, long 139.1E. Maximum sustained winds 80 knots with gusts to 100 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 25 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 45 nautical miles north semicircle, 40 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 105 nautical miles north semicircle, 95 nautical miles elsewhere.

UNITED STATES

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: A severe thunderstorm with high wind and hail pushed across central Minnesota, knocking out power yesterday evening to thousands around the Twin Cities, damaging homes and crunching trees over a wide area. In Minneapolis, the storm was blamed for the death of a 45-year-old man who was struck by a tree branch. The storm included straight-line winds gusting to 67 mph in Monticello and 68 mph in the Crystal area, said Karen Trammell, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. "There are huge reports of wind damage all across the northern and eastern part of the Twin Cities," Trammell said. About 14 houses in a single block in Andover were damaged. There were unverified

reports of tornado touchdowns in Atwater and Brooklyn Park. Funnel clouds were reported throughout the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. Xcel Energy said tens of thousands were without power in the region.

VIETNAM

London, Sep 17 -- A press report, dated Sep 16, states: Rescuers have found the bodies of six of the 10 feared killed after strong winds capsized several fishing boats off Vietnam's southern tip earlier this week. Director of Ca Mau province's Department of Aquaculture, Pham Van Duc, said the other four fishermen were still missing. National rescue squads rescued 68 fishermen from the high seas after 11 boats sunk Monday (Sep 12) and Tuesday in the storm. Earlier reports had put the number of boats at 10 and the total number of people on them at 68.

Earthquakes



INDIA

London, Sep 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring the magnitude 6.1 shook the north eastern region of India today, causing panic in the states of Assam, Manipur, and Meghalaya, officials said. An official with the seismological centre in Shillong, the capital of Meghalaya, said the epicentre of the quake, which occurred at 1256 hrs, was plotted along the border between Manipur and Myanmar. Police and residents in the region said people panicked and rushed out of their homes. "Our multi-storey building shook vigorously and we ran out in panic," said Pranjal Kumar Borhalee, a resident of Assam's main city Guwahati. There were no reports of damage or casualties so far, officials said. The seven north eastern states - Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura are considered by seismologists as the world's sixth major earthquake-prone belt.

INDONESIA

London, Sep 16 -- A moderate earthquake struck parts of eastern Indonesia's Java island today, but no injuries or damage was reported, a seismologist said. The magnitude 5.5 quake struck at 0633 hrs and was centred about 33 km under the sea and about 141 km north-west of the town of Malang in eastern Java, said Joko Nurdadi, a Meteorology and Geophysics Agency official. It shook Karang Kates on Java island, about 700 km east of Jakarta, for about two minutes, he said.

PANAMA AREA

London, Sep 20 -- A 5.6 magnitude earthquake struck in lat 3.86N, long

82.54W at 0014, local time, Sep 18. Depth of the quake was 10km.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

London, Sep 16 -- A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0031, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.5 event has been located in the New Ireland region, Papua New Guinea, in lat 05 69S, long 153 60E. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 29 km.

Volcanic Activity



COLIMA, MEXICO

London, Sep 20 -- A press report, dated Sep 16, states: The Volcano of Fire in western Mexico blasted ash and gas three miles high today, with an explosion that was heard in villages 10 miles from the crater, local officials said. No injuries were reported. Ash from the 1046 hrs eruption fell on towns to the northwest, the Jalisco state civil defense agency said, and emergency workers there were distributing hospital-type masks for protection.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

London, Sep 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: Suspected Taliban gunmen shot and killed a candidate in Afghanistan's legislative elections after dragging him from his house. His death brought to six the number of candidates killed ahead of Sunday's (Sep 18) ballot. Four election workers have also been slain. Abdul Hadi was pulled from his home in southern Helmand province yesterday night before being shot, Mohammed Wali, a spokesman for the local governor, said. The militants then fled in two vehicles.

London, Sep 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: There has been further violence in Afghanistan as the country prepares for parliamentary and provincial elections. It is the first such poll in 30 years. On the eve of the elections, security forces have clashed with suspected members of the Taliban. A police patrol was ambushed in Musayi, just outside the capital. The district police chief and two of his men were killed. Meanwhile, on the main road from Kandahar to Kabul a police force patrolling the highway came under rocket fire. One vehicle was destroyed. The men in the patrol managed to get out alive. At least two suspects were killed in the ensuing exchange of fire. Afghan and US forces have arrested 20 suspected Taliban

rebels who were planting bombs at a hydroelectric dam in southern Afghanistan. The arrests came just hours before key elections. Defence Ministry spokesman Mohammed Zahir Azimi says a patrol spotted the rebels as they were laying the explosives at the Girishk dam in restive Helmand province. He says they were arrested after an hour long exchange of fire. "Twenty Taliban were arrested today by joint Afghan and coalition forces as they were placing bombs to blow up the dam in Girishk district," Mr Azimi said.

London, Sep 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: One soldier was killed and five others wounded when their vehicle ran over a landmine in Afghanistan's eastern province of Nooristan today, Deputy Defense Minister Yusuf Nooristani said. The soldiers were carrying ballot boxes to a polling station when their four-wheel drive ran over a planted mine and destroyed it, he said. In another guerilla-like attack, the Taliban-led militants targeted a check post in Manogai district of neighbouring Kunar province, wounding two Paratroopers, governor of Kunar Assadullah Wafa said. Remnants of ousted Taliban regime who vowed to derail the September 18 parliamentary elections have intensified their attacks against government interests since yesterday during which over a dozen people have been killed and wounded. Two rockets hit the office of UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) today, injuring one Afghan. In another eastern Khost province, two Afghan police and three Taliban were killed today during the fire fight aroused by Taliban attacks. Despite the attacks from militants, Afghan people bravely attend the first-ever parliamentary elections after more than three decades. The official of Joint Electoral Management Body (JEMB) said in a press conference today that so far the election is peaceful.

BURUNDI

Bujumbura, Sep 14 -- Burundi's only remaining rebel group killed one person after launching an attack on a military base, hours after rejecting an offer of peace talks by the new government, the army said today. Fighters from the Forces for National Liberation (FNL) attacked the northern suburb of Gihosha in the capital Bujumbura yesterday night, with rockets and hand grenades but missed their target and hit surrounding homes killing one person. It was the first serious rebel attack since President Pierre Nkurunziza was sworn in on Aug. 26. Army spokesman Adolphe Manirakiza said there were no casualties on the army side, but witnesses said they had seen bodies of soldiers scattered near the scene of the fighting. Manirakiza said the army was still pursuing rebels in the hills surrounding the capital. -- Reuters.

Nairobi, Sep 15 -- The Liberation du peuple Hutu-front national de

libération (FNL), Burundi's last remaining rebel group, said yesterday it did not recognise the legitimacy of the new government and would only negotiate peace with representatives of the country's three ethnic groups. "The FNL is willing to negotiate," Pasteur Habimana, the FNL spokesman, said from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. He said, however, that the international community would have to act as guarantor during such negotiations which, would have to be with the representatives of the Hutu, Tutsi and Twa ethnic groups. Habimana said even if the FNL's demands were not met it would not restart the war. "The armed conflict is now over," he said. He denied that the FNL still was initiating strikes against the army. "We are now just defending ourselves against attacks by the army," he said. The army blames the FNL for sporadic fighting before and after the presidential elections in August. On Tuesday (Sep 13), army spokesman Maj Adolphe Manirakiza said that last week the FNL had attacked several locations around the nation's capital, Bujumbura, killing one person and wounding another. Yesterday, the governor of the northern province of Bubanza, Nzobonimpa Manassé, said the FNL rebels had been fighting government troops there since Saturday (Sep 10). Despite the FNL's refusal to recognise the government, Burundi's newly elected president, Pierre Nkurunziza, said on Saturday that his government would do its utmost to negotiate peace with the rebel movement. "We will set up a government commission in the near future, comprising four army officers and four political leaders, which will prepare negotiations as soon as possible," he said. However, Habimana said the FNL would not negotiate with any team representing the new government, as "the elections were not conducted in compliance with the 2002 Arusha peace agreement." He also said the FNL was not in contact with any leading government officials or with any of the opposition parties. The special representative of the UN Secretary-General in Burundi, Carolyn McAskie, who has held numerous talks with FNL leaders, expressed frustration last week with the movement's go-slow approach to peace. UN News reported yesterday that a group of regional leaders from neighbouring countries have met with the UN Secretary-General and international donors in New York at the World Summit, which began on Monday (Sep 12), to request support to Burundi's new government in its efforts to include the FNL in the peace process. The group also called on the FNL "to cease hostilities immediately". A less radical wing of the FNL may be forming under the leadership of the group's vice-chairman, Jean Bosco Sindayigaya. Last week, he called for a more conciliatory approach to peace negotiations with the government. "There is no more reason to continue

fighting as the injustice to the Hutu people is being settled," he said on local radio. -- Reuters.

INDIA

Guwahati, Sep 14 -- A powerful rebel group in India's restive northeastern state of Assam said today that it had lost 12 men killed in a fierce gun battle with government troops. An Indian military spokesman said troops had encircled the heavily forested Dibru-Saikhowa area, about 600 km east of the state capital Dispur, acting on a tip off that 70-80 heavily armed militants were setting up a camp there. "The operations are still going on," he said. The United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), which is fighting for an independent Assamese homeland, said troops used mortars and rockets to attack their base. "We have lost 12 cadres and several others are wounded in the fighting," ULFA chairman Arabinda Rajkhowa said in a statement. He accused the soldiers of holding villagers captive and cutting supplies to them, leading to a severe shortage of food and medicines. Yesterday's fighting came after the ULFA offered last week to hold peace talks with New Delhi. The talks, the first between the two sides, are expected to take place next month. -- Reuters.

London, Sep 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: Suspected Muslim rebels shot dead four people in insurgency-hit Indian Kashmir while another person was killed in crossfire between militants and troops, police said overnight. The report of the deaths of the five civilians came as the leaders of India and Pakistan reaffirmed their commitment to resolve their decades-old dispute over Kashmir. A police spokesman said suspected rebels shot dead three Muslims in two separate incidents in Doda district in the south of Indian Kashmir, where a revolt against New Delhi's rule has raged since 1989. In northern Baramulla district, suspected rebels killed a Muslim girl minutes after abducting her from her house, police said. None of the dozen rebel groups active in Kashmir claimed responsibility for the deaths. In other bloodshed, a civilian was killed in crossfire between rebels and security forces in Rajouri district, police said.

INDONESIA

London, Sep 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: Indonesian soldiers began boarding a warship today to leave Aceh province, honoring a major concession in a peace deal to end one of Southeast Asia's longest running wars. Around 800 troops overloaded with kit bags and carrying automatic weapons waved their berets in the air as they stepped on board the ship, which was due to set sail for the Sumatran city of Medan later today. A peace agreement signed last month in Finland between the government and the rebels is seen as Aceh's best chance in years to bring a permanent end to three decades of fighting that

has killed nearly 15,000 people. But many remain wary following the collapse of three earlier accords and were closely watching to see if the military and the rebels would implement the deal on the ground. Earlier this week, the Free Aceh Movement rebels surrendered more than a quarter of their 840 weapons to EU and Southeast Asian peace monitors by a Saturday (Sep 17) deadline, with the remainder to be handed over by Dec 31. Today's planned withdrawal was the first phase in a gradual reduction of military and police units in the region that is linked to the decommissioning process. Some 6,000 Indonesian troops are slated to leave in the next few weeks, and another 24,000 in the months that follow. Some 25,000 will remain behind.

London, Sep 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: Indonesia will pull 2,600 soldiers out of Aceh province today as it steps up the withdrawal of troops under a peace agreement that ended decades of conflict with rebels, an army spokesman said. "Four battalions, each consisting of 650 troops, will leave Aceh on Sep 20. Other departures of troops are scheduled for Sep 21, 23 and 25," army spokesman Lt. Col. Erie Soetiko said yesterday in the North Aceh town of Lhokseumawe, the main embarkation port for the troops. Some 800 soldiers were pulled out from Aceh province on Sunday (Sep 18). Sunday's withdrawal, witnessed by members of the Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM), came after the separatist Free Aceh Movement (GAM) handed in about 278 weapons to the AMM in the first stage of the decommissioning process. Under the peace accord signed on Aug 18, the rebel group has to decommission all of its 840 declared arms, ammunitions and explosives in four stages. The process must conclude by Dec 31. In exchange for GAM's disarmament, the Indonesian Military and National Police must reduce their presence in the tsunami-wracked province. At the end of the disarmament process, only 14,700 soldiers and 9,100 police officers will be allowed to stay. Earlier the National Police pulled out around 1,300 Police Mobile Brigade strike force personnel from Aceh on Wednesday.

IRAQ

Baghdad, Sep 15 -- Suicide bombers killed 24 policemen in Baghdad today, wreaking more carnage after al Qaeda in Iraq declared war on majority Shi'ite Muslims and anyone linked to the U.S.-backed government. Three blasts in the southern district of Doura, which also wounded 21 people, dealt another blow to the government, which has failed to subdue a Sunni Arab insurgency despite repeated U.S.-Iraqi offensives like one under way in Tal Afar in the north. The explosions followed yesterday's wave of attacks that cost more than 150 lives in Baghdad, including 114 people killed when a suicide bomber blew up a van in a crowd of laborers. A

statement attributed to Iraq's al Qaeda leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi said those bombings were the opening shots in a war on Shi'ites, who, along with Kurds, now hold power. Clashes erupted between police and insurgents after the suicide blasts in Doura, home to an oil refinery and a hotspot for violence. The first bomber rammed a car into a truck, killing 15 police commandos. Hours later, two bombers struck two minutes apart, killing at least nine police commandos and officers, police said. Al Qaeda also claimed responsibility for the latest attacks, without specifying which ones it had carried out. The Iraqi government hopes U.S. training will prepare local forces to take over security and enable the Americans to go home. The U.S. military says they have already trained 190,000 Iraqi troops, and 115 Iraqi battalions are battle-ready, but guerrilla attacks have not let up. Some members of the security forces cover their faces with bandanas to avoid being identified by rebels who have killed hundreds of their comrades. The violence is overshadowing politics, hurting government efforts to convince Iraqis that an October 15 referendum on a new constitution will ease sectarian strife and deliver stability. Zarqawi's declaration of sectarian war lends weight to government accusations that Sunni militants are attacking Shi'ites to ignite civil strife and bury any political process. Prominent Sunni clerics accuse the government of allowing Shi'ite militia hit squads to operate alongside security forces. The government denies the charge. Sunnis, who comprise 20 percent of the population, dominated Iraq for decades and resent their loss of influence since Saddam Hussein was toppled. They fear the constitution will further marginalize them by granting autonomy to southern Shi'ites in line with that enjoyed by Kurds in the north and decentralizing control of oil revenue. Zarqawi, in an Internet audio tape, said his war on Shi'ites was in response to the assault by U.S. and Iraqi forces against insurgents in the town of Tal Afar near the Syrian border. "As for the government, servants of the crusaders headed by (Iraqi Prime Minister) Ibrahim Jaafari, they have declared a war on Sunnis in Tal Afar. You have begun and started the attacks and you won't see mercy from us," the voice said. The government says nearly 160 rebels have been killed in the attack that began on Saturday (Sep 10) in a town described by U.S. and Iraqi officials as a staging post for foreign fighters entering Iraq from Syria. -- Reuters.

Baghdad, Sep 16 -- Gunmen shot dead two labourers and a government official in drive-by shootings in Baghdad today, the latest attacks in a surge of violence in the capital that has killed more than 180 people in the last three days. Police said the gunmen, travelling in two cars, first opened fire on a group of men near the Shi'ite district of Sadr City as they

lined up to find jobs, killing two and wounding a dozen. Minutes later, further down the road, the same gunmen opened fire on a vehicle carrying officials from the transport ministry, killing one and wounding another, the police said. The campaign of attacks, many of them claimed by al Qaeda in Iraq, a group headed by Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, came in response to a U.S.-Iraqi military offensive on the northern town of Tal Afar. Today, an Iraqi officer said 95 percent of Tal Afar had been secured. U.S. troops were letting residents who fled the fighting return to their homes, although only on foot, witnesses said. A top U.S. military spokesman said Tal Afar marked just the beginning of what may be a new series of U.S.-backed offensives on rebel towns and cities designed to capture or kill Zarqawi and increase security ahead of a referendum next month when Iraqis will vote on a controversial proposed constitution. "Towns close to the Euphrates river valley, including Qaim and Haditha, are towns that we focus on. And as soon as we see (Zarqawi) trying to establish a safe haven there, we will conduct operations just like we did in Tal Afar," Major General Rick Lynch told reporters in Baghdad yesterday. President Jalal Talabani played down the threat of warfare among Iraq's Shi'ite Arab, Sunni Arab and Kurdish populations, telling reporters at the United Nations World Summit in New York that foreigners were responsible. Shi'ite religious leaders, including Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the most senior Shi'ite cleric in Iraq, also insist their community will not be drawn into a civil war. While foreign fighters have entered the country and many are believed to be aligned to Zarqawi, there are also many Iraqi nationalist insurgents, largely from the Sunni Arab minority, who have carried out attacks on Shi'ites. Shi'ite militias have also attacked and killed Sunnis in retaliation. Talabani and other political leaders are hoping that a draft constitution, drawn up principally by the Shi'ites and Kurds, who dominate the government, will draw the nation together and isolate guerrillas opposed to the political process. The constitution, which some Sunni leaders say does not reflect their wishes for the country, is due to be put to a referendum on October 15. If two-thirds of voters in three or more of Iraq's 18 provinces vote "No," the document will be rejected. Sunni religious and political leaders have been urging members of the community to register to vote so that they can mount a "No" campaign when the time comes. In other developments, the U.S. military said a Marine was killed by a mortar attack on a base in Ramadi, west of Baghdad, yesterday, raising the number of troops to have died in Iraq since the invasion to 1,897. More than 13,000 have been wounded. -- Reuters.

London, Sep 19 -- A press report, dated Sep 18, states: A member of

parliament from Iraq's Kurdish region has been killed by gunmen north of Baghdad, officials say. Faris Hussein, his driver and at least one other person died, and another MP Haider Qassem was wounded. The group were on their way to Baghdad late yesterday when they were ambushed by unknown insurgents. Iraq is in the grip of a fresh wave of violence which began on Wednesday (Sep 14) with the death of 114 people in a suicide bomb attack on a crowd of labourers. Earlier yesterday, a car bomb explosion at a busy market in near Baghdad killed at least 30 people. The attacks came as Iraq's parliament prepared to sign off final amendments to the country's draft constitution on Sunday. The draft will be put to a referendum on Oct 15. Security forces are on high alert as thousands of Shia pilgrims converge on Karbala, south of the capital, for a religious festival due to start tomorrow. Mr Hussein is the third MP to be killed since elections in January this year.

NEPAL

Kathmandu, Sep 15 -- Nepal's Maoist rebels have freed 60 soldiers captured after a raid on an army base in August in the west of the embattled Himalayan kingdom. The soldiers were freed in the presence of representatives from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in a remote village in west Nepal, a human rights group said. The soldiers were captured after the raid on the camp on Aug 7 and 8 in Kalikot district, 600 km west of Kathmandu. At least 55 soldiers and 26 rebels were killed in that battle, the deadliest in more than a year. The release of the soldiers comes after the Maoists announced a unilateral ceasefire for three months in a move to win the support of political parties opposed to King Gyanendra. -- Reuters.

RUSSIA

London, Sep 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Thirteen people were wounded when a building of the Chechen interior ministry was shelled in Grozny yesterday, sources from republic's law enforcement agencies told Itar-Tass today. "There are nine police officers as well as civilians, including a woman, among the injured," the source said. It is believed that one person or several people, who shelled the building from a grenade launcher, fired from the distance of about 1,500 metres from the building.

Moscow, Sep 16 -- A blast on a railway line in Russia's turbulent Caucasus region derailed three wagons of a goods train today in what the interior ministry said may have been a botched attempt to attack a busy passenger train. The explosion, thought by officials to have been caused by a delayed-action mine, was in a disputed part of North Ossetia, the region where the deadly Beslan school siege took place just over a year ago. "Several versions are being considered, including the possibility the terrorist attack was directed at a

passenger train between Moscow and Nazran or a local train ... which were supposed to pass by several hours later," a local interior ministry spokeswoman said by telephone. The blast was in the Prigorodny region, which North Ossetia and Ingushetia fought over after communist rule collapsed in 1991. North Ossetia took it over in 1994 after fighting which forced thousands of Ingush to flee but tensions still bubble. In separate incidents, two blasts hit different parts of Ingushetia today. One explosive device exploded in the region's capital Nazran near an apartment block, while the other hit a village near the border with Chechnya. No one was injured. -- Reuters.

SPAIN

Madrid, Sep 20 -- Armed Basque separatists ETA claimed responsibility for five attacks in Spain in June and July, including one aimed at harming Spain's Olympic bid, in a letter to Basque newspaper Gara, the paper reported today. ETA, which has waged a nearly four-decade-old bombing and shooting campaign for independence, claimed responsibility for a Jun 25 car bomb attack against La Peineta stadium, the centrepiece of Madrid's failed bid for the 2012 Olympic Games. It said in the statement to Gara -- its usual way to communicate -- that it also carried out a double bomb attack on two Madrid highways at the end of July to coincide with a traditional holiday exodus from the city. ETA, which has killed more than 800 people, has not carried out a fatal attack for about two years and many in Spain expect a ceasefire. In today's statement the group also claimed an attack on a power station and one on a construction company, both in July. It attacked the company for "refusing to provide money in favour of the Basque Country's freedom," it said. ETA regularly seeks to extort money from Basque businesses. -- Reuters.

SUDAN

Abuja, Sep 19 -- Militias backed by the Sudanese government have killed 30 people in fresh attacks in Darfur, threatening new peace talks under way in Nigeria, rebel groups said today. The Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) said 17 people were killed in Korbia in northern Darfur on Saturday (Sep 15) and 13 died in attacks on Jabamara in the west on Sunday. SLA spokesman Abdulrahman Musa said fighting continued in Jabamara today, adding that the rebel groups had lodged a complaint with the African Union (AU), the mediator in the talks which itself has 3,000 troops in Darfur. "In the final analysis, we believe these (ceasefire) violations would not create a conducive environment to reach a settlement during this round of talks," Musa said at a joint news conference with the JEM. -- Reuters.

Khartoum, Sep 20 -- A large retaliatory attack by armed nomadic tribesmen on the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement/Army yesterday

left more than 40 people dead in the strife-torn western Sudanese region of Darfur, local sources said. The attack was reportedly a response to a raid by the SLM/A on the village of Malam on Aug 25, some 50 km from the South Darfur capital, Nyala, during which the rebels abducted children belonging to the Arab nomads living in the area. According to the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS), the rebels also stole more than 2,000 camels and killed three civilians and three government soldiers. The fighting lasted four or five hours, he added, and 30 nomads were killed. During the skirmish, approximately 10 to 15 rebels also were killed, according to a humanitarian source who was in the Jebel Marra when the attack occurred. "There are so many casualties -- at least 30 -- in Nyala military hospital, some of them severely wounded," she observed. "The situation is very tense and the nomadic tribesmen are calling for revenge." Another local source confirmed that "a big mobilisation of Arab tribesmen" was underway and warned about the "intensification of combat operations" in the region. Banditry and continuous attacks by armed groups on humanitarian workers, Arab nomads and villages in Darfur have increased significantly over the past weeks and threaten to destabilise the fragile ceasefire in the volatile western Sudanese region. Observers on the ground have warned repeatedly that Darfur was at risk of descending into a perpetual state of lawlessness, even as the Sudanese government and the main rebel groups in the war-torn region discussed the possibility of a peaceful resolution to the conflict. The sixth round of the Abuja peace talks between the government and the two main rebel groups -- the SLM/A and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) -- resumed in the Nigerian capital on Thursday (Sep 11) amid mutual recriminations. Little progress has been made so far. -- Reuters.



MEXICO

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Mexican security forces have rescued the coach of a first division football club who was kidnapped two months ago. Omar Romano, an Argentine who coaches the Cruz Azul team, was freed during an raid in a poor district of Mexico City. Seven people were arrested in the operation. The 47-year-old coach said he had been treated well. His case has highlighted a major problem in Mexico - which has one of the highest number of kidnappings in the world, with 3,000 cases in 2003. Mr Romano looked gaunt and wore a beard as masked police escorted him from the house where he had been held. "I'm thankful to my

rescuers and to the press and all my friends," he said. Gunmen had dragged him from his car outside a training ground in July. Mr Romano, who has reversed first-division Cruz Azul's fortunes since taking over last December, is said to earn a monthly salary of up to \$100,000 (£57,000).

NETHERLANDS

London, Sep 15 -- A press report, dated Sep 14, states: Dutch police have freed the daughter of a millionaire businessman kidnapped earlier this week, state television reported today. NOS television said Claudia Melchers, 37, had been freed unharmed during the night but gave no other details. "Last night Claudia Melchers was released unharmed," a police statement said. It was not clear if a ransom was paid. Armed and masked men broke into Melchers' home in the Old South section of Amsterdam Monday night (Sep 12), bound and gagged a friend and seized the 37-year-old woman. Her two young children were left unharmed. Police said yesterday they received nine tips from the public after a televised appeal the night before by police commissioner Willem Woelders asking for information.



ARGENTINA

London, Sept 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Argentine government and the fishing unions are locked in a salary dispute which has paralyzed the country's main fleet in Mar del Plata. Unions are demanding the implementation of Ministry of Labour resolution 254/05 stipulating salaries must be paid in US dollars. Fisheries vessel owners reject point blank the resolution and warn that having the fleet docked generates economic losses estimated in a million US dollars per day. The conflict has become so serious that the federal government is taking part but so far to no avail. "Nothing happened during the last meeting; in fact Minister Fernandez talked about the need to end to the strike, but what he proposed is not consistent with our interests" said Roberto Toledo, head of the Marine workers association. "The government will be responsible for what happens from now on, because we are going to extend the strike to the tugs and container shipping sectors plus taking protests to the streets and inviting other fishing ports to join us" warned Toledo.

SOUTH AFRICA

London, Sep 19 -- Mining group Alease Gold and Uranium Resources today announced that the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has begun a strike at the Bonanza South gold mine near Klerksdorp, along with

an illegal underground sit-in. NUM Klerksdorp representative Hoyce Pundulu confirmed that the union's members are on strike at the Bonanza South gold mine. However, he said the strike is legal, with the union demanding a wage increase of 15% and the company offering 6.5%. The union is demanding a minimum underground wage of R2 000 a month and a minimum surface wage of R1 900 a month, while the company is offering an underground wage of R1 500 a month and R1 300 a month for surface workers, he added. Aflase said it had offered a three-year wage agreement.

Awards & Settlements



DEATH DUE POLLUTANTS, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 15 -- A press report, dated Sep 14, states: BP Amoco yesterday was ordered to pay the family of a former Sugar Creek resident \$13.3 million because of a rare blood disorder that killed her. Nancy Ryan lived within 500 feet of the former Amoco oil refinery in Sugar Creek for four years before she moved to Independence. She died in November, and her family claimed that benzene from petroleum products that had leaked into the ground and surface water was the cause. It was the first of 25 lawsuits filed by attorney Lon Waters on behalf of families against BP Corp. of North America Inc. All the plaintiffs represented by Waters - some of whom are still alive - have suffered some sort of leukemia or lymphoma. Ryan, who was 69 when she died, had lived in Sugar Creek from 1956 to 1960. BP Amoco's lawyers had argued that scientific evidence showed no link between the oil refinery and Ryan's blood disease. Defense attorney Wayne Taff said Ryan lived past the average life expectancy of someone with the type of blood disorder that Ryan had. BP Amoco spokesman Ron Rybarczyk said the company hadn't decided what its next steps would be in the case, though it could appeal. "We're disappointed with the conclusion," Rybarczyk said. "We respect the jury's decision, but we strongly disagree with it. The verdict is not supported by the evidence."

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sep 16 -- A press report, dated Sep 15, states: A hospital consultant who fought a long-running battle to win her job back after being unfairly sacked has been awarded more than £1.6m compensation. Dr Feyi Awotona was sacked from South Tyneside hospital in 1998. South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust was ordered to reinstate her to her £68,000

a year role after a tribunal ruled that she had suffered racial discrimination. In a statement, the trust said it was "disappointed and shocked" at the level of the award. Consultant obstetrician Dr Awotona quit her job in May after delays in reskilling procedures. She launched her case for compensation in June. Dr Awotona said she was pleased with the decision and it was now time for her to rebuild her life. In a statement, the trust said it would be discussing the decision with its legal advisors to look at potential for an appeal. It said: "We are disappointed and shocked at the level of award which has been made, particularly given the fact that Dr Awotona was reinstated and had the opportunity for long term employment within the NHS." The trust said Dr Awotona had returned to her previous post at South Tyneside District Hospital and was required to do refresher training at another hospital in North Tyneside. "She was unwilling to do this and withdrew from the reinstatement process in May of this year," it said.

SWIMMING POOL ACCIDENT, AUSTRALIA

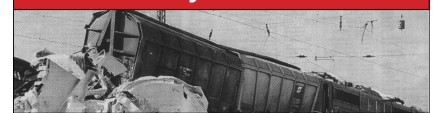
London, Sep 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: A former Canberra man has been awarded \$7.5 million in compensation 13 years after he dived into the shallow end of the Civic pool, leaving him a quadriplegic. ACT Supreme Court Justice Malcolm Gray ordered the ACT Government yesterday to compensate Anthony Richard Leggett, now a 31-year-old living in Sydney, as part of a settlement in which the Government has not formally admitted liability. But the ACT Government was found to be liable because it was the owner and occupier of the pool complex. Mr Leggett said the incident occurred when he dived into what he thought was the deep end of the pool. It was argued that the Government was negligent because there was insufficient signage regarding depth and diving blocks at the shallow end of the pool. When the incident occurred in August, 1992, Mr Leggett was an Australian National University student with plans to work in the banking and financial sector until he was 65. He planned to study economics and science at ANU before switching to an economics/commerce degree the following year, followed by an appropriate post-graduate course suitable for a career in the finance sector. But a document filed in the ACT Supreme Court paints a sad picture for Mr Leggett. The document, signed by Mr Leggett's solicitor, states he sustained a crush fracture to a vertebra, leaving him with a host of ongoing disabilities - including quadriplegia. It puts his future wage loss, using various scenarios, at somewhere between about \$6 million and \$12million. Other things said to have stemmed from the incident included weight loss, a profound psychological impact, scarring, dizziness, nightmares, depression and

being confined permanently to a wheelchair. According to the document, Mr Leggett had not worked from the time of the incident until April 2003, when he started working part-time as a peer support officer for Spinal Cord Injuries Australia.

WRONGFUL ARREST, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: A boy wrongfully accused of killing Ryan Harris in 1998 settled his wrongful-arrest lawsuit today against the City of Chicago for \$6.2 million. The \$6.2 million settlement comes just five days after the City Council unanimously ordered the corporation counsel to reach an agreement with the boy's family. Initially, aldermen suggested the case be settled for \$10 million to \$15 million, but ultimately they passed the resolution without a suggested dollar figure. The boy, now 15, was arrested and charged when he was eight with the murder of 11-year-old Ryan Harris. His seven-year-old friend also was charged. But within a month those charges were dropped after semen was found on little Ryan's underwear--indicating the girl's killing and sexual assault could not have been committed by the children. Convicted sex offender Floyd Durr now awaits trial for her murder. The family of the other wrongfully charged boy settled their claim against the city for \$2 million.

Railway Accidents



CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES

Chicago, Sep 17 -- A commuter train carrying about 125 passengers derailed on Chicago's South Side on today, killing one person and injuring 76, city officials said. Monique Bond, a spokeswoman for the city's emergency management office, said the cause of the accident wasn't known and the National Transportation Safety Board would investigate. One person was declared dead on arrival at an area hospital, she said at a news conference. About 76 others were hurt, with injuries ranging from minor to serious. Chicago Fire Department Chief Kevin MacGregor said nine seriously injured people were hospitalized after the five passenger cars derailed. A spokesman for the Metra commuter rail system did not immediately return a call seeking comment. "It's on an elevated area and it is difficult terrain to access," MacGregor said. "It's a slow process but everyone is off the train." The engine separated from some of the passenger cars, which had broken windows and were tilted off the rails. - Reuters.

London, Sep 19 -- A press report, dated Sep 18, states: A commuter

train was going almost 60 mph above the speed limit just before it derailed, killing two people and injuring dozens, the acting chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board said today. Mark Rosenker said the Metra train was travelling at 69 mph and should not have been going faster than 10 mph when it switched tracks at a crossover just before jumping the tracks yesterday. "Sixty-nine miles an hour is very, very fast when you're dealing with a 10-mile-an-hour restriction," Rosenker said. The speed information came from a preliminary reading of one of the train's three electronic data recorders, popularly known as "black boxes," Rosenker said. Part of the investigation included an interview today with the train's engineer, Rosenker said. The 41-year-old man had been on the job for 45 days after completing Metra's six-month training program, which included at least some training along the route where the derailment occurred. He also had worked for more than five years as a CSX Corp. freight train engineer. The NTSB will also examine records of the train signals and radio transmissions from a control tower, Rosenker said. Investigators have determined that nothing was abnormal with the tracks, which had just been inspected on Friday (Sep 16), he said. The double-decked commuter train was headed into Chicago from Joliet yesterday morning with 185 passengers and four crew members when its locomotive and five rail cars jumped the tracks about 5 miles south of downtown. The train began to derail as it switched tracks, striking a steel bridge just beyond the crossover. Rosenker said that collision damaged at least one rail car and likely contributed to at least one of the fatalities. The train and the track had just been inspected Friday, said Judy Pardonnet, a spokeswoman for Metra, the commuter rail system that services the Chicago area. The train engineer, three crew members and dispatchers were all tested for drugs and alcohol, which is standard procedure, Pardonnet said. The train's engineer is taking three days of paid leave for "trauma debriefing." Jane Cuthbert, 22, of Bourbonnais, died on the train, Pardonnet said. A 30-year-old woman died at a hospital. They were the first people killed in a Metra derailment since it took over commuter rail services in the region in 1984. The injured passengers were taken to 15 hospitals and 15 of them remained hospitalized today, Pardonnet said. She did not have information on their conditions. Train service on the Rock Island District Line resumed about four hours after the derailment, and the cleanup from the accident could cause short delays during tomorrow's commute, Pardonnet said.

London, Sep 20 -- A press report, dated Sep 19, states: Saturday's (Sep 17) Metra train derailment in Chicago killed two passengers and left several others hospitalized. Investigators say, so far, it does not appear to have been a mechanical problem, and the first

lawsuits have now been filed. The National Transportation Safety Board said tonight that everything mechanical, including the signals and switches, appeared to be in working order. But it's still too early to say that the reason the engineer did not slow the train to the 10 mph limit was human error. Federal investigators say they found two cell phones in the engineer's cab, one belonging to Metra, the other to him. They are waiting on records to determine if he was on the phone at the time of the crash. The train engineer is on paid leave. The NTSB confirmed the engineer of the train is in good health with normal hearing and vision, and he scored 99 out of 100 on a Metra training exam. The NTSBA also says an automatic braking system likely would have prevented the derailment. The attorney for Jane Cuthbert's family, who filed the first of several lawsuits today, wondered why after a 2003 Metra derailment in the same area Metra didn't install automatic braking. The National Transportation Safety Board conducted tests today on track signals, re-inspected the damaged railcars and interviewed first responders. According to the train's three "black boxes," the train was moving at 69 mph when it attempted to switch tracks at the crossover at 47th and Wentworth with a designated speed limit of 10 mph. More than 80 people were injured in the crash. Eleven people are still in the hospital.

FEROZA AREA, PUNJAB, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Sep 15 -- Pakistan Railway said that four wagons of a goods train bound for Punjab Province derailed near Feroza, 20 kilometres from Khanpur in southern Punjab, yesterday. It is said as a result, traffic remains suspended for quite some for up-country. However, no loss of life was reported. According to railway police, the wagons of 4201-goods train derailed when it was on way to Lahore. As a result, 11-Up Chenab express and 13-Up Awam Express were halted at Sadiqabad and Rahim Yar Khan railway stations. The cause of derailment was yet to be ascertained. A relief train, later from Rohri has cleared the track. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

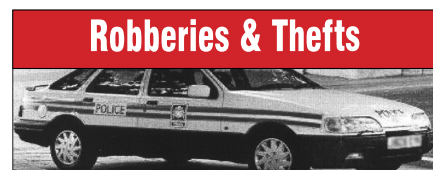
SHEPHERD, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two Union Pacific trains collided and derailed north of Houston in Shepherd, killing one employee, forcing an overnight evacuation of hundreds of residents and cancelling school this morning. San Jacinto Constable Jerry Everitt said that by daybreak, the diesel fuel spill that caused residents to evacuate to two schools had been cleaned up and residents were being allowed to go back home. Although Shepherd residents are now free to come and go, traffic from outside has been diverted around the town, where the wrecked railcars remain. One Union Pacific

train of two locomotives and 10 rail cars struck another train of two locomotives and three rail cars at 1215 hrs, in Shepherd, about 60 miles north of Houston, said Mark Davis, spokesman for Union-Pacific. The first train was traveling on a straight track from Pine Bluff, Ark., to Houston when its locomotive struck the locomotive of the second train. The second train was stopped on the north end of a side track, but its locomotive was sitting on the straight track. The first train had the right of way, Davis said. National Transportation Safety Board, Federal Railroad Administration and Union Pacific investigators were on the scene today.

SUKKUR AREA, SINDH PROVINCE, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Sep 19 -- Pakistan Railway said four bogies of a goods train derailed near Sukkur in Sindh province of Pakistan at Saturday/Sunday (Sep 17/18) midnight. As a result, traffic remains suspended for 12 hours between Sukkur and other cities of the country. Later, a relief train reached the spot to clear the track. But until then the Jaffer Express was stopped at the Sukkur railway station while the Quetta Express and the Dadu-bound Shahbaz Express were stopped at the Rohri railway station. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.



Robberies & Thefts

ARMOURED CAR, RIGAUD, QUEBEC, CANADA

London, Sep 16 -- A press report, dated Sep 15, states: Armoured car company Securicor has offered a reward of up to \$2 million in connection with an armed robbery that occurred near Montreal a week ago Wednesday. The robbery happened near Rigaud, Quebec. It involved an armoured car, a well-planned assault and millions of dollars. Two Securicor guards en route from Ottawa to Montreal had pulled in to Rigaud for breakfast on Sep 7. They were caught off guard, overpowered, driven up a remote road to a communications tower and abandoned. Police said the robbers were pros who managed to make off with \$13 million, making the robbery one of the biggest in Canadian history. Securicor Canada Limited said Thursday it will pay a reward of up to \$2 million for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the offenders and the recovery of the money stolen in the robbery.

PAINTINGS FROM MUSEUM, STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

London, Sep 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: Danish police have recovered a painting by Rembrandt that was stolen in a spectacular heist in Stockholm five years ago, and have arrested four people suspected of

dealing in stolen goods. "Copenhagen police arrested four men yesterday evening after they were caught redhanded as they were showing the (Rembrandt) painting to a potential buyer in a Copenhagen hotel," a police statement said. The work, a self-portrait of the artist that has been valued at \$US41 million (\$53.4m), was stolen along with two paintings by French impressionist Pierre-Auguste Renoir during an armed heist at Sweden's National Museum on Dec 22, 2000. The three paintings were at the time valued at \$US30m. One of the Renoirs, Conversation, was found in central Stockholm on Apr 5, 2001, by police investigating a drugs case, but the French painter's Young Parisian remains missing. Copenhagen police spokesman Flemming Steen Munch said that four men, two Iraqis, a Swede and a Gambian, had been arrested after being caught trying to sell the Rembrandt. A Danish court today was expected to remand the four men in custody pending trial.

London, Sep 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two masterpiece paintings, a self-portrait of 17th-century Dutch artist Rembrandt and a work by French impressionist Pierre-August Renoir, stolen from Sweden's National Museum five years ago have been recovered, Danish and US officials said this morning. Four men, two Iraqis, a Gambian and a Swede, were arrested by Danish police in a sting operation while showing the US\$40 million (\$57.44 million) Rembrandt to a potential buyer at a Copenhagen hotel on Thursday Sep 15), Danish police said. Renoir's A Young Parisienne, stolen from the Swedish museum along with the Rembrandt portrait, was recovered in the United States, according to an FBI spokeswoman in Los Angeles. She said more details about the Renoir, valued at an estimated US\$13 million, would be disclosed at a Los Angeles news conference later today, where the painting will be displayed for the media. Both works were snatched from the museum on Stockholm's waterfront by an armed gang that entered the building just before closing time in December 2000. While one man brandished a sub-machinegun in the lobby, two others seized the paintings from the second floor. As they escaped, scattering spikes on the road to delay pursuers, two cars exploded nearby, creating a diversion. The men then made off in a small boat which was later recovered. A third painting stolen in that heist, Renoir's Conversation, was recovered by Swedish police in 2001.

Miscellaneous



GRAMPIAN DAWN (U.K.)

See Grampian Princess.

GRAMPIAN PRINCESS (U.K.)

Hull, Sep 16 -- Standby safety vessel Grampian Princess (280 gt, built 1960) and support Grampian Dawn (272 gt, built 1962), at Ipswich: We contacted the harbour-master in relation to the above vessels and are advised that both are privately-owned and are moored at a private wharf belonging to Anglia Water. Both vessels float at high water and are tied together. We understand that one of the vessels was vandalised last week and caught fire. Any monies owed are to Anglia Water for berthing costs. However, no one has been able to contact the owners of the vessels. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Grampian Princess and Grampian Dawn arrived Ipswich Mar 30, 2002.)

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, Sep 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: Indonesia confirmed its fourth death from bird flu after tests showed a woman who died last week in Jakarta was infected with the virus. "Yes it's confirmed," Health Minister Siti Fadillah Supari said. She declined to give further details. Blood samples had been sent to Hong Kong for testing. The woman, aged 37, died at a private hospital in South Jakarta last Saturday (Sep 10) evening after being admitted on Sep 6 in a serious condition. The latest death brought to 63 the number of people in Southeast Asia known to have died from the deadly H5N1 strain of the virus and coincides with increasing international concern that the virus could mutate into a major killer. An auditor and his two young daughters died in suburban Jakarta in July. The Government has said infected chicken droppings are suspected to have caused those deaths.

London, Sep 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Malaysia was on heightened bird flu watch yesterday as Southeast Asian neighbours Vietnam and Indonesia struggled to fight the virus, and the concerns knocked local poultry firm shares down as much as four percent. Malaysia has not had any human infections of avian influenza, despite culling thousands of birds a year ago, after the death of two infected chickens near its border with Thailand. But new human cases in Indonesia this week, along with Vietnam's near-two-year struggle against the disease, are prompting Malaysian authorities to look more closely at the possibility the virus could recur, a senior official said. "We're carrying out checks on all poultry farms near our borders to ensure nothing slips through," Hawari Hussein, chief of the veterinary services department, the top government agency in charge of preventing bird flu, said. Farms near migratory bird sanctuaries were under tight scrutiny, while tougher checks would be imposed on birds imported as pets, Hawari said. Shares of poultry and egg producers such as QL Resources, Leong Hup Holdings and Comsa Farms fell between 0.7 and 3.8 percent in morning trade as the market reacted to the possibility of the

virus returning. Malaysia's 25 million people are among the world's largest consumers of chicken, eating about 30 kg each a year. Indonesian authorities said on Monday (Sep 19) two children were in hospital for suspected bird flu. The virus has so far killed four people there. In Vietnam, 44 people have died from bird flu, 23 of them since last December.

London, Sep 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two more people in Indonesia are suspected to have been infected with the deadly bird flu virus, Minister of Health Siti Fadillah Supari said yesterday. "Yes, there are two more people, with one suspected case an employee of Jakarta's Ragunan Zoo while the other is a vendor at the zoo," Siti said. The minister said that as of yesterday, there had been six people admitted to Sulianti Saroso Hospital in North Jakarta. Two of them earlier tested positive for the virus. Blood samples from the other patients have been sent to a Hong Kong laboratory. The government decided to close the zoo on Monday for the next three weeks after some 19 birds tested positive for the virus. On Monday (Sep 19) the government declared the outbreak in the country was an "extraordinary" situation. It confirmed last week that a 37-year-old, who lived near a chicken slaughterhouse in a South Jakarta suburb, was the fourth human fatality linked to bird flu in the country.

OUTBREAK OF VIRUS ON BAHAMAS FLAG VESSEL

London, Sep 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Dozens of crew members have been struck down with suspected food poisoning on bulk Yeoman Bridge (55695 gt, built 1991) off the Western Isles. An investigation has been launched after six men were taken to hospital on the Isle of Lewis for treatment. Another 24 were being treated on board the vessel by a doctor flown out last night. An NHS Western Isles spokesman said that the crew, thought to be Ukrainian, had all eaten salmon, though the cause of the illness was not yet known. He added that a major incident response team had been set up and would meet today to hear reports from public health specialists. The six crew were taken from their vessel by RNLI lifeboat to Lewis yesterday morning, after radioing coastguards for help. They were then transferred by ambulance to the Western Isles Hospital in Stornoway, where their condition was described as stable. The vessel anchored close to Stornoway Harbour and a doctor and police officer were winched by helicopter to the vessel last night following reports that more crew were becoming ill. Extra medical supplies were also flown to the vessel after it was decided the remaining crew did not need to be hospitalised. The vessel had been travelling from Hamburg in Germany and was on its way to Glensanda on the Scottish mainland when the crew took ill. (Note -- Yeoman Bridge sailed Hamburg Sep 11.)

POWER OUTAGE, RAMSGATE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sep 16 -- A press report, dated Sep 15, states: Hundreds of homes in Ramsgate were without power and telephone connections tonight after a driver towing a yacht brought down scores of cables. Kent Police said the driver did not realise he had left the mast up when he began his journey from Ramsgate Harbour along Boundary and York Roads. Part of Boundary Road was closed while engineers reattached the cables. The driver was stopped and given a fixed penalty ticket before being allowed on his way, with the mast down.


Fires & Explosions
COAL MINE, DONETSK, RUSSIA

London, Sep 16 -- A press report, Sep 14, states: One miner was killed and another five got burns in the blast of the mixture of gas and pulverized coal at the mine Rassvet (Dawn) of the joint stock company Zhdanovkaugol. At first teams of the state military rescue service came to the mine where the blast went off at about 1900, Moscow time, today, but now they are returning to the base, as they got information that the blast triggered no fire and rock collapses. One emergency team and a group of resuscitators went to the affected mine and will bring the injured miners to the Donetsk burns treatment centre.

COAL MINE, FENGCHENG, JIANGXI PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated Sep 21, states: Nine miners were killed and five others injured in a coal mine gas blast on Monday (Sep 19) in Fengcheng, a city in east China's Jiangxi Province, according to local government today. The accident occurred at about 2000 hrs, Monday at Changfeng coal mine in Luoshi town when 14 people were working underground and five of them survived. The bodies of the nine miners killed in the accident were found yesterday. The coal mine, which belongs to the Jiangxi Provincial Coal Group, has been ordered to suspend production. Further investigations are underway.

FACTORY, DORA AREA, BEIRUT, LEBANON

Beirut, Sep 22 -- A big fire broke out this morning in Sleep Comfort Furniture factory, Dora area, Beirut, causing a lot of damage to the building and its contents which consist mainly of mattresses and wooden furniture. Cause still unknown. Fire brigade still fighting the fire and the extent of losses not yet determined. The factory is insured for \$3m with Libano-Suisse Insurance Company. -- Lloyd's Agents.

FACTORY, INCHINNAN, RENFREWSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sep 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: A frozen food factory in Renfrewshire has been destroyed in a large fire. Twelve night shift workers at Aulds Foods in Inchinnan, where 300 people work, were evacuated. It is believed the fire started when a propane gas cylinder exploded at about 0130, BST, in the main processing area. The building was completely destroyed. Supplies to Aulds' 44 shops across west central Scotland should be unaffected by the blaze as the company's retail bakery is in Greenock. Aulds managing director Alan Marr said: "Our first concern was for the employees who were in the factory when the fire started and were able to evacuate the premises safely. "Because the factory at Inchinnan produces mainly frozen foods, there is a substantial stock of product in storage at a separate site which suggests supplies to customers over the next few days will be pretty much as normal." Mr Marr said there was no immediate threat to jobs because wages would be covered by business continuity insurance until an alternative manufacturing solution was found. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue said firefighters were expected to remain at the burning building for most of the day.

FACTORY, KYOGLE, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

London, Sep 16 -- About 140 people from a small country town in northern New South Wales are jobless after a timber factory burned to the ground. Fire crews in Kyogle worked throughout the night to try to save The Norply Timber Factory, the town's biggest employer, which was engulfed by fire about 1845, AEST, yesterday. "The main concern was to keep the fire away from a gas cylinder within the factory complex, we were able to do that but the building has been totally destroyed by the blaze," NSW Fire Brigade Superintendent Ian Krimmer said. The inferno at the timber milling and processing factory was fuelled by paper chips and thin sheets of plywood. The fire took about five hours to extinguish, and it was still smouldering today, Supt Krimmer said. Mr Bennett said it was possible to see the factory blaze from the town, about 4km away, and 30 to 40 people were evacuated from the site.

FACTORY, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

London, Sep 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: Smoke from a large fire in a disused Melbourne factory is drifting across a freeway in the city's north. Fire crews have been battling the blaze in a large double-storey brick factory complex since about 1500, AEST. Twelve trucks have been called to the scene at Duggan Street in Brunswick West. A Metropolitan Fire Brigade spokesman said the derelict building had been the site of numerous fires over several

months. The blaze has consumed an area of about 40 m by 40 m, the spokesman said. Thick smoke from the fire has drifted across the Tullamarine Freeway. There is no threat at this stage to any other buildings nearby.

FOREST, AMAZON, BOLIVIA

London, Sep 21 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A fire that has devoured more than 247,000 acres of Amazon forest burned out of control today near the Brazilian border, officials said. About 500 people have been evacuated and several homes destroyed since the fire began two weeks ago, but there have been no serious injuries, according to local government official Hector Vaca Lazo. The lack of strong winds Monday (Sep 19) and today helped to slow the fire, according to rescue worker Alvaro Lucia. The fire is centred 15 miles from the city of Riberalta, roughly 520 miles north-east of La Paz. More than 300 soldiers, rescue workers and locals tried to stop the advancing flames with very little equipment. The exact cause of this fire has not been determined.

FOREST, MALAYSIA

London, Sep 20 -- A press report from LaSalle, dated Sep 19, states: Over 30 hectares of peat forest in six locations in Selangor are burning and firefighters are using every available method, including water bombing, to fight the fires. A massive operation is under way in Bukit Tarik Rasa forest in the Kuala Kubu Baru area where more than 4ha of peat forest are burning. "We are using a helicopter to airlift and drop men into inaccessible areas and also carrying out water bombing to completely put out the peat fires," said Selangor Fire and Rescue Department Assistant Director (Operations) Norhisham Mohammad. "This morning (yesterday), a fire also broke out close to a Petronas gas pipeline at Parti Lapan, Sabak Bernam on a 12ha secondary forest, but we managed to bring it under control," he said, adding that some fires were suspected to be caused by agricultural and land clearing activity. In Tanjung 12, Norhisham said, his crew managed to douse the fires on some 19ha of peat forest over the past several days. Nine hectares are still burning there. Smoke from the peat and secondary forests fires caused concern early yesterday in Petaling Jaya and parts of Kuala Lumpur, as residents feared the haze had worsened. However, by afternoon, the haze started clearing and the Air Pollutant Index (API) released by the Department of Environment at 1100 hrs did not show unhealthy levels in the country. About 80% of the forest fires have been extinguished.

GAS PIPELINE TERMINAL, MONROE, OHIO, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 19 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: An explosion and fire at a gas pipeline terminal in south-west Ohio overnight has killed one person. The explosion and fire

happened late last night at a Monroe, Ohio, terminal owned by Houston-based Texas Eastern Products Pipeline Company. Firefighters from Monroe and nearby Middletown battled the blaze that witnesses said sent flames shooting 300 feet into the air. The propane gas fueling the fire has been shut off and firefighters say they'll let the blaze burn itself out. Investigators say the explosion may have been caused by a faulty valve. A Texas Eastern spokeswoman said today that a pipeline itself did not explode.

GRAIN SILO, POLLOCK DOCK, BELFAST, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sep 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire in a grain silo at Belfast harbour estate has largely been extinguished, according to the fire and rescue service. Crews were called to the blaze on the upper levels of the Clarendon silo at Pollock Dock at about 0400, BST. There are still 13 crews at the scene, but at its height about 50 firefighters using 13 appliances tackled the fire. Divisional Officer John Wilson said it was a difficult blaze to put out. Its cause is under investigation. "The fire broke out just after 0400, BST, when the first crews arrived they discovered it was on the top floor of one of the silo buildings," he said. "It was a difficult awkward fire to fight and we have still got quite a bit of resources on the ground. "We believe the fire is largely out, but we have got a bit of slow, steady work to fully extinguish it."

GRAIN SILO, POLLOCK DOCK, BELFAST, UNITED KINGDOM

Belfast, Sep 20 -- Fire was reported early today at the Clarendon Silo, Pollock Dock, Belfast. Nine fire crews and fire tug Willowgarth in attendance. Cause and extent of damage to building and stored grain unknown at this stage. Visible scorch, heat and smoke damage at roof level. - Lloyd's Agents.

OIL WELL, ASSAM, INDIA

See "Assam, India" under "Pollution".

PREMISES, CURRUMBIN, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Police are treating as suspicious a ferocious blaze that gutted at least five Gold Coast businesses. Police said the fire tore through a complex at Thrower Drive, Currumbin, just after 0100, AEST, today. Affected businesses include a bar and restaurant, boat hire business, hairdressing and beauty salon, real estate agency and a bait and tackle shop. Police said while much of the complex had been destroyed, no one was injured. Authorities are still monitoring the scene, concerned the roof of the building could collapse.

PREMISES, MOSCOW, RUSSIA

London, Sep 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: The fire at the warehouse of a woodworking plant located in southern Moscow was put

out, the city's fire-fighting service has told Tass. No one was injured in the blaze. Fire-fighting brigades are dismantling burnt-out constructions and pouring them with water to prevent another outbreak of fire. It took them two hours to cope with the blaze. The alarm call came at about 0500, Moscow time. Twenty fire brigades took part in putting out the fire covering the area of 1,000 sq km. Several ambulance vans stood by. The sources said it was the second major fire in the Russian capital during the night. Prior to the fire at a woodworking plant, an administrative building was destroyed by fire in western Moscow. There have been no early reports about the reasons behind the fires.

RESTAURANT, KINGSTON, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

Dated, Sep 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fire engulfed the Kingston Inn restaurant last night, halting eastbound ferry service from Kingston to Edmonds at about 2000 hrs. Washington State Ferries planned to continue operating the westbound route, spokeswoman Susan Harris-Huether said. State Route 104, which leads to the ferry terminal in Kingston, was closed, and eastbound ferry service was not planned to resume for the rest of the night, she said. The Kingston Inn abuts the holding lanes of the terminal. Edmonds passengers arriving in Kingston leave the ferry terminal north of the restaurant and should not have been affected, Harris-Huether said. Witness Denise Frisino said the fire appeared to start in the middle of the building just before 2000 hrs and spread quickly. "The fire consumed the building in less than 15 minutes," said Frisino.

TIMBER FACTORY, KYOGLE, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

London, Sep 18 -- A press report, dated Sep 16, states: The township of Kyogle in northern New South Wales is facing an uncertain future today after fire destroyed a timber factory overnight. The fire began at a quarter to seven last night and fire crews were still working today to put out the fire. Fire crews from around the region fought the blaze and some remained there overnight to protect nearby LPG gas cylinders. All 35 staff at work at the time were safely evacuated after they earlier attempted to douse the blaze. Inspector Chris Fabri says the efforts of firecrews was severely hampered by a lack of water. "There is no reticulated water here, so there is no street mains and we normally grab it from the mains in the road, they did have some on-site fire protection but the fire unfortunately took it out, which left us obtaining water from an onsite dam." In a town with a population of about 4000 even the temporary loss of more 130 jobs is expected to have a significant economic impact. Mayor Ernie Bennet says Norply is a locally run timber factory that has deep roots in the

community. "The local business people bought that company when the company was closing down back around 1990, the community just couldn't have handled the amount of people out of work, so local business people and some of the ex-employees got together and purchased the building and they have built it up from there." Narelle Little, a supervisor at the Norply factory in Kyogle, says the community is devastated by the fire.

WAREHOUSE, GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated Sep 21, states: Fire investigators were trying to determine what started a blaze that caused \$2 million in damage to a Northeast Side industrial building early yesterday. The fire at Michigan Shippers Supply, 600 Maryland Ave. NE, started in the south side of the warehouse, said Fire Investigator Pablo Martinez, who expected to return today to pinpoint a cause. The fire was reported at 1230 hrs, about six hours after the last employee left, said company president Steve Wooldridge. The company, which employs 20 people, makes labeling and printing systems.

WILDFIRES, PORTUGAL

London, Sep 19 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Hundreds of firefighters today battled five forest fires in central and northern Portugal which burnt several houses, prompted the evacuation of two villages and closed roads. More than 200 firefighters backed by three aircraft were at the scene of the biggest blaze near the central town of Agueda which destroyed six homes, national news agency Lusa reported. Emergency services workers said they evacuated residents of two villages and about 70 residents from a home for the elderly as a precaution. Strong winds made containing the fire difficult, firefighters said. "There are several fronts which are not under control," local fire commander Jose Dias Coimbra told private radio TSF. Blazes raged in five of mainland Portugal's 18 administrative districts: Aveiro, Castelo Branco, Guarda, Vila Real and Viseu. Nearly 1,000 firefighters supported by more than 250 vehicles and nine water-dropping aircraft have been deployed.



ACCIDENT, NORMAN MANLEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KINGSTON, JAMAICA

London, Sep 20 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A twin-engined aircraft crash-landed at Kingston's Norman Manley International Airport yesterday when its landing gear collapsed on

touchdown, aviation officials said. Neither the pilot of the Cessna Beecraft, Vincent Legister nor Sharma Frater, an official with the government's screwworm eradication project, was injured in the incident which caused the airport to shut-down for two-and-a-half hours. "We had to close the airport as it's just mandatory once there is any kind of incident on the runway," said Stanley Smith, director of operations at the Airports Authority of Jamaica. Inspectors of the Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority (JCAA) determined that the runway was not damaged in the accident, allowing the resumption of flights. The incident disrupted scheduled service by Air Jamaica, Air Jamaica Express and American Airlines, officials said. The incident happened just before 1100 hrs when the aircraft, operated by King Air, was returning from dispersing infertile flies under the agriculture ministry's anti-screwworm initiative, according to JCAA spokesman Captain Keith Humel. The aircraft landed with its wheels up, suggesting that the landing gear may have malfunctioned, but Humel said that the full investigation would have to be done to determine precisely what happened and why.

AIRCRAFT GROUNDED AT KIGALI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, RWANDA

London, Sep 20 -- A press report from LaSalle, dated Sep 16, states: Only three weeks after Rwandair Express opened the Kigali-Kamembe flights, its Dash-8/200, 37-seater aircraft that was designated to operate the tri-weekly flights is already grounded at Kigali International Airport. Understand the aircraft has spent one week grounded at the airport due to mechanical faults it sustained when it hit one of the passenger focal-lifter. The aircraft lost its flap that helps it to balance in air, and has consequently stopped conducting domestic flights to Kamembe Airport in Cyangugu.

C-FAWL

London, Sep 19 -- Cessna 207, C-FAWL, operated by A North-Wright Airways, had departed Tulita, NT on a flight to Norman Wells, the Norman Wells FSS received a mayday call that the aircraft was going down, approximately seven miles west of Tulita at approximately 1951 MDT, Sep 14. There was one pilot and two passengers on board. The aircraft landed and flipped over upon landing. There was no post impact fire. The pilot sustained serious injuries and the passengers were uninjured. Two investigators from the Western TSB office were dispatched to the scene.

C-FKEO

London, Sep 20 -- Enstrom 280C (Shark), C-FKEO, crashed near Duncan, British Columbia, at 1934, PDT, Sep 17. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

CRASH INTO SEA OFF AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

London, Sep 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: A man in a stolen aircraft forced the evacuation of terrified diners from Auckland's Sky Tower last night before crashing into the sea at St Heliers Bay. A man was believed to have stolen a Piper Cherokee from Ardmore Airport around 1900 yesterday intending to fly into the Sky Tower. The aircraft flew near the tower around 2100 and crashed into water about 50 metres off Kohimarama Beach around 40 minutes later. The man was taken by police escort to Auckland Hospital by ambulance. His condition was listed as serious but not critical. Diners and revellers at Sky City poured out into the street after a warning from emergency services prompted Sky City management to stage an evacuation soon after the aircraft flew past the windows of Orbit Restaurant. Police said after the incident saying neither the aircraft nor any of the occupants were regarded as a threat to any buildings or people.

CRASH, BARCELONA AREA, SPAIN

London, Sep 21 -- Two people have been killed and another seriously injured after an aircraft crashed in a town near Barcelona. The accident happened at Badia de Valles after the aircraft crashed into a building. The crash happened just after 1200 hrs when the light aircraft appeared to crash into a densely populated residential area. The reasons for the tragedy were not clear. The aircraft had taken off from an aerodrome in the town of Sabadell shortly before the crash.

CRASH, GALWAY, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

London, Sep 19 -- Two people have died after a light aircraft crashed in county Galway. The aircraft came down on a cricket pitch at Lydican, near Claregalway close to houses and a national school. Gardai have confirmed the two occupants of the aircraft were killed in the accident.

London, Sep 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: An investigation is underway into the cause of an aircraft crash near Oranmore on Monday (Sep 19) in which two Belgian men were tragically killed. The investigation will focus on the weather conditions at the time of the accident and the airworthiness of the aircraft. One of the airplane's wings was found some distance from the main wreckage leading investigators to suspect that the wing had separated from the aircraft before the crash occurred. The light aircraft came down at lunchtime on Monday on a cricket field in County Galway Cricket Club shortly after departing from Galway Airport. The single engine DR250 aircraft took off from Carnmore at 1235 hrs. Five to ten minutes later, Shannon Air Traffic Control lost contact with the aircraft. The airport then contacted the emergency services after the aircraft

disappeared from radar screens there. Eyewitnesses said the aircraft fell vertically with a portion of the wing missing. The wing was found some distance away from the main wreckage.

CRASH, MEXICO CITY AREA, MEXICO

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated Sep 21, states: The head of Mexico's uniformed federal police and a handful of his top aides were killed in a helicopter crash today. Ramon Martin Huerta, secretary of Mexico's Public Security Ministry, died along with a half-dozen other officials and two crew members when the aircraft went down shortly after 1100 hrs, in fog-cloaked mountains outside Mexico City. Despite a massive search, the aircraft was not located until seven hours later. Martin Huerta, who was named head of the security ministry 13 months ago, has been a key figure in this year's federal crackdown on narcotics-related violence on the U.S.-Mexico border and across the country. Among those also on board were Tomas Valencia, commander of the Federal Preventative Police, and Jose Antonio Bernal, a senior official with the government's National Human Rights Commission. The helicopter was ferrying the officials to a ceremony at a maximum-security federal prison west of the capital. Mexican media quoted local farmers as saying they heard the helicopter circle overhead three times shortly before it disappeared behind a mountain.

CRASH, NIAS, INDONESIA

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated Sep 21, states: A hardware fault was responsible for causing a Sea King helicopter to fatally crash while on a mercy mission in Indonesia, the chief investigator into the accident said. Nine Australian service personnel died and two were injured when the Shark02 helicopter crashed on the remote Indonesian island of Nias during a mercy mission in April. The 30-year-old helicopter was bringing medical aid to the island. Just 20 metres above the ground, it "nosed over" and crashed into a soccer field before flipping and bursting into flames. Wing Commander Pierre Blais, who headed the accident investigation, today told a defence board inquiry how his rescue team painstakingly searched through the charred remains to establish the cause. The group quickly discovered that a five centimetre-long bolt linking two crucial components of the "mixing unit", which controls the Sea King's movement, had become disconnected from its normal position before the crash, Cmdr Blais said. The inquiry, which is investigating the crash, had earlier been told that maintenance workers had removed the bolt and bell crank eight weeks before the crash because a bearing was worn. However, the inquiry was told the worn piece of hardware was reinstalled because no spare parts could be found. Cmdr Blais told the inquiry that

examinations of the engine indicated a hardware fault. "The evidence was telling us ... the nut and bolt had come apart, causing the system to fail and the helicopter to crash," he said. "Similar components (in the remains) still had their nuts and ... bolts attached." But his team had remained open-minded in an attempt to discount the "myriad of other possibilities", Cmdr Blais said. Problems with the rotor blades, fuel system, auto pilot, aircraft weight and engine performance were among the 20 other possibilities ruled out. The inquiry continues.

EMERGENCY LANDING, DUBAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Emirates flight EK602 to Karachi was forced to turn back to Dubai International Airport after panic-stricken passengers complained of a burning smell in the economy class of the Boeing 777. According to a business class passenger, screams of "stop the aircraft" could be heard soon after the flight took off at 1800 hrs. The pilot began to turn back the aircraft nine minutes after take-off. In a statement issued to the media last night, an Emirates spokesperson confirmed that the flight returned to Dubai when smoke was detected in the passenger cabin. According to the spokesperson, airport emergency services were alerted as a precaution. The flight, carrying 264 passengers, landed safely at 1858 hrs and passengers disembarked. A replacement aircraft was being prepared even as reports last came in to transport the passengers to Karachi. "The flight is expected to land in Karachi at 0100, local time, with a delay of three hours 45 minutes," the statement said, adding that Emirates engineers were investigating the cause of the smoke. Speaking to Khaleej Times, the spokesperson said there were no serious injuries.

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

London, Sep 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: A JetBlue airliner with faulty landing gear touched down safely yesterday at Los Angeles International Airport after circling the region for three hours with its front wheels turned sideways, unable to be retracted into the aircraft. The pilot landed on the back wheels, then eased onto the awry front tyres, which shot flames along the runway before they tore off. The metal landing gear scraped for the final yards as the plane came to a stop. Within minutes of landing, the aircraft's door opened and the 140 passengers walked down a stairway with their luggage and onto the tarmac, where buses waited. The aircraft landed on an auxiliary runway where fire trucks and emergency crews had massed as a precaution. No injuries were immediately reported among the

passengers and six crew members, fire officials said. "It was a very, very smooth landing. The pilot did an outstanding job," said fire Battalion Chief Lou Roupoli. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the incident, NTSB spokesman Paul Schlamm said. JetBlue flight 292 had left Bob Hope Airport in Burbank at 1517 for New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, said JetBlue spokesman Bryan Baldwin. The Airbus A320 first circled the Long Beach Airport, about 30 miles south of Burbank, then was cleared to land at Los Angeles International Airport. It stayed aloft to burn off fuel and lighten its weight, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Donn Walker. The aircraft landed at 1819. JetBlue, based in Forest Hills, N.Y., is a five-year-old low-fare airline with 286 flights a day and destinations in 13 states and the Caribbean. It operates a fleet of 81 A320s.

London, Sep 22 -- A press release from JetBlue, dated New York, Sep 21, states: JetBlue Airways flight number 292, departing Burbank, Calif. bound for JFK International Airport, departed at 1517, local time, with 140 customers and six crew members on board. The flight crew received an indication that the nose landing gear did not retract. This was confirmed, and the flight was advised to lower its weight by burning fuel. The aircraft landed safely at Los Angeles International Airport at 1819, local time. Customers and crew members deplaned via air-stairs. There are no initial reports of injuries. JetBlue is working with the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Transportation Safety Board and the aircraft manufacturer, Airbus, in the investigation of this incident. JetBlue is assisting flight 292 customers by offering immediate travel accommodations and other assistance as needed.

EMERGENCY LANDING, NEW CHITOSE AIRPORT, JAPAN

London, Sep 20 -- A press report, dated Sep 19, states: A Hokkaido Air System Co. (HAC) aircraft made an unscheduled landing at New Chitose Airport yesterday after a warning light indicating trouble with an anti-freezing device was activated in its cockpit, airline officials said. At around 1055, the pilot of an SF34 aircraft noticed a warning signal indicating trouble involving a device aimed at preventing the right side of the aircraft's body from being frozen was illuminated, HAC officials said. Even though it did not pose any danger to the flight, the pilot chose to make an unscheduled landing at New Chitose Airport. The aircraft was on Flight 2780 bound for Hakodate from Kushiro with 28 passengers and crewmembers on board. All the passengers were diverted to a Hokkaido Railway Co. train to continue their journey to Hakodate.

EMERGENCY LANDING, TOKYO, JAPAN

London, Sep 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: Smoke was detected in the cabin of a United Airlines flight from Tokyo to Los Angeles today, forcing the plane to make an emergency landing in Tokyo, an official said. No injuries were reported. The smoke appeared about an hour after United Airlines flight 890 took off from Narita airport in Tokyo, and the pilot requested permission to make an emergency landing, said Atsushi Ohira, a Narita spokesman. The plane landed at about 1820 hrs and no injuries were reported, said Taku Sanbe, another Narita spokesman. He did not know how many people were on the plane.

INCIDENT AT BANJUL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, GAMBIA

London, Sep 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: A major air disaster involving a Nigerian airline, Bellview Airlines, was averted in Banjul, Sep 14 when the engine of the airline's aircraft exploded at the point of take-off. Bellview Airline's aircraft (flight B3 251) from Banjul to Freetown and Lagos was about to take off at the Banjul International Airport when a heavy explosion was heard from one of the engines, which shook the entire airport. The explosion in the engine caused the aircraft's tyres to burst. The cause of the explosion was unknown. The flight was cancelled after Bellview Airlines discovered that the extent of damage on the aircraft was great.

INCIDENT AT ISTANBUL ATATURK AIRPORT, TURKEY

London, Sep 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft of Air Adriatic Airlines on the Moscow-Istanbul flight rolled today beyond the end of the runway because of a malfunctioning brake system, the Anadolu Ajansi news agency has reported. The aircraft, carrying 164 passengers, could stop only after engaging the emergency brake system, rolling 300 metres beyond the end of the runway of the Istanbul Ataturk Airport. Eleven of 12 chassis wheels went out of order as a result. According to early reports no one was injured in the incident, however, there was panic among the passengers. The runway has been closed for aircrafts because of the incident.

N287RR

London, Sep 22 -- Piper PA-34-200 (Seneca), N287RR, crashed near Greenville, Alabama, at 2010, Sep 16, while on a flight from Fort Pierce, Florida, to Van Nuys, California. The aircraft was destroyed. One of the three persons on board was seriously injured and the other two suffered minor injuries.

N6494J

London, Sep 21 -- Piper PA-28 Cherokee, N6494J, on take-off,

experienced a loss of engine power and crashed at the end of the Millville, NJ, runway at 1928, Sep 20. Two persons on board sustained serious injuries. Damage to the aircraft is substantial.

N69146

London, Sep 22 -- Piper PA-46-310P (Malibu), N69146, crashed near Ellington Field, Houston, Texas, at 0230, Sep 17, while on a local flight from Ellington Field. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

N70365

London, Sep 15 -- Cessna A185F (Skywagon) N70365 crashed near Port Hardy, British Columbia, Sep 11. The two persons on board were killed.

N8285T

(Skyland), Sep 22 -- Cessna 175B (Skylark), N8285T, crashed near Splendora, Texas, at 0001, Sep 16. The aircraft was destroyed. The three persons on board were killed.

N9311P

London, Sep 22 -- Piper PA-24-260 (Comanche), N9311P, crashed near Tiffin, Ohio, at 1551, Sep 18. The one person on board was killed.

PH-DYM

London, Sep 19 -- Swearingen SA.227AC Metro III, operated by Dynamic Air, PH-DYM, 17 people on board, ran off the side of the runway on take-off, collapsing the landing gear at Rotterdam Airport about 0730, Sep 19. Damage to the aircraft is substantial.

PT-WLX

London, Sep 20 -- Cessna 525 CitationJet PT-WLX, operator Viacao Cometa, crashed into dense forest in the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro, at 1455, Sep 15. There were two crew on board who were both killed.

Product Recalls



AVALANCHE TRANSCEIVERS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Sep 15 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of 15,500 Ortovox M1 and M2 Avalanche Transceivers, a device worn to help locate a buried avalanche victim, in voluntary co-operation with Ortovox USA, of Hopkinton, N.H. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The batteries in these devices can become dislodged when the transceiver is struck sharply. The

transceiver could fail to function properly in the aftermath of an avalanche, and result in the buried victim not being found in time to avoid serious injury or death. There have been three reports by consumers of the batteries in these devices becoming dislodged. No injuries have been reported. Both models of avalanche transceivers are plastic and measure 5.5-in by 2.5-in by 1-in. The M1 has a navy blue body and a yellow volume control switch. The M2 avalanche transceiver comes in two colors: glacier white (grey) with a red volume control switch, and orange with a grey volume control switch. The model name and "ORTOVOX" are written on the front of the transceivers. Sold at outdoor specialty stores nationwide from January 1997 through July 2005 for about \$300. Manufactured in Germany. Consumers should stop using the recalled avalanche transceivers and contact the firm to receive a new battery door that will help prevent the batteries from becoming dislodged. -- Consumer Product Safety Commission.

DAIMLERCHRYSLER MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: DaimlerChrysler AG's Chrysler Group said Friday (Sep 16) that it would recall more than 100,000 Jeep Grand Cherokee sport utility vehicles because water contamination of the transmission fluid could lead to fires under the hood. The recall involves 2005 model year vehicles with 3.7-litre engines and automatic transmissions, the automaker said, accounting for about 45 percent of all Jeep Grand Cherokees sold from that year. DaimlerChrysler spokesman Max Gates said in a small number of vehicles, condensed water from the air conditioning system could drip down into the case that holds the transmission fluid, contaminating the fluid and leading to a shaking in the transmission.

HYUNDAI MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 16 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Hyundai Motor Co. said today it would recall 240,000 Elantra sedans because the computer that operates the air bag system could confuse a child seat for an adult in the front passenger seat. The recall involves vehicles from the 2004-2005 model years. The Elantra is the South Korean-based automaker's most popular-selling vehicle in the United States. Hyundai said an evaluation conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found that a child seat in the front passenger seat could be misclassified by the air bag sensor system as an adult passenger. The

circumstances are limited -- Hyundai said it could only happen if a child seat was installed after an adult had been in the passenger seat and then the ignition was turned off. Under that scenario, when the vehicle was turned back on, the system's memory would misinterpret the child seat as an adult passenger. It could lead to the deployment of the front air bag and side-impact air bag in a crash, the company said. Normally, those air bags would not deploy if the system properly identified a child restraint seat because the impact of the bags could injure a child.

MINIBUS MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Sep 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Mitsubishi Fuso Truck & Bus Corp said yesterday it is recalling a total of 47,000 trucks and busses in six different defect cases. The vehicles in question, made between December 1982 and June 2005, include about 5,000 Canter light trucks that are subject to the second recall for a brake device defect, according to a report filed by Mitsubishi Fuso with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

RENAULT MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Sep 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: Renault Japon Co said yesterday it will recall a total of 1,450 Renault Kangoo minivans because of a defective fuel pipe. According to a report filed with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Renault Japon said the minivans in question were manufactured between July 2001 and March 2003.

TOYOTA MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Sep 16 -- Toyota Motor Corp said yesterday it will recall a total of 41,400 vehicles in five models, in two different defect cases. In a report filed with the Land, Infrastructure and Transport Ministry, the automaker said it is recalling about 37,000 vehicles in five models made between July 2004 and February 2005, due to defects found in adjustment parts in brake pedals.

Port Conditions



SYRIA

Lattakia, Sep 3 -- Waiting time presently 24 hours at Lattakia and four days at Tartous. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	19-Sep-2005	Coal: 1 vessel berthed; 9 vessels due by 9/10; maintenance shutdown scheduled from 07.00 hrs. 3/10 to 07.00 hrs. 8/10; no delays expected.
Brisbane	19-Sep-2005	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 4 vessels due by 10/10; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability
Dalrymple Bay	19-Sep-2005	Coal: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 20 anchored; 38 vessels due by 28/9; vessels usually berthing in order of arrival and cargo availability; vessels with North Goonyella and Okay North cargoes experiencing long delays, others approx. 5-10 days due to berth congestion. Berth No. 3 closed until 23/9 for dredging.
Dampier	19-Sep-2005	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 11 vessels due by 4/10; up to 3 days berthing delay expected; shippers cannot guarantee that vessel will be able to load up to max. sailing draft available; Parker Point 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading; shippers cannot guarantee that vessel will be able to load up to max. sailing draft available; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 11 vessels due by 5/10; up to 4 days berthing delay expected; a shift to a lay-by berth for loaded vessels is always a possibility; shippers cannot guarantee that vessel will be able to load up to max. sailing draft available.
Gladstone	19-Sep-2005	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 37 vessels due by 22/10; up to 4 days berthing delay expected subject to port congestion and cargo availability; shiploader No. 2 will be shut down for maintenance from 28/11 to 8/12; Barney Point: 10 vessels due by 25/10; up to 2 days delay expected due to port congestion and cargo availability.
Hay Point	19-Sep-2005	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 15 vessels due by 26/9; up to 3 days berthing delay expected; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability.
Newcastle	19-Sep-2005	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessel berthed and loading; 49 vessels due by 7/10; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels loading; 24 vessels due by 4/10; no unallocated vessels; 16 vessels waiting off port; 3-6 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal, coal product problems with some shippers berthed congestion and cargo receipt.
Port Hedland	19-Sep-2005	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 anchored; 2 vessels due by 27/9; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 4 vessels due by 27/9; no delays expected; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 1 vessel due 22/9; no delays expected; "D" berth: 1 vessel anchored; 6 vessels due by 28/9; up to 4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Kembla	19-Sep-2005	Coal: 10 vessels due by 26/10; up to 3 days berthing delay expected due to port congestion.
Port Walcott	19-Sep-2005	Iron ore: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 17 vessels due by 10/10; no delays expected; maintenance shutdown at berth 2 from approx. 21-22/9; Line-up expected to change at short notice. Cargo grade shortages and stockpile problems may result in vessels berthing out of turn.
Azerbaijan		
Apsheron	19-Sep-2005	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 2 vessels berthed, 1 empty and completed discharging, 1 discharging gasoil.
Baku	19-Sep-2005	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; Azerneftiyag terminal: no vessels; AzerTrans terminal - Nobel avenue: 2 vessels due by 17/9, both to discharge crude oil; Sangachal district: no vessels; Transserve terminal: closed.
Brazil		
Santos	20-Sep-2005	Twenty-three vessels berthed of which 7 sugar loaders, 1 bulk salt discharger, 1 steel products loader, 2 fertiliser dischargers, 1 chemical products discharger, 2 bulk juice loaders, 2 wheat dischargers, 2 pellets loaders, 1 bulk oil loader, 2 full container loaders/dischargers, 2 other loaders/dischargers; 28 vessels waiting in roads; 36 vessels due over the next 7 days; Private terminals: Terminal 37: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Tecondi: no vessels; Termars: 1 Ro/Ro loader/discharger; Rodrimar: no vessels; Cosipa: 1 coal loader, 3 steel products loaders; Ultrafertil: 1 fertiliser discharger; Cargill: 1 pellets loader, 1 sugar loader; Santos Brasil: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Cutrale: 1 pellets loader; Dow: no vessels.

Port Conditions

Bulgaria

Bourgas	20-Sep-2005	Four vessels in port operating, of which 1 loading coils, 2 discharging (1 coal, 1 zinc concentrate), 1 vessel under repairs; 4 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 coils, 1 copper anodes, 1 wheat, 1 empty vessel; 6 vessels due, of which 3 to load (1 coils, 1 containers, 1 profiles), 2 to discharge (1 iron ore, 1 zinc concentrate), 1 passenger vessel.
Varna	20-Sep-2005	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 12-18 September: Forty-eight vessels in port operating of which 24 loading (4 bulk soda, 1 packed hardboard, 1 kaolin/other, 2 scrap, 1 stones, 6 soda, 1 equipment, 1 sulphuric acid, 2 clinker, 1 cement, 3 sunflower seeds, 1 bran), 11 discharging (7 bulk coal, 1 bulk copper slugs, 1 copper concentrate, 1 slugs, 1 raw phosphate), 13 discharging/loading (9 containers, 1 calcium carbonate/kaolin/other, 2 pipes/equipment, 1 pipes/equipment/cement; no vessels waiting in roads.

Chile

Antofagasta	20-Sep-2005	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 13 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers and general cargo.
Arica	20-Sep-2005	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 15 vessels due this week.
Iquique	20-Sep-2005	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 12 vessels due this week.
Valparaiso	20-Sep-2005	Three vessels berthed, 5 berths vacant; 2 vessels anchored; 12 vessels due this week.

Egypt

Adabiya	19-Sep-2005	Eleven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 4 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 2 livestock, 1 tanker, 2 containers.
Alexandria	19-Sep-2005	Thirty-three vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 21 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 4 tankers, 2 container vessels, 2 military vessels; 18 vessels dry-docked; 12 vessels at inner anchorage, 15 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	19-Sep-2005	Twenty-four vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 16 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 1 Ro/Ro, 3 containers; 4 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage
Dekheila	19-Sep-2005	Seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 5 bulk carriers, 2 container vessels; no vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	19-Sep-2005	Eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 4 general cargo, 3 containers, 1 car carrier.
Suez	19-Sep-2005	Nine vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 1 tanker, 2 reefers, 3 passenger vessels; 2 tugs, 1 vessel dry-docked.
Suez Canal	19-Sep-2005	Twenty-three vessels transiting Northbound, 24 Southbound.

India

Kolkata	19-Sep-2005	2 vessels operating at berth and discharge (Pulses, Timber Logs); 2 vessels working at mid stream to discharging Pulses; 3 vessels under repairs; 1 vessel under dry docked; 3 vessels due (Containers-2, Passenger).
Haldia	19-Sep-2005	21 vessels operating at berth of which 9 loading (Agriculture Product, Iron ore-8), 9 vessels discharging (Agriculture Product, Crude, Exco, C/C, M/C, Sulphur, N.C.Coal, Containers, Steel); 3 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 12 vessels awaiting berth (1 to discharge, 9 to load, 2 to load and discharge); 7 vessels waiting at anchorage (3 to discharge, 4 to load); 4 vessels due (LPG, POL-2, Iron ore).
Paradip	19-Sep-2005	10 vessels operating at berth of which 5 loading (Iron ore-2, Magnesium Ore, Fe. Chrome, P. Iron), 5 vessels discharging (Coking.Coal-2, N.C.Coal, Hard Coke, Ammonia); 9 vessels awaiting berth (2 to discharge, 7 to load); 9 vessels waiting at anchorage (7 to discharge, 2 to load).
Visakhapatnam	19-Sep-2005	14 vessels operating at berth of which 5 loading (Iron ore-2, Soya Bean, Alumina, B.F.Slag), 9 vessels discharging (MOP-2, Project Cargo, Urea, S.Scrap, Steam Coal, Met Coke, Timber Logs, Sulphur); 15 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (10 to discharge, 4 to load, 1 to load and discharge); 1 vessel under repair(MV Chin Shwe Haw at Hsy Jetty which was collided with MV Uttar Kasi); 29 vessels due (Iron Ore-6, Steel, Pig Iron, Granite Blocks, S.Ore-2, Wheat in bags, Mop-2, Rock Phosphate, Coking Coal-5, Pet Coke-2, L. Ammonia, Containers-2, Alumina Bulk, Steam Coal, Crude Oil-2).
Chennai	19-Sep-2005	9 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading (Furnace Oil, Iron ore), 5 vessels discharging (Raw Sugar-2, St.Plate, Crude Oil, Thermal Coal), 2 vessels loading and discharging (Containers, Project Cargo/Granite Block); 4 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (3 to discharge, 1 to load); 5 vessels due (Passenger, Steel-2, Iron ore, Containers).
Tuticorin	19-Sep-2005	13 vessels operating at berth of which 8 loading (General Cargo-4, G.Sand-2, I.Sand, Salt), 5 vessels discharging (Thermal Coal-2, Timber Logs, Rock Phosphate, Raw Sugar); 1 vessel awaiting berth to discharge; 3 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 1 to load).

Port Conditions

Cochin	19-Sep-2005	5 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels discharging (Steel Pillets, Copra Cake, Soda Ash, Rock Phosphate), 1 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessels awaiting berth to discharge.
New Mangalore	19-Sep-2005	9 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Iron ore Fines, Iron Ore (P), POL Product-2), 5 vessels discharging (Urea/MOP-2, Timber Logs, Cement, LPG); vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 11 vessels due (MOP, POL Product-3, POL Crude-2, Granite Stone-2, LPG, Coal, Timber Logs).
Mormugao	19-Sep-2005	3 vessels operating at berth and loading Iron ore; 2 vessels working at midstream to load Iron Ore; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 6 vessels under repairs/dry dock; 7 vessels due (Alumina, Coking Coal, Iron ore-5).
Mumbai	19-Sep-2005	14 vessels operating at berth of which 3 loading (Project Cargo, SBM/Pipes, POL), 7 vessels discharging (Peas in bulk-3, Steel Cargo-2, POL-2), 4 vessels loading and discharging (Containers-2, Containers/Steel/General Cargo, Containers/Steel/General Cargo/Vehicles); 1 vessel working at midstream to load Heavy Lifts; 1 vessel awaiting berth to discharge; 6 vessels awaiting order to discharge; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 to load, 1 to load and discharge); 18 vessels under repairs/dry docked, 9 vessels under arrest, 21 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 22 vessels due (Containers-3, Oil, fertilizer(RM), General Cargo-17).
J.N.P.T.	19-Sep-2005	7 vessels operating at berth of which 1 discharging Lubricant Oil, 6 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 3 vessels awaiting berth to load and discharge; 3 Containers vessel due
Kandla	19-Sep-2005	13 vessels operating at berth of which 7 discharging (MS, DSBO, Sugar, Timber Logs, Fertilizer, Copper Concentrate, Scrap), 5 vessels loading (Agriculture Product-3, Salt-2), 1 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth to discharge; 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load).
Ennore	19-Sep-2005	1 vessel operating at berth and discharging Thermal Coal; 1 Thermal Coal (MV Gem of Ennore) vessels due.
Israel		
Ashdod	19-Sep-2005	No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 12 vessels discharging at berth (8 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at berth; 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge, 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load/dischARGE; 18 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	19-Sep-2005	No labour problems. Four bulkers discharging at berth, 5 vessels loading/discharging at berth (3 containers, 2 tankers); 5 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/dischARGE (1 general cargo, 2 containers, 2 tankers); 3 vessels under repairs/ dry-docked; 14 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Kazakhstan		
Aktau	19-Sep-2005	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, 1 loading crude oil, 1 unknown cargo; 2 vessels in roads, both to load unknown cargoes; 4 vessels due by 18/9, all to load unknown cargoes.
Pakistan		
Karachi	19-Sep-2005	Two vessels loading at berth (1 naphtha, 1 rice, 11 discharging at berth (1 palm oil, 1 coal, 3 sugar, 2 DAP, 1 general cargo, 1 urea, 1 phosphate, 1 vehicles), 5 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 naphtha vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 sugar, 1 crude oil, 1 chemicals); no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 10 vessels due (3 containers, 4 general cargo, 1 fertiliser, 1 sugar, 1 cement), with 4-5 days berthing delay expected for general cargo vessels, 12-16 hours for container vessels.
Port Qasim	19-Sep-2005	Three vessels discharging at berth (1 rape seed, 1 palm oil, 1 wheat), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at QICT berth; 2 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 containers, 2 MEG, 1 rape seed, 1 Panamax).
Russia		
Novorossiysk	19-Sep-2005	Fifteen vessels in port operating, of which 13 loading (3 scrap, 1 cement, 1 bulk NPK, 1 WRIC/steel sheets/coils/scrap/lumber, 1 scrap/steel billets/pipes, 1 steel lets/WRIC/steel sheets/coils, 1 wheat, 1 coils/tin plates/steel billets, 1 barley, 1 diesel oil, 1 UAN solution), 2 discharging/loading containers; 3 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 1 wheat, 1 bulk cement, 1 bulk urea; 60 vessels due, of which 59 to load (4 DRI, 6 copper, 1 WRIC, 3 coils, 1 ammonium sulphate, 2 equipment, 6 wheat, 1 bulk fertiliser, 4 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 slabs/steel billets, 5 steel billets, 1 steel billets/scrap, 1 steel sheets/tin plates/cars, 5 aluminium, 4 scrap, 3 bulk NPK, 2 slabs, 1 steel sheets/steel billets, 1 tin plates, 2 iron, 1 WRIC/steel sheets, 1 bulk urea, 1 steel billets, 1 steel sheets, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate/bulk urea), 1 to discharge coils; Oil terminal: 2 tankers berthed, both loading crude oil; 2 tankers in roads, both to load crude oil; 6 tankers due, all to load, of which 4 crude oil, 1 diesel oil, 1 fuel oil.

Port Conditions

Slovenia

Koper	19-Sep-2005	Port working normally. Twelve vessels berthed of which 4 bulk carriers discharging solid chemicals/general cargo/minerals/fertiliser, 3 bulk carriers loading coal/general cargo, 3 vessels loading sawn timber, 2 vessels discharging/loading containers; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage, both to load, of which 1 sawn timber/pipes, 1 bulk carrier to load coal; 19 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 5 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 4 vessels to load livestock/sawn timber/aluminium products, 1 reefer to discharge refrigerated goods, 2 tankers to discharge mineral oils, 2 bulk carriers to discharge minerals, 3 bulk carriers to load coal, 2 vessels to discharge/load containers.
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Spain

Bilbao	19-Sep-2005	Twenty-two vessels operating (4 tankers, 18 other vessels), of which 7 loading, 10 discharging, 5 loading/discharging.
Cadiz	20-Sep-2005	Twenty vessels in port of which 7 operating (3 Ro/Ros, 2 semolina, 2 passenger (Sep 20) vessels), 13 vessels under repair; no delays.
Sagunto	19-Sep-2005	Fifteen vessels in port operating of which 1 loading cement, 8 discharging (6 steel products, 2 vehicles), 6 discharging/loading (1 steel products, 5 general cargo); no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.

Sri Lanka

Colombo	19-Sep-2005	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Fourteen container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 15 vessels discharging at berth (10 containers/feeders, 1 bulk cement, 1 bulk palm oil, 1 bulk gypsum, 1 bagged urea, 1 general cargo); no vessels waiting at anchorage; 4 vessels dry-docked, 1 at new tanker berth; 7 vessels due (5 containers/feeders, 1 Ro/Ro, 1 bagged urea), with no delays expected.
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Turkmenistan

Turkmenbashi	19-Sep-2005	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, loading gasoil; 4 vessels in roads, of which 3 to load (1 gasoil, 1 gasoline, 1 light gasoline), 1 to discharge crude oil.
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Ukraine

Ilichevsk	19-Sep-2005	Seven vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading (3 steel products, 1 grain, 1 sulphur), 2 discharging/loading containers; 2 vessels in roads, both to load, of which 1 oil, 1 barley; 18 vessels due, of which 7 to load (6 steel products, 1 grain), 2 to discharge ore, 9 to discharge/load containers.
Mariupol	19-Sep-2005	Twelve vessels in port operating, of which 11 loading (4 steel, 2 wheat, 1 fire-clay, 2 coal, 1 ammonium saltpetre, 1 sulphur), 1 discharging equipment; 7 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 4 steel, 1 wheat, 1 fire-clay, 1 fire-clay/containers; 46 vessels due, of which 44 to load (18 steel, 10 coal, 8 fire-clay, 2 wheat, 1 ammonium saltpetre, 3 equipment, 1 carbamide, 1 sunflower beans), 1 to discharge equipment, 1 to discharge/load acid/steel plates.
Odessa	19-Sep-2005	Fifteen vessels in port operating, of which 10 loading (5 metal, 1 ore, 2 wheat, 2 corn), 2 discharging (1 luggage, 1 citrus), 1 container vessel loading/discharging, 2 passenger vessels; 2 vessels in roads, of which 1 to load scrap, 1 to discharge sugar; 61 vessels due, of which 34 to load (19 metal, 5 pig-iron, 4 wood, 2 barley, 2 wheat, 1 ferro alloy, 1 corn), 7 to discharge (3 metal, 2 bananas, 1 oil, 1 fat), 20 to discharge/load containers.

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