

# CasualtyWeek

Sep 15 2006

## Emsa wins global support in maritime safety battle

Opening of headquarters brings backing from world regulators, writes Julian Bray in Lisbon — Friday September 15 2006

**A** LANDMARK in Europe's fight for safer ships and cleaner seas was passed in Lisbon yesterday with the official opening of the new headquarters of the European Maritime Safety Agency.

A product of the political backlash against substandard ship-ping after the 1999 Erika disaster, the fledgling agency yesterday won enthusiastic public support from not only Europe's, but the world's senior maritime regulators.

### Underestimated

European Commission president José Manuel Barroso said he hoped Emsa would "ensure that maritime safety and security was never underestimated", while International Maritime Organization secretary-general Efthimos Mitropoulos said the agency would be an "ally for IMO to eradicate substandard shipping".

Willem de Ruiter, Emsa executive director, said he believed the move to Lisbon would be "a real catalyst for getting our young agency into motion".

Emsa's new home is in the east of the city near the waterfront in the area redeveloped for the Lisbon Expo in 1998.

A permanent building is under construction to south of the city centre and it is hoped this will be completed near the end of next year.

Alluding to two of Portugal's great navigators, European transport commissioner Jacques Barrot said: "While Vasco de Gama and Bartholomew Diaz were pioneers of world discovery, I hope Emsa will be a pioneer in maritime safety."

Significantly, both Mr Barrot and Mr Mitropoulos publicly pledged that support for Emsa's role implementing and advising on regulation should not be seen as a threat to IMO's position as the global regulator of shipping.

"Shipping is a global business and its rules must take account of that fact," said Mr Barrot.

### Excellence

In the four years since its establishment in 2002 Emsa had already developed a "solid reputation" as a centre of excellence on maritime issues to help both the Commission and European Union member states.

Mr Mitropoulos said European nations, as "founding members and strident supporters of IMO", could "make an invaluable contribution to safe and secure shipping worldwide".

Mr Barroso, who when Portuguese prime minister won Emsa's base for Lisbon, said he was particularly proud of the contribution the agency could make to shipping safety. "Lisbon has always looked to the sea, its

history is linked to the sea, and we can say the same for Europe," he said.

Emsa would make a valuable contribution to co-ordinating policies as part of plans for a unified European maritime policy as outlined in the recent Green paper.

Portuguese prime minister José Socrates said: "No effort will be spared helping the agency to be successful."

Would you like casualty information as it happens ?

Lloyd's  
**Casualty**  
REPORTING SERVICE

For further information contact:

Andrew Luxton, Key Account Manager

Tel: +44 (0)20 7017 4625

Fax: +44 (0)20 7017 4763

Email: [andrew.luxton@lloydsmiu.com](mailto:andrew.luxton@lloydsmiu.com)

[www.lloydsmiu.com/lcrs](http://www.lloydsmiu.com/lcrs)



**EDITOR**  
Stephen Legall  
Tel +44 020 7017 5228

**ADVERTISEMENTS**  
Mike Smith  
Tel +44 (0) 20 7017 4488  
Fax +44 (0) 20 7017 5007  
email [mike.smith@lloydsmiu.com](mailto:mike.smith@lloydsmiu.com)

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:**  
Anneley Pickles  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7017 4069  
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7017 5007  
Email: [anneley.pickles@lloydsmiu.com](mailto:anneley.pickles@lloydsmiu.com)

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

<b>Vessel</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Flag</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>GT</b>	<b>DWT</b>	<b>Bit</b>	<b>Casualty</b>
<i>ADSTEAM LYNDHURST</i>	tug	GBR	LR	379	174	1996	Had fire in the engine-room in the Solent Sep 3. Extinguished after three hours. Returned to dockside at Southampton.
<i>AMALIA</i>	chem tanker	GRC	RI	1,773	3,051	1976	Had fire in the engine-room while repairing at Perama Sep 6. Extinguished same day.
<i>AMANAT SHAH</i>	general	BGD	GL	12,037	16,486	1982	Developed a technical problem 80 miles south of Colombo Sep 7. When under tow to Galle, started sinking in rough seas. All 34 crew rescued.
<i>CHL PROGRESSOR</i>	bulker	SGP	LR	32,333	44,993	1985	Arrived Ploce Aug 5 and reported damage to forepart of hull and water ingress. Provisional underwater repairs under way Aug 6. Sailed Aug 16.
<i>DIAMOND 1</i>	general	KHM	—	1,652	2,074	1964	Had engine failure in the Istanbul Strait Sep 2. Taken to Buyukdere, where anchored in lat 40 59.3N, long 28 56.17E, Sep 3.
<i>DIAS</i>	bulker	HKG	RI	73,116	134,964	1988	Sustained rudder problems on the River Scheldt Sep 6. Towed to Ymuiden by four tugs.
<i>HELGA</i>	general	ATG	GL	1,473	2,100	1984	Sustained electrical power failure in the North Sea Sep 3 and was towed to Rotterdam by tug Waker. Arrived Rotterdam Sep 4.
<i>JINPENG 6</i>	bulker	CHN	—	2,995	—	1976	Had fire in engine-room, in the Yellow Sea Aug 30. Crew rescued and fire extinguished same day. Currently berthed at Lianyungang.
<i>RANA R.</i>	product tanker	PAN	HR	985	1,510	1970	Had fire in the engine-room at Bahrain Sep 6. Towed from terminal to anchorage.
<i>SAINT VINCENT</i>	product tanker	NCL	BV	680	985	1995	Sank 50 km south south east of Lalau Island Sep 3. Lying in 2000 metres of water. No pollution. All crew rescued.
<i>SCANDINAVIA</i>	passenger	SWE	—	5,105	—	1927	Sank off Japan's south-east coast Sep 1 while being towed to China for repairs.
<i>SE MARIAM 1</i>	tug	MYS	LR	247	—	2004	Sank approximately 10 nautical miles off Dubai Aug 25. Salvage operations under way. One crew fatality.
<i>SUZHOU HUOSIXIAN 0288</i>	barge	CHN	—	880	1,600	2003	Collided with <i>Yuan Jiang Cheng</i> at Shanghai Sep 2. Sank. Subsequently salvaged.
<i>TORO</i>	bulker	GRC	ABS	16,887	28,126	1983	Grounded below the Snell Lock, near Cornwall, Ontario Sep 5. Algoisle standing by. Hard aground by bow. Forepeak flooded.
<i>VELOS</i>	bulker	CYP	NV	36,438	65,702	1966	Reported Sep 3 in distress in Skagerrak due collision with unknown vessel; resulting in several leaks into ballast tanks. Anchored in lat 57 28.11N, long 09 22.38E, awaiting help from Danish authorities. Divers inspection Sep 5.
<i>YUAN JIANG CHENG</i>	container	CHN	—	2,200	—	1999	Collided with <i>Suzhou Huosixian 0288</i> while berthing at Shanghai Sep 2.

# CONTENTS

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

<b>Marine, including Overdue &amp; Missing Vessels</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Port State Control</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Seizures &amp; Arrests</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Pipeline Accidents</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Pollution</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Weather &amp; Navigation</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Earthquakes</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Volcanic Activity</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Political &amp; Civil Unrest</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Labour Disputes</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Awards &amp; Settlements</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Railway Accidents</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Robberies &amp; Thefts</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Fires &amp; Explosions</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Aviation</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Space Vehicles</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Port Conditions</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Port Conditions charts</b>	<b>29</b>

© Lloyd's MIU 2006 These reports may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photographic, recorded or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher.



The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



## ADSTEAM LYNDHURST (U.K.)

Portsmouth, UK, Sep 4 — Firefighters have spent three hours controlling a blaze in the engine-room of fire fighting tractor tug *Adsteam Lyndhurst* (379 gt, built 1996) in the Solent. The crew, who alerted emergency services just after 0100, UTC, on Sunday (Sep 3), sealed off the area and returned to the dockside in Southampton, Hampshire. None of the four people on board the vessel were injured, a fire service spokesman said. An investigation carried out by boat operator Adsteam Marine is expected to reveal a fuel leak triggered the fire. Paul Turnbull, of Hampshire Fire and Rescue, said: "It's fairly rare to get an engine-room fire of this severity. "The vessel benefited from the fact it is an inshore tug, so they were able to shut down the room, close off the compartment and return to the dockside fairly quickly. "Had this been out in the open sea, the crews would have had to deal with it themselves." — Correspondent.

## ALGOVILLE (Canada)

London, Sep 7 — Bulker *Algoville* was reported still in port at Hamilton(CAN) on Sep 5.

## AMALIA (Greece)

London, Sep 7 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Chemical tanker *Amalia* (1773 gt, built 1976) was performing repairs at the Megatechnica Ltd. Shipyard in Perama, a fire broke out in the engine-room at 1315, Sep 6. The fire was extinguished at 1430 by the Fire Brigade and the crew. There were no injuries or pollution caused. (Note — *Amalia* arrived Piraeus Aug 24.)

Piraeus, Sep 7 — Fire broke out in the engine-room of chemical tanker *Amalia* at 1315, Sep 6. The vessel was under repair at Messrs. "Megatechnica Ltd." Shipyard at Perama, Piraeus. Fire was extinguished at 1430 by the vessel's crew and the local fire brigade. No injuries were reported. Preliminary investigation is effected by Perama port authorities. — Lloyd's Agents.

## AMANAT SHAH (Bangladesh)

London, Sep 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Sri Lanka's navy on Thursday (Sep 7) rescued 34 Bangladeshi nationals from a sinking vessel off the island's coast, an official said. The vessel *Amanth Sah* (?general cargo *Amanat Shah* (12037 gt, built 1982)) was sailing from Myanmar in Southeast Asia to Mumbai, India, when it developed a technical failure close to the Sri Lankan coast in Koggala 80 miles south of the capital, navy spokesman Commander D.K.P Dassanayake said. While being towed

to the southern Galle port, the vessel started sinking because of rough seas and the Sri Lankan navy was called in to help, said Jayalath Perera of Colombo Radio, which maintains radio contacts with vessels sailing close to Sri Lanka. The Bangladeshi vessel was transporting timber to Mumbai and there were 34 people on board, Dassanayake said.

## AMAR (Singapore)

See *Bright Artemis*.

## ANNTORO (Norway)

Trondheim, Sep 7 — General cargo *Anntoro* has been sold. The shipbrokers dealing with this sale have informed that the change of ownership was on Aug 25. The new flag is Bolivia with Port of Registry La Paz. The new owners are Nado Shipping Ltd., Delaware, USA. The vessel is still at Kvernhusvik Shipyard, Hitra. A crew is expected to arrive Hitra some time during the next few weeks. — Lloyd's Agents.

## APL ITALY (Liberia)

Freeport, Bahamas, Sep 4 — Repairs to container carrier *APL Italy* have now commenced at Grand Bahama Shipyard, Freeport, Bahamas. — Lloyd's Agents.

## ATHOS (Malta)

Visakhapatnam, Sep 2 — Bulker *Athos* arrived Visakhapatnam Aug 24 from Piraeus. — Lloyd's Agents.

## BANGLAR SHOURABH (Bangladesh)

Chittagong, Sep 7 — BSC repair works of crude oil tanker *Banglar Shourabh* is being continued at Parkichar, Anowara, Chittagong. by M/s. Karnaphuli Ship Builders, Chittagong who are appointed for permanent repair. — Lloyd's Agents.

## BBC ENGLAND (Marshall Islands)

London, Sep 1 — Part containerised general car *BBC England* (7576 gt, built 2003) lost steering in lat 45 12 30N, long 75 14W, Lake St. Francois at approximately 1500, Aug 5. Vessel proceeded to St. Zotique anchorage for repairs. (Note — *BBC England* arrived Hamilton (Can) Aug 11 and sailed Aug 19.)

London, Sep 4 — Part containerised general car *BBC England* arrived Tilbury Sep 2 and sailed Sep 3 for Rotterdam.

## BEAUTIFUL QUEEN (Hong Kong)

London, Sep 4 — Bulker *Beautiful Queen* sailed from Los Angeles at 1350 hrs, Sep 2, bound for Portland, Oregon.

## BINA (Indonesia)

Chittagong, Sep 5 — Local Chittagong agents of product tanker *Bina* have advised that the vessel is still lying at Myanmar Port, situation unchanged, and is now expected to arrive at Chittagong on Sep 15. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

**BOW POWER (Singapore)**

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

**BRIGHT ARTEMIS (Singapore)**

London, Aug 31 — Understand general cargo *Amar*, which was in collision with crude oil tanker *Bright Artemis*, is now in tow of tug *MLC Nancy 2*.

Singapore, Sep 5 — Crude oil tanker *Bright Artemis* arrived Singapore 0655, Sep 4. — Lloyd's Agents.

**BSLE ENDURANCE (Cyprus)**

Cristobal, Sep 5 — General cargo *BSLE Endurance* completed repairs and sailed from Cristobal Sep 4. — Lloyd's Agents.

**BULK ARROW (Panama)**

London, Sep 2 — Following received from RSC Patras, timed 2016, UTC: Bulk cement carrier *Bulk Arrow* (13475 gt, built 1969) from Almeria to Novorossiysk in ballast, stopped to effected repairs to a sea water cooling pipe to the main engine in lat 37 26N, long 24 07E. The repairs are estimated to be completed by 0000 local time. The weather in the area is good.

London, Sep 4 — Bulk cement carrier *Bulk Arrow* was reported passing through the Dardanelles at 1820 hrs, Sep 3, bound for Novorossiysk.

**BULO NI CEVA (Fiji)**

London, Sep 6 — A press report, dated today, states: The Government will foot the cost of bringing passenger (cruise) *Bulou Ni Ceva* back to Suva, says Transport Minister Tomasi Vuetilovoni. "We want officers to siphon all the fuel and bring the boat back to Suva because experts are here to look at the vessel," he said. However, Mr Vuetilovoni said if the owners did not repay the Government for the salvage operation, the Marine Department would sell the vessel. His comments came after Kadavu Shipping and Holdings Limited general manager Ratu Sela Nanovo said it was expected to cost the Government \$225,000 to siphon and tow the *Bulou ni Ceva* to Suva. He said an agreement was reached for the Marine department to salvage the vessel with State funds, which would be reimbursed. "Officers from the Fiji Islands Maritime and Safety Authority (FIMSA) went last week and started work on Sunday (Sep 3), first they siphoned the fuel and are looking at towing it to Suva," he said. Ratu Nanovo said they were awaiting a reply from (FIMSA), which would be forwarded to insurers Dominion Insurance. Last week, Dominion Insurance manager Fiji client services Vikash Kumar said the owners of the vessel were best placed to answer any query. "According to the investigations we have established that liability does not attach to the claim because of reasons known to the owners of the vessel. Only they can explain." He said the company did not want to disclose details of the contract. Ratu Nanovo said his company was working

on who was liable to pay for the salvage work. "The insurance company has made queries and we are awaiting FIMSA. "If they say they are not liable, why are they asking? It shows the company is double-minded about it but we await FIMSA."

Suva, Sep 7 — Passenger (cruise) *Bulou Ni Ceva* is still aground. Understand the Fijian Government may cover the cost of refloating the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

**CALA PALMA (Italy)**

London, Sep 4 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Refrigerated general cargo *Cala Palma* is to leave drydock at Lloyds Yard, Bremerhaven, today.

**CAPE CHELSEA (Canada)**

London, Sep 5 — Fishing (general) *Cape Chelsea* (117 gt, built 1988) with five persons on board reported having damaged it's propellor and shafting when it stuck an unidentified floating object in lat 49 21.38N, long 50 19.48W, at 1526, UTC, Sep 5. Vessel attempting to steam back to port under it's own power.

London, Sep 5 — Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 1930, UTC: Fishing (general) *Cape Chelsea* reported striking an unknown object at 1536, UTC, and is proceeding to Catalina Bay, Newfoundland, where ETA 1636, UTC, Sep 6. No assistance required.

London, Sep 6 — Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 1915, UTC: Fishing (general) *Cape Chelsea* was reported arriving safely at Catalina Bay, Newfoundland, at 1322, UTC, today.

**CAPE FINISTERRE (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Balboa, Sep 5 — Refrigerated general cargo *Cape Finisterre* reportedly completed repairs Sep 3 and following successful sea trials was scheduled for northbound transit yesterday evening. Vessel sailed Cristobal 0502 today. — Lloyd's Agents.

**CHL PROGRESSOR (Singapore)**

Rijeka, Aug 7 — Bulker *CHL Progressor* (32333 gt, built 1985) arrived at Ploce morning, Aug 5 for discharging of 8000 tons of bagged sugar from Antwerp. After berthing shortly upon arrival, master reported the damage to the fore part of the hull under water. Discharging commenced Aug 6 in order to lighten the vessel. No damage to the cargo is reported. Discharging of the cargo for Ploce has been completed Aug 10. There remains a cargo for the next port of call in holds. Provisional underwater repairs are under way. Investigation is under way. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *CHL Progressor* sailed Ploce Aug 16 and passed Gibraltar west Sep 3.)

**CHRESTENA II (Panama)**

Mumbai, Sep 6 — General cargo *Chrestena II*: There is no change in its position and vessel remains aground. There are no visible signs of any salvage operations. — Lloyd's Agents.

**CONTAZ CARRIER (Ukraine)**

Piraeus, Aug 31 — An oil slick of approximately 2,000 square metres was caused during oil transfusion effected by private crew who performing repair operation on container carrier *Contaz Carrier*. The incident happened on Aug 29 at Piraeus area. Antipollution operation was carried out by port authorities vessel. The ship's captain was arrested and will be prosecuted. — Lloyd's Agents.

**COUGAR ACE (Singapore)**

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Vehicle carrier *Cougar Ace* is now being towed to Portland, Ore., the U.S. Coast Guard said yesterday. *Cougar Ace* left Unalaska on yesterday afternoon and is expected to arrive in Portland in about 10 days, the Coast Guard said. One tug is towing the vessel while another is going along as an escort. The Coast Guard has checked all ballast tanks and no ballast transfers will be conducted during the trip, it said.

**CREACH (Cambodia)**

London, Sep 2 — General cargo *Creach* arrived Tuzla on Jul 10 and sailed on Aug 26.

**CSCL NINGBO (Hong Kong)**

See *Jinhaida 18*.

**CTMA VACANCIER (Canada)**

London, Sep 1 — Passenger ro/ro *CTMA Vacancier* (11481 gt, built 1973) had steering problems in lat 46 42 41N, long 71 26 42W at 1955, yesterday. Vessel proceeded to St. Nicolas anchorage for repairs.

**CUMBRAE (U.K.)**

London, Sep 3 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0903, UTC: Tug *Cumbrae* (159 gt, built 1961), voyage Plymouth to Newcastle, has lost main towline, attached only by emergency tow, which may be fouling the tug's propeller, in position lat 51 26.13N, long 01 49.83E, 067 degrees, 15.6 nautical miles from Ramsgate, drifting north-east at one knot. Tug *Anglian Monarch* tasked by coastguard.

London, Sep 3 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1330, UTC: Tug *Anglian Monarch* has just arrived on scene and is standing by tug *Cumbrae*, while *CumbraeP* awaits owners instructions. *Cumbrae* is presently connected to a barge on a 250-foot emergency towline.

London, Sep 4 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 2314, UTC, Sep 3: Tug *Cumbrae* is currently under tow of tug *Anglian Monarch* and is holding off Kingstown. The tow will proceed into Dover at 0600, UTC, Sep 4.

London, Sep 4 — Following press release from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, dated Sep 3, states: The Dover based Coastguard tug *Anglian Monarch* has been in action this afternoon after tug *Cumbrae*, towing an unmanned barge

got into difficulties off Ramsgate earlier today. The crew of the vessel reported in to Dover Coastguard at just after 0900 this morning that they had a problem with the tow, and that an emergency tow wire had become lodged around the rudder under the towing vessel. The vessel was drifting at the time and Master of the vessel did not wish to use his propellers for fearing of fouling and exacerbating the situation. The *Cumbræ* had six crew aboard. The anchor had been dropped but this wasn't holding the vessel and it was still drifting just outside the shipping lanes. The Agency's Counter Pollution Unit was informed and the Coastguard tug was sent to the scene. The *Anglian Monarch* arrived on scene at about 1415 this afternoon to evaluate the situation. Details of the drifting vessel were incorporated into the routine Channel Navigation Information Service broadcasts to alert other vessels of the *Cumbræ*'s predicament. Upon arrival the Coastguard tug slowly circled the drifting tug and tow to see what could be done and spotted what appeared to be black rope around the *Cumbræ*'s rudder. The tug had earlier attempted a reverse procedure to free itself but this had proved to be unsuccessful. Colin Mulvana, Counter Pollution and Salvage Officer from the Agency said: "We had various conversations during the afternoon both with the onshore contact for the tug and directly with the master as our concern was that as the evening drew in we would potentially have two 'rogue' vessels drifting in what is the world's busiest waterway. "Despite their later efforts to free the tug from the rope around their rudder they were unsuccessful, and at just after 1600 the *Anglian Monarch* took them under tow towards Dover and out of harms way. We have kept Dover Port Control informed of these developments. "As the *Anglian Monarch* began to make way the *Cumbræ* was able to restart its engines and is presently following the Coastguard tug which is towing the barge, which has now two people aboard from the rescue vessel.

London, Sep 4 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRSC, timed 0830, UTC: Tug *Cumbræ*, in tow of tug *Anglian Monarch*, is still at anchor at South Foreland. The barge has been brought into Dover by two harbour tugs.

London, Sep 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency tug *Anglian Monarch* has taken a barge in tow after tug *Cumbræ* (159 gt, built 1961) towing it got into difficulties and threatened to drift into the Channel shipping lanes. *Cumbræ* reported in to Dover Coastguard there was a problem with the tow, and that an emergency tow wire had become lodged around the rudder under the towing vessel. The vessel was drifting at the time and master of the vessel did not wish to use his propellers for fearing of fouling and exacerbating the situation. *Cumbræ* had six crew on board. The anchor had been dropped

but this wasn't holding the vessel and it was still drifting just outside the shipping lanes. *Anglian Monarch* took the two vessels in tow, heading towards Ramsgate.

London, Sep 4 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1610, UTC: *Cumbræ* towing a barge, fouled propeller in lat 50 33.06N, long 01 01.29E at about 1730, yesterday. *Anglian Monarch* towed vessels to Dover where they are currently under repair.

#### **DEALER (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Sep 6 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0402, UTC: General cargo *Dealer* (1692 gt, built 1982), Amsterdam for Teignmouth with citrus pellets, and general cargo *Vindo* (3183 gt, built 2004), Pori for Seville, with fertiliser, were in collision in lat 51 20N, long 01 53.6E, at 0110, UTC, Sep 6. Both vessels sustained minor damage to guard rails and upper deck and both intend to continue on voyage. Tug *Anglian Monarch* instructed to proceed to standby and escort if necessary.

London, Sep 6 — A press report, dated today, states: At half past two this morning, Dover Coastguard whilst monitoring the traffic separation scheme, heard a ship calling another on VHF radio. General cargo *Dealer*, on passage to Teignmouth in Devon, was calling general cargo *Vindo*, on passage to Seville in Spain. *Dealer* was having no success in getting a response from the *Vindo*. Dover Coastguard watching the two vessels on their Channel Navigation Information System radar called the *Vindo* and were successful in communicating with the *Vindo*, they were then able to inform them that they were being called by another vessel. Both vessels communicated with each other and a collision occurred in a position 17 miles east of North Foreland. There have been no injuries sustained by either of the crews and no pollution. Both vessels have sustained some damage. Both ships masters have informed Dover Coastguard of their intentions to continue on their passages. Frank O'Neill, Watch Manager, Dover Coastguard said: "Thankfully, no one has been injured in this incident and no pollution has occurred. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency's Enforcement branch and Port State Control officers have been notified of this incident"

#### **DIAMOND 1 (Cambodia)**

London, Sep 4 — General cargo *Diamond 1* (1652 gt, built 1964) had engine failure in the Istanbul Strait at 2015, Sep 2. Fast rescue vessel *Kiyi Emniyeti 6* and tugs *Kurtarma 2* and *S`nd`ren 6* sent immediately by Istanbul VTS. As a result of salvage and assistance operation the vessel was anchored safely to B,y,kdere at 0045, Sep 3.

London, Sep 4 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, at 2155, BST, general cargo *Diamond 1* was reported anchored in lat 40 59.3N, long 28 56.17E, 1.9 nautical miles off Istanbul.

#### **DIAS (Hong Kong)**

London, Sep 7 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Bulker *Dias* (73116 gt, built 1988) sustained rudder problems on the River Scheldt on Sep 6. Four tugs towed the vessel to Ymuiden. On its further way to Cherbourg tug *Svitzer Marken* was to escort the ship.

#### **ECE (Marshall Islands)**

London, Sep 5 — A press report, dated Sep 4, states: A controlled dispersal has now begun of several thousand tons of chemicals from the wreck of acid tanker *Ece*, which sank near Guernsey. The vessel went down in February while being towed to Le Havre, following a collision with bulker *General Grot-Rowecki* in the shipping lanes 30 miles north-west of the island. An Aberdeen-based salvage company specialising in underwater de-pollution operations has begun work, funded by the Turkish company that owned *Ece*. Over this week, Dronik Marine Consultants will release the remnants of 10,000 tons of phosphoric acid into the sea in what the French Government has claimed will be an operation posing no threat to the environment. However, it has angered French environmentalists who claim the government is cutting costs by releasing the acid instead of recovering it. Vigipol, a group which aims to protect French beaches and marine life, claimed the large amount of acid released in the same area would definitely have a negative effect on marine life. Spokesman Robin du Bois said that it amounted to deliberate pollution. However, Manche Department marine prefect Edouard Guillaud claimed that laboratory tests and consultations with marine biologists and international scientists had approved the clean-up project. "In any case, there is nothing like the original 10,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid in the tanks of the vessel," he said. "One tank is completely opened, the other was severely damaged." The salvage team will also recover an estimated 40 tons of heavy fuel oil and 22 tons of engine oil which have remained in the vessel's tanks since it sank. Two salvage vessels will use robot submarines and pumping equipment to carry out the work. The wreck is lying in about 70 metres of water. Since it sank, the National Oceanography Centre has been assessing the possible impact on the environment. Regular testing has shown no increases in phosphoric acid levels in the area, apart from next to the wreck. The chemical is normally used as a fertiliser and initially there were fears it could cause long-term damage to the delicate ecosystem of the English Channel, but an impact study by French and UK maritime experts concluded that a controlled and programmed release would avoid any harmful impact. The operation will be supervised by UK and French observers and the French Navy. Fishing is banned within 0.6 miles of the wreck until it is complete.

**FEDERAL ELBE (Cyprus)**

London, Sep 5 — Bulker *Federal Elbe* reported in lat 23 20 41.52N, long 17 40 21.3W at 1723, Sep 4.

**FREITIND (Norway)**

Trondheim, Sep 7 — Owners of general cargo *Freitind* now inform vessel will probably be condemned. — Lloyd's Agents.

**GENERAL GROT-ROWECKI (Malta)**

See *Ece*.

**GIACINTA (Italy)**

London, Sep 1 — Product tanker *Giacinta* (11884 gt, built 1984) is still in repairs at the port of Venice. — Lloyds Agents.

**GLOBAL PEACE (Panama)**

London, Sep 6 — A press report, dated today, states: The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) has released its findings into an investigation of the Gladstone oil spill in January this year. At midnight on Jan 25, bulker *Global Peace* and salvage tug *Tom Tough* collided in the Gladstone Harbour. Twenty-five cubic metres of oil was spilled in about 45 minutes. The tug was one of three alongside the bulk carrier bringing it into port. The ATSB's report found a fault with the tug's starboard main engine system caused it to unexpectedly shutdown. That forced the tug's stern to collide heavily with the bulk carrier, puncturing its plating and unprotected fuel tank. The ATSB has released a number of recommendations following the investigation.

London, Sep 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigators have criticised leading Australian tugboat provider Adsteam Harbour, saying its engine maintenance, towing procedures and staff training contributed to Queensland's worst oil spill in more than 30 years. An Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) investigation has found an engine on the salvage tug *Tom Tough*, failed, causing it to crash into bulker *Global Peace* in Gladstone harbour on Jan 24 while helping it berth. More than 25,000 litres of heavy fuel oil leaked from the Korean-owned, Panamanian-registered bulk coal carrier *Global Peace* into mangroves, the port area and river estuaries. It took almost a week to clean up the central Queensland port, costing millions of dollars. A report on the investigation criticised *Tom Tough*'s engine maintenance, saying its owner Adsteam Harbour had given "little thought to the possibility of further fatigue related failures" after the tugboat experienced a similar breakdown in Feb 2002. The report also questioned why the tug's engineer had spent periods of time outside the engine-room on Jan 24, saying Adsteam Harbour "had not adequately addressed the risks associated". ATSB also said the tug master failed to notice an alarm alerting him to the engine shutdown before the boat

slammed into the bulk carrier. "Had the alarms alerted him it may have given him more time in which to take action," the report said. "The towage company had no system of professional development in place to ensure the ongoing training and performance monitoring of tug masters." The report also said the tug's fender did not provide adequate protection and that *Global Peace*'s oil tank was not protected from a collision. ATSB recommended Adsteam Harbour review its engine maintenance, ensure its running machinery is "more actively monitored" and review its alarm and monitoring systems. The report also recommended all tugboat owners and operators implement ongoing emergency procedure training for tug masters. Adsteam Harbour operates in 42 ports in Australia and the Pacific. The spill in Gladstone harbour covered an area of about 80 square kilometres. It is believed to be the worst spill in Queensland since 1998, when 15,000 litres spilled into the Brisbane River.

**HAO HAI (Belize)**

London, Sep 2 — General cargo *Hao Hai* left Katagami on Aug 24 for Dalian.

**HELGA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Sep 7 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0715, UTC: General cargo *Helga* (1473 gt, built 1984), 1167 tonnes coke, sustained electrical power failure in the North Sea and was taken in tow by Coast Guard salvage tug *Waker* Sep 3. *Waker* towed *Helga* to Rotterdam Sep 4 where two harbour tugs towed it to berth. (Note — *Helga* arrived Rotterdam 0350, UTC, Sep 4, and according to LMIU AIS was reported in lat 51 49.24N, long 05 02.9E, 2.3 nautical miles from Rijswijk, speed 7.4 knots, at 2229, UTC, Sep 6.)

London, Sep 7 — A SvitzerWijismuller Salvage BV report, dated Sep 4, states: SvitzerWijismuller Salvage during Sunday (Sep 3) was contracted to assist a 1984 built coaster (general cargo *Helga*) that had developed engine trouble during bad weather mid-North Sea. The Dutch Coast Guard tug *Waker* was assigned this task, proceeding to the casualty as from the early morning hours. Around midday a towage connection was established and the convoy set course for Rotterdam. Early the next morning the fully loaded casualty was safely handed over to Rotterdam port tugs, which towed her to a berth, ending the salvage services to this vessel.

**HYUNDAI GARNET (Singapore)**

London, Sep 7 — Container Carrier *Hyundai Garnet* arrived Norfolk(USA) Sep 5 and sailed 0215, UTC, Sep 6 for New York and according to LMIU AIS was in lat 36 50.2N, long 75 34.38W, 22 nautical miles from Virginia Beach, at 0821, UTC, Sep 6.

**IKAN MEXICO (Panama)**

London, Sep 1 — Bulker *Ikan Mexico* arrived at Brownsville at 0100, Aug 31.

**INDEPENDENT PURSUIT (Liberia)**

Zeebrugge, Aug 31 — Container carrier *Independent Pursuit* (15487 gt, built 2005) passed Flushing Roads at 2100, local time, outbound for Wandelaar, and reported engine trouble at 2118 hrs. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Zeebrugge, Aug 31 — Container carrier *Independent Pursuit* anchored between Flushing and the pilot station at 2230, local time. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Zeebrugge, Sept 1 — Container Carrier *Independent Pursuit* heaved up anchor and returned to Flushing Roads at 0321, local time, and subsequently arrived at berth S-BOEI/1079, Flushing harbour at 0530, local time, for repairs. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Sep 2 — Container Carrier *Independent Pursuit* left Flushing at 1230, Sep 1, and arrived Liverpool 2300, Sep 2.

**JINBOHAI 3 (China)**

Antwerp, Sep 6 — Bulker *Jinbohai 3* (5521 gt, built 2005), laden with 7800 tonnes river sand, hit Tianjin Container Terminal due to lost control of main engine on the afternoon of Aug 24. As a result, three stacks of terminal were broken and the vessel was seriously damaged on the peak. It is now repairing in a shipyard in Tianjin. — "DPS Teamhead Surveyors."

**JINHAI 18 (China)**

Antwerp, Sep 6 — Container Carrier *CSCL Ningbo* (39941 gt, built 2002), on its way to Hong Kong, struck general cargo *Jinhai 18* (950 gt, built 1994), fully laden with 1500 tonnes steel coils, in lat 24 10.44N, long 118 17.06E at about 2330, Aug 23. *Jinhai 18* sank immediately after collision. The master and two crew of *Jinhai 18* were missing. The other crew was saved by passing fishing boats. *CSCL Ningbo* was seized by MSA Xiamen the next day and left Xiamen at about 2200, Aug 25, after lodging a LOU of RMB5,000,000. MSA help sunk vessel's owner organize salvaging the sunk cargo and vessel. The salvaging is going on so far. "DPS Teamhead Surveyors."

**JINPENG 6 (China)**

Antwerp, Sep 6 — Bulker *Jinpeng 6* (2995 gt, built 1976), on voyage from Damaiyu to Qinhuangdao, caught fire in Yellow Sea of China in the early morning of Aug 30. The fire started from the main engine and soon spread to the whole engine-room. The vessel and crew were saved by a vessel sent by East Sea Rescue Bureau. Fire was confirmed completely put out by the afternoon. No human casualty was reported. The vessel is now berthed alongside a terminal of Lianyungang. — "DPS Teamhead Surveyors."

**JOHN SPENCE (Canada)**

London, Sep 4 — Anchor handling tug/supply *John Spence* arrived at Toledo(USA) on/about Sep 2, towing barge *McAsphalt 401*.

**KOCLAR V (Turkey)**

London, Sep 5 — General cargo *Koclar V* (999 gt, built 1991) had engine failure in the Canakkale Strait at 0730, Aug 31. Tug *S'nduren 4* sent immediately by Canakkale VTS to the place of incident. As a result of the salvage and assistance operation *Koclar V* safely anchored at Poyraz Bay, at 0845, same day.

**KOTOBUKI MARU NO.38 (Japan)**

London, Sep 4 — Fishing (general) *Kotobuki Maru No.38* arrived at New Caledonia on Aug 26.

**KRIOS (Malta)**

Troy, Michigan, Sep 5 — Understand bulker *Krios* (8300 gt, built 1983) dropped its anchors above Lock 7 in the Welland Canal after it lost steerage and scrapped the wall, but avoided a head on collision by skillful manoeuvring at 2015, yesterday. As darkness fell, some of the crew and Seaway authorities were inspecting the vessel's hull. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

London, Sep 5 — Bulker *Krios* experienced engine failure while approaching Lock 7 in the Welland Canal, in lat 43 17N, long 79 14W, at midnight Sep 5. The vessel deployed its anchors, however, the east wall was struck lightly. Vessel awaiting class surveyor.

Troy, Mich., Sep 6 — Bulker *Krios* is still tied to the south-west of Lock 7, in the Welland Canal, this evening. She has been there since 2016 hrs, Monday (Sep 4). — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping News.

**LAYAR SENTOSA (Indonesia)**

London, Sep 2 — General cargo *Layar Sentosa* left Kochi on Aug 30, for Indonesia.

**LONG SHUN (China)**

See *Weilun 17*.

**MALITAM (Philippines)**

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

**MAMONI SAKHI-2**

See "Bay of Bengal" under "Weather & Navigation."

**MARC (Philippines)**

See "Philippines" under "Port State Control".

**MARIELLE BOLTEN (Liberia)**

Freeport, Bahamas, Sep 4 — General cargo *Marielle Bolten* has been located at the Grand Bahama Shipyard since mid-June for continuing hull repairs "in-water". She is presently awaiting recovery/delivery of her rudder/horn assembly which were detached and "lost at sea" during the grounding incident off Puerto Plata. The Bahamas flag salvage vessel *Victoria* has been engaged for recovery and delivery operations. These procedures were interrupted significantly during close passage of Hurricane "Ernesto". However, it is understood that the rudder assembly has been recovered and is now awaiting loading aboard

the *Victoria* for subsequent delivery to the shipyard. All eyes are on the fast approaching "TD No.6". — Lloyd's Agents.

**MAXIMA (Germany)**

London, Sep 6 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: On Sep 5 unknown passenger *Maxima*, homeport Munich, length 120m, collided with a bridge spanning the lock of Klingenberg on the river Main. The damage is assessed to be about 400000 Euros. The accident was caused by the ship's wheelhouse which was not lowered enough. *Maxima* had come with 171 passengers and 43 crew from Cologne. It had stopped in Mainz during the night and then headed for Wertheim in the morning of Sep 5. In the lock of Klingenberg the captain changed and the new Bulgarian captain obviously had not lowered the wheelhouse enough. At 0800 the ship took course towards the bridge spanning the lock and warnings radioed to the ship were not heard as the captain was outside the wheelhouse. When crashing into the bridge the wheelhouse was pushed down and destroyed completely. The position of the bridge was moved by one metre. Cables for operating the lock were cut through. Both vessel and lock sustained damage of 200000 Euros. The traffic on the Main had to be stopped for some hours. At 1100 hrs, shipping was resumed, while workers were still busy trying to get the lock operable. The passengers of *Maxima* who were not hurt were taken to Wertheim by bus. *Maxima* was to enter a nearby yard with the help of a tug.

**MIDAS (Panama)**

Karachi, Sep 4 — Bulker *Midas*: WMA Ship Core (Pvt) Limited, operating agent at Karachi, advise that at present the turbo charger and anchor windlass are out of order. The master is negotiating with Mehran Engineering Karachi for purchase of another turbo charger. The owner of the vessel has sent an engineering team on board to attend the windlass repair work. Understand from Capt. Mustaq of WMA the vessel will complete all repair works by Aug 30. — Lloyd's Agents.

Karachi, Sep 5 — Captain Mushtaq of WMA Ship Core (Pvt) Limited, the operating agent of bulker *Midas* at Karachi, has advised that the turbo charger has been purchased, and other parts of the engine and the vessel are being repaired. It will take one or two more weeks before vessel will be ready to resume service. An engineering team is also on board to attend the windlass repair work. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**MILOS (Greece)**

Port Said, Sep 4 — Bulker *Milos* sustained serious damages to the front side and is still effecting necessary repairs. The floating dock also sustained several dents on the starboard side. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Said, Sep 5 — Bulker *Milos* completed repairs and entered the Canal with the southbound convoy today. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Said, Sep 6 — Bulker *Milos* had main engine trouble and did not respond to astern while manoeuvring to berth 18B with pilot on board. She came into contact with floating dock Attaka. Vessel sustained major damages and tear to upper forward part of stern and to the plating below the starboard sideshe also had tear to port side fourth strake. Temporary repairs were carried out and the sea trial made. Entered canal Sep 5. Attaka sustained the following damages: (1) Tower No.3 outboard corner dented over an area of about 4 x 4 m. (2) Two mooring chains were ripped off and three positioning blocks were lost. (3) Shore arrangements (joints, spud, pontoon, ladder, catwalk, electrical cables and telephone cables, water and compressed air pipes) were damaged. S.C.A estimated costs of damages to Attaka at US\$1,500,000 and vessel settled to S.C.A. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MORNING MIRACLE (U.K.)**

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Vehicle carrier *Morning Miracle* ran aground in the eastern branch of the Suez Canal today and stopped traffic along part of the waterway. The vessel ran aground due to engine failure, in the eastern branch of the canal near Kabrit City, holding up 18 north-bound vessels coming from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea. All vessels had to be diverted to different branches of the canal, it was reported. Suez Canal Authority tugs are currently trying to steer the *Morning Miracle* away from the route of the vessels, before a group of engineers can repair the vessel.

Alexandria, Sep 3 — Vehicle carrier *Morning Miracle* (46800 gt, built 2006, voyage Nagoya for Dublin and Tilbury) entered Suez Canal, yesterday, and at Kaprit Station she went aground, due to sudden engine trouble. The Suez Canal Authority succeeded to refloat her, at 1100 hours, yesterday. The vessel is now moored at the Bitter Lake and will resume passage, today, to destination. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Said, Sep 4 — Vehicle carrier *Morning Miracle* completed repairs and resumed passage again, vessel cleared Canal from Port Said at 2220, Sep 3. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ORSULA (Croatia)**

London, Sep 6 — Bulker *Orsula* arrived Detroit Aug 28, sailed Sep 1 and subsequently arrived Duluth Sep 3.

**OTTON (Panama)**

Bilbao, Sep 1 — Fire fighting tug *Otton* is still at Bilbao, under repair. — Lloyd's Agents.

**PACIFIC NO.3 (Cambodia)**

London, Aug 31 — A press report, dated today, states: All Russian nationals from Cambodia fishing (general) *Pacific No.3*, 220 gt, (built

1982) that ran aground off the Japanese coast were brought today to the port of Wakkanai, Hokkaido, and accommodated at a hotel, a representative of the local department of the Maritime Safety Agency said today. None of the 14 crew from the ship were injured. The ship sailed Korsakov for Busan yesterday, carrying 25 tons of Kamchatka crabs. At night, it ran aground west of Hokkaido. Japanese coast guard at first airlifted the crew to the nearby island of Rebunto, from where they were transported on a ferry to Hokkaido. The ship was damaged. There was a leakage of fuel, and the scope of the damage is being specified.

#### **PACIFIC SAPPHIRE (Marshall Islands)**

London, Aug 31 — Crude oil tanker *Pacific Sapphire* sailed from Mobile on Aug 25 and was next reported arriving at Port Arthur at 0001, Aug 30.

#### **PACIFIC STAR (U.K.)**

London, Sep 4 — Passenger (cruise) *Pacific Star* sailed from Brisbane on Aug 29 and was next reported arriving at New Caledonia on Sep 1, departing later the same day.

#### **PRINCE MOUDI (Lebanon)**

Beirut, Sep 5 — General cargo *Prince Moudi* is laid up at Tripoli. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **PRINCESS ABA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Aug 31 — General cargo *Princess ABA* was reported passing Istanbul at 1717 hrs, Aug 30, on a reported voyage of Kerch, Ukraine, for Abu Kir, Egypt.

#### **PRINCESS OF THE UNIVERSE (Philippines)**

Manila, Sep 4 — The cargo from passenger ro/ro *Princess of the Universe* is now being offloaded onto a barge which is moored alongside the grounded ferry. Offloading operations are expected to be finished by tomorrow after which an attempt will be made to refloat the vessel at the onset of the high tide, Malayan Towage and Salvage salvors said. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Sep 6 — Salvors working to refloat passenger ro/ro *Princess of the Universe* have been encountering difficulties in freeing the vessel from its grounding position near the shore of Canigao island in Leyte province. Malayan Towage and Salvage Co salvors said that the vessel is lodged deeply in the sand, making it difficult to refloat. Over the past two days, the salvors have been shifting the vessel's remaining contents and using tugs to partially loosen the vessel. Salvors are hoping that when the high tide is at its peak tomorrow, they will finally be able to refloat the vessel. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **QUEEN MARY**

Umm Qasr, Sep 5 — General cargo *Queen Mary*, loaded with 2300 tonnes of cement, agent at the Khor Al Zubair

port is Al Nooren, sunk after a collision with empty general cargo *Sukena* which was in the anchorage, at the time of mooring at 1900, Aug 29. One crew member of the *Queen Mary* is missing. *Queen Mary* in lat 30 11N, long 47 53.6E at the time. Port closed from 1900, Aug 29 til 1300, Aug 30. Port Authority has put up one buoy with flashing light to inform other vessels not to cross that position. Present situation at the Khor Al Zubair port is normal. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **QUEEN OF THE NORTH (Canada)**

London, Sep 7 — A press report, dated Sep 6, states: A Nanaimo couple suing BC Ferries over the sinking of passenger ro/ro *Queen of the North* on the northern British Columbia coast in March have now named three ferry employees in their class-action application. In amended court documents filed yesterday, lawyers for Alexander and Maria Kotai allege negligence on the part of the three in terms of the safe operation of the vessel. They claim the crew members failed to operate the navigation equipment properly and temporarily abandoned their duties. The court documents accuse the three of acting recklessly, causing the collision with what is an easily avoidable navigational hazard. The vessel failed to make a turn, struck rocks off Gil Island and sank on Mar 22. None of the Kotais' claims have been proved in court. The lawsuit asks the BC Supreme Court to assess punitive and aggravated damages against Captain Colin Henthorne, Fourth Officer Carl Lilgert and deckhand Karen Bricker. The Kotais, who were moving from Kitimat to Nanaimo, lost many of their belongings when the vessel sank. They were among 99 passengers and crew who survived the disaster. The bodies of two passengers who were missing have never been found. A spokesperson for the BC Ferry and Marine Workers Union expressed surprise at the changes to the lawsuit, but noted it already had lawyers representing Lilgert and Bricker.

#### **RALF (Germany)**

London, Sep 6 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Yesterday, on the Wesel-Datteln-Canal, at the lock of Flaesheimer, close to Haltern, non specific tanker *Ralf* (72 gt) sprang a leak for unknown reasons. 100 litres of oil escaped from the machine-room into the water. The 35 tons of oil in the cargo tanks remained intact. The ship was coming from Datteln and heading to Blumenthal. In the lock the master remarked that the stern of the ship was sinking. He steered his ship at once into shallow waters where the stern sunk into the sand, but thus he prevented *Ralf* from sinking completely. The Fire Brigade laid out oil booms around the ship and then siphoned the diesel oil. Then the water tanks were pumped out so that the stern rose by 20 centimetres so that a crane could raise the ship. At 1300 hrs

a diver had patched a hole of 0.1 square metres. With pumps and the crane the ship could then be stabilised in a floating state and afterwards be completely dewatered. In the afternoon the cargo of 32 tons of gas oil were pumped into another tank ship and *Ralf* was towed into a yard by a tug. During the salvage works the lock of Flaesheim was closed for shipping from 0915 until 0125, when the greater lock was back in service and the 20 waiting ships could pass.

#### **RANA R. (Panama)**

Bahrain, Sep 6 — Product tanker *Rana R.* (985 gt, built 1970) had fire in her engine-room around 0900 today. Fire has been extinguished. At the request of Bahrain Port control the vessel was towed from the terminal to anchorage. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **RESOLUTE (Bermuda)**

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger (cruise) *Resolute* (163 gt, built 2002) sustained gear box failure as it was pulling in to Dockyard to disembark passengers on Wednesday (Aug 30) at lunchtime and reportedly bumped into another ferry at the dock causing passengers to be "jolted". There were no reports of any injuries in the incident, which happened at around 1330 hrs. The *Resolute* was later towed by a Marine and Ports Services vessel back to Hamilton, Bermuda, to be inspected and have its gear box repaired.

#### **RHONEBORG (Netherlands)**

Hong Kong, Sept 1 — Container Carrier *Rhoneborg* sailed North Lamma Anchorage, 0121 today. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SAINT VINCENT (New Caledonia)**

New Caledonia, Sep 3 — Product tanker *Saint Vincent* (680 gt, built 1995) on voyage from Fidji to Noumea sank about 50 km south south-east of Lalau Island at about 0300 today. The vessel is now lying 2000 metres below sea level and all the vessels tanks were empty when it sank so there's no risk of pollution. The first distress call was sent at about 1730 yesterday about an electrical failure, a second call was made about the main engine had failed. All the crew members were rescued by a French army helicopter at 0700 today. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SCANDINAVIA**

London, Sep 4 — A press report, dated Sep 3, states: Historic passenger (cruise) *Scandinavia*, which was to become a hotel-restaurant in Sweden sank off Japan's south-eastern coast, the coast guard said yesterday. No one was on board the vessel, formerly named *Stella Polaris*, which was being towed to China from central Japan for repairs before it was to be turned into a hotel in Stockholm. The tug's crew told authorities late Friday (Sep 1) that the vessel had begun to take in water about two miles off Wakayama state, some 280 miles south-west of Tokyo, Japan's coast guard said in a statement. Television footage aired by



public broadcaster NHK yesterday morning showed no signs of the 5,100-ton vessel. The vessel appeared to have sunk to the seabed some 230 feet below the water's surface, releasing about 80 gallons of diesel oil, according to the coast guard. The vessel was built in 1927 for Bergen Line of Norway, and was known for its graceful, yacht-like appearance and luxurious interior. The vessel was in service until its sale in 1970 to a subsidiary of Japan's Seibu Railway Co, which moored it at a central Japanese port to use as a hotel and restaurant. The Swedish company Petro-Fast AB had planned to operate the vessel as a hotel-restaurant in Stockholm, according to Kyodo News agency.

London, Sep 5 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, dated yesterday, states: Sunken wreck, passenger vessel, (passenger (cruise) *Scandinavia*) 5105 tonnes, exists in vicinity of lat 33 27.0N, long 135 43.4E.

#### **SE MARIAM 1 (Malaysia)**

London, Sept 1 — Following received from the operators of tug *Se Mariam 1* (247 gt, built 2004), timed Singapore 0115, UTC: *SE Mariam 1* sank approximately 10 nautical miles off Dubai Aug 25, Dubai time. Salvage operations are underway and it is hoped to raise the tug later today. There was one crew fatality. (Note — *SE Mariam 1* was last reported on Lloyd's MIU AIS in lat 25 15 42N, long 55 11 46E, at 1044, UTC, Aug 25, speed 1.6 knots, course 138 degrees.)

#### **SE MARIAM 2 (Malaysia)**

London, Aug 31 — Following notice to mariners issued at 1030, UTC, July 27: Tug *SE Mariam 2* (247 gt, built 2004, not tug *Sumerian 2* as reported in issue of Aug 1) ran aground in lat 10 44.7N, long 92 22.4E.

London, Sept 1 — Following received from the operators of tug *SE Mariam 2*, timed Singapore 0115, UTC: *SE Mariam 2* is still aground.

#### **SEA PRINCESS (Bermuda)**

See "Outbreak Of Virus On Bermuda Flag Vessel" under "Miscellaneous".

#### **SEVEN SEAS MARINER (Wallis & Futuna)**

London, Sep 6 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 1930, UTC: At 1815 hrs, Sep 5, passenger (cruise) *Seven Seas Mariner* (48075 gt, built 2001) reported a problem with one of its propulsion units. The vessel is now proceeding, at reduced speed, and with a tug escort, to Whittier, where it is due later this evening. (Note — According to Lloyds MIU AIS at 1920, UTC, today, *Seven Seas Bridge* was in lat 60 24.14N, long 146 52.18W, on a course of 350 degs, at a speed of 5.2 knots.)

#### **SHARK (Lebanon)**

Beirut, Sep 5 — General cargo *Shark* is still lying sunk at Beirut. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SOLAR 1 (Philippines)**

London, Aug 31 — Salvage vessel *Shinsei Maru* found the wreck of non specific tanker *Solar 1* about 13 nautical miles south-west of Guimaras Island at a depth of 640 m early this morning, the Philippine Coast Guard reported. *Shinsei Maru's* ROV found the tanker in an upright position and listing slightly on the starboard side, the Coast Guard said. A crack was also discovered on the starboard side but there was no sign of leakage. Smudges of oil were seen on the sides of the crack, an indication that oil had earlier leaked from the hole. *Solar 1* and its cargo of 2.0 million liters of bunker fuel sank on Aug 11 causing a massive oil spill that has ravaged coastal areas of nearby Guimaras island. — Lloyd's Agents.

Manila, Sep 1 — An ROV operated by the Japanese salvage vessel, *Shinsei Maru*, has discovered two open oil compartments on the sunken non specific tanker *Solar 1* during its second dive today. The Philippine Coast Guard said that the ROV discovered an open hatch on the fourth compartment located on the left side of the vessel. Another compartment on the vessel's left side was also reported to have sustained a crack and was leaking small quantities of oil. Each compartment was carrying 275,000 liters of oil but it could not be determined how much of this oil had leaked out. During its first dive yesterday, the ROV had reported a crack on the vessel's third compartment located on the starboard side. The ROV will continue its underwater survey until tomorrow. — Correspondent.

Manila, Sep 4 — The Japanese salvage vessel *Shinsei Maru* left the Philippines Saturday (Sep 2) for Okinawa after completing its underwater survey of the sunken non specific tanker *Solar 1*. Fukada Salvage and Marine Works, operator of the *Shinsei Maru*, are expected to submit a report and their recommendations to the *Solar 1's* P&I Club, Shipowners' Mutual Protection and Indemnity Association (Luxembourg), in the next few days. Based on Fukada Salvage's findings, the *Solar 1* could either be refloated or leave it in place but offload its remaining cargo of bunker fuel. Underwater videos taken by the *Shinsei Maru's* ROV revealed that the vessel was in an 'upright position'. A crack was also discovered on the starboard side as well as several open cargo hold hatches. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Sep 5 — The Philippine Coast Guard is planning to enlist the services of Norwegian oil and gas equipment maker Framo Engineering to offload the remaining bunker fuel from the tanks of sunken non specific tanker *Solar 1*. Engineers from the Bergen-based company are scheduled to arrive in Manila tomorrow to demonstrate the use of their deep-sea submersible pumps which have the capacity to pump oil from up to 1,000 feet underwater. The move by the

Coast Guard to hire its own salvors is seen as a contingency move in case the *Solar 1's* P&I Club is unable to refloat the vessel or offload its cargo immediately. Japanese salvage vessel *Shinsei Maru* left the Philippines on Saturday (Sep 2) after conducting a three-day underwater survey of *Solar 1*, which sank in 640 metres of water. Its recommendations will be submitted to the vessel's P&I Club, Shipowners' Mutual Protection and Indemnity Association (Luxembourg), which will decide what to do with the vessel. The Coast Guard, however, feels that the P&I Club has not been moving fast enough to address the oil spill disaster created by the leakage of the vessel's cargo of bunker fuel. The Coast Guard is therefore looking to Framo to offload the oil in case Shipowners Mutual delays its decision. It is not clear, however, how the Coast Guard will pay for the services of Framo since it does not have a budget for this kind of contingency. One option, being looked at is for Petron Corp, the partly state-owned local oil refiner which chartered *Solar 1*, to foot the bill. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Sep 5 — The Philippine Coast Guard is investigating the crew of the sunken non specific tanker *Solar 1* for possible pilferage after an underwater survey revealed that several cargo hatches were open resulting in the spillage of a large portion of its cargo of bunker oil. "It is highly unlikely that the hatches were forced open as the vessel sank. It is more likely that the hatches were open before the vessel went under," a Coast Guard spokesperson said. Crew pilferage is a common problem among tankers chartered to move oil around the Philippine islands. Tanker crews have been known to sell a portion of their cargo before reaching their destination. Small boats will rendezvous with the tanker, lay alongside then offload part of the oil cargo through the hatches. The Coast Guard suspects that the crew of the *Solar 1* may have opened the vessel's cargo hatches to offload part of its bunker fuel cargo to blackmarketers. Rough seas may have prevented the crew from closing the cargo hatches before it sank, however. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Sep 6 — A press report, dated Sep 5, states: Officials today recommended criminal charges against the master and owner of non specific tanker *Solar 1*, which caused one of the Philippines' worst oil spills off the coast of a central province. Ernesto Pineda, undersecretary at the Department of Justice, told a news conference that an investigation showed there was criminal negligence on the part of the master and owner of *Solar 1*, which sank in rough seas on Aug 11 off Guimaras island. The vessel spilled part of about two million litres of bunker oil it was transporting from northern Bataan Province to the southern Philippines, affecting a 220-km stretch of coastline that includes pristine marine reserves. About 26,000 villagers dependent on fishing have been displaced.

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

London, Sep 6 — A press report, dated today, states: The government task force overseeing the containment of the massive oil spill in Guimaras, from non specific tanker *Solar 1*, has restricted the giving of media interviews and statements on the oil spill by officials, including the Coast Guard, in Western Visayas. The Task Force Solar 1 Oil Spill has also designated spokespersons in the national and regional levels to give “official statements,” said Presidential Adviser for Western Visayas Rafael Coscolluela, who oversees the regional task force. Coscolluela said there was no gag order. “We are just trying to put some order in statements being released in the media,” Coscolluela yesterday told reporters during a briefing of the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council and the regional task force on the oil spill. But Coast Guard Western Visayas commander Capt. Luis Tuason Jr. and Cmdr. Harold Jarder, Coast Guard station chief in Iloilo and on-scene commander of the cleanup and containment operations, refused to issue statements starting late in the morning yesterday, saying they were acting on orders. The two officials have been giving updates on the cleanup and containment as well as efforts to remove the sunken *Solar 1* and the remaining bunker fuel cargo since the vessel sank on Aug 11 around 13.5 miles southwest of Guimaras Island. The sinking triggered what is considered the biggest oil spill in the country’s history. Coscolluela said Defence Secretary and National Disaster Coordinating Council chair Avelino Cruz or whoever Cruz’s authorizes will act as the spokesperson at the national level. Cruz also heads the national task force. Vice Admiral Arthur Gosingan, Coast Guard commandant, will speak in behalf of the Coast Guard while Coscolluela will serve as the regional spokesperson.

London, Sep 6 — A press report, dated today, states: President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo today said she wants an “airtight” case against those found liable for the Visayas oil spill even as she gave assurances the disaster has been contained and government efforts are now geared towards bringing Guimaras province back its old glory. “We are here again today this time to make this pledge: Guimaras will be great again,” she said on her third visit to the island province, the hardest hit by the oil spill, to preside over a meeting of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC). Arroyo said she has signed an executive order creating the Metro Iloilo Guimaras Development Council to deal with the rehabilitation of affected areas. “I am directing Secretary Gonzales (and) the DoJ to ensure an airtight case against those found liable for violations of law,” Arroyo said. “No one culpable in this national tragedy shall walk away scot-free.” But a leftist fisherfolk alliance claimed this was what the DoJ was doing when it cleared Petron on

Tuesday (Sep 5) of criminal liability for the oil spill. Fernando Hicap, chairman of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya), said it was “foul play” for the DoJ to “set the stage for Petron’s walk-in-the-park escape” while letting “powerless people like the captain and crewmembers of non specific tanker *Solar 1* take the rap.” Undersecretary Ernesto Pineda, chair of a DoJ fact-finding body looking into who can be held liable for the oil spill, said on Tuesday that Petron could not be charged criminally since it did not own the *Solar 1*. He did say the oil firm, in which the government and Saudi Aramco own 40 percent each, could be civilly liable for negligence. “This is a preview,” Hicap said of what he said could be the “biggest whitewash in the nation’s history.” Arroyo said the government is doubling its efforts to rehabilitate Guimaras. Arroyo added. “The disaster has been effectively contained but as we speak the effective handling of the Solar oil spill shall be sustained,” she said. Arroyo directed Petron and concerned government agencies to double the manpower and materials needed to clean up the mess. She also instructed cadets of the Reserve Officers Training Corps from Negros and Panay to help. Arroyo said NDCC chairman and Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. will announce Thursday its decision on how to remove the remaining oil from the sunken vessel. She added she will also certify as urgent the legislation imposing tougher regulations to protect the environment. The Philippine Army is ready to assist the local government units in Negros Occidental to do cleanup operations in case the oil spill reaches the Negros waters, said Colonel Gregorio Fajardo, commander of the 303rd Infantry “Brown Eagle” Brigade based in Minoyan, Murcia. In a meeting of the Provincial Peace and Order Council (PPOC) held at the Capitol Tuesday, Fajardo said they are now preparing their reservists as well as regular soldiers to assist in the clean-up operations in case the situation dictates them to do so.

Manila, Sep 6 — The owners of non specific tanker *Solar 1* may be unable to collect on the tanker’s hull insurance after it’s insurer cancelled it’s hull and machineries policy. Manila-based Stronghold Insurance Company Inc (SICI) reported that it had cancelled the hull and machineries insurance policy of *Solar 1* after her ailed to settle the premium. Sunshine Maritime took out a hull and machineries policy worth Pesos20 million (US\$400,000) for the vessel last February. The shipowner, however, failed to settle its premium worth P211,990. Stronghold Insurance said that it had already rejected the claim. It is not clear if the policy will be restored if Sunshine pays the outstanding premium. Sunshine Maritime president Clemente Cancio, on the other hand, said the company

will file charges against the insurance firm. “We used to be late in paying the premium but it was never a problem until now,” he said. Sunshine Maritime may also face difficulties in collecting it’s P&I insurance if it is proven that master of the vessel did not have the proper competency certificates. The shipowner had earlier admitted before a Special Marine Board of Inquiry that it allowed Captain Norberto Aguro to man the vessel despite failing to renew his license. P&I coverage for the vessel is provided by the Shipowners’ Mutual Protection and Indemnity Association (Luxembourg). Coverage is reported to be between US\$300 million and US\$1.0 billion dollars. Sunshine’s claim could be rejected by the P&I Club, however, because of an exclusion clause which states that “there shall be no right of recovery of any claim from the Association if it arises out of willful misconduct on the part of the insured.” So far, however, Shipowner’s Mutual has been making good on the coverage as it has contracted Japan’s Fukada Salvage and Marine Works to conduct an underwater survey of the vessel. It has also sent representatives to Guimaras island to assist affected villagers in the filing of claims for their loss of livelihood because of the resulting oil spill. — — Lloyd’s List Correspondent.

London, Sep 7 — A press report, dated Sep 6, states: Two inspectors contracted by Petron Corporation admitted that they observed bunker fuel leaking from non specific tanker *Solar 1* before the vessel sank off Guimaras Issland, causing caused one of the worst oil spills in Philippine history. Anthony Val Fallet of Jade Sea-Land Services and Raul Melaya of Toplis Marine Philippines Inc made the statement in separate affidavits submitted to the Special Board of Marine Inquiry today. “I noticed that there was already oil spillage from the compartment,” Fallet said without elaborating. “We noticed that there was already oil leaking from the vessel but we could not determine the source of the leak,” Melaya said. The two did not elaborate on the leak when they testified before the SBMI this afternoon. Meanwhile, an official from London-based security inspection firm Bureau Veritas said the vessel was deemed seaworthy during its last drydocking early this year. “On behalf of Bureau Veritas we say the vessel is structurally fit for service,” said Felicito Quimpo, the company’s senior marine surveyor. *Solar 1*, chartered by Petron to haul more than two million litres of bunker fuel, sank off Guimaras in stormy seas. Since then, experts estimate the vessel has leaked some 1.3 million litres of oil into the sea. Defence Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr, who chairs the government’s Task Force Guimaras, is expected to announce tomorrow what will happen to the sunken vessel, based on recommendations from Japanese salvage vessel *Shinsei Maru*. Officials are considering syphoning off the remaining oil from the vessel, re-floating or entombing the vessel.

**STENA VISION (Bermuda)**

London, Sep 2 — Crude oil tanker *Stena Vision* arrived Kharg Island on May 29.

**SUILVEN (Fiji)**

London, Sep 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Several teachers and students in Fiji's Northern Division have been forced to miss the first few days of school because the inter-island ferry scheduled to transport them, roll on roll off *Suilven* (3638 gt, built 1974), developed engine problems. The vessel, which was scheduled to leave on Monday evening (Sep 4), will be halted for repairs until tomorrow, said *Suilven* Shipping general manager Simon Narayan. The company is waiting for a part to be flown in from Australia. Mr Narayan said they hoped to get the vessel ready by tomorrow. Yesterday afternoon, all passengers had their fare refunded.

Suva, Sep 7 — Understand the owners of roll on roll off *Suilven* have received the replacement engine parts from Australia, and repairs are expected to be completed today. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SUKENA**

See *Queen Mary*.

**SUMERIAN 2 (Indonesia)**

See *SE Mariam 2*.

**SUN (St. Kitts-Nevis)**

Port Said, Sep 5 — Passenger (cruise) *Sun* (5119 gt, built 1953), which arrived Port Said Pilot Station three months ago, in ballast, had a fire on the bridge at 1030 hrs, Sep 4. S.C.A tugs succeeded in extinguishing fire and all the crew were saved. — Lloyd's Agents. (*Sun* was last reported sailing from Limassol on Jun 1. It had earlier been reported that the vessel would sail to India, to be broken-up.)

**SUZHOU HUOSIXIAN 0288 (China)**

Antwerp, Sep 6 — When Container Carrier *Yuan Jiang Cheng* (2200 gt, built 2003) was going to berth alongside, it collided with self-propelled sand barge *Suzhou Huosixian 0288* (880 gt, built 1999), that was run by a family in Huangpu River, Shanghai Port, at 1200, Sep 2. The barge sank soon after collision, without human casualty. A baby was on board during the accident and was saved. The barge has now been salvaged. — "DPS Teamhead Surveyors."

**TAHOMA REEFER (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated Aug 31, states: Fourteen Russian sailors who were forced to stay in Liberia for two weeks, returned to Arkhangelsk today, Russian television reported. A vessel (refrigerated general cargo *Tahoma Reefer*), carrying fish, caught fire offshore Liberia on Aug 11 (? Aug 10). The vessel had 14 Russian crewmembers onboard. The crewmembers were not hurt, but were

forced to stay in Monrovia, as migration services took away their identification documents. "The main obstacle in sending the Russian sailors home was the client's wish to receive compensation for damages from the ship's owner or the insurance company," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mikhail Kamynin said.

**TASMAN SPIRIT (Malta)**

Karachi, Sep 7 — The crude oil tanker *Tasman Spirit* case once again surfaced in Karachi when a fresh petition, filed by Abdul Qadir Patel, in local court, claimed that the pollution caused by the oil spill caused extensive damage to marine life along the Karachi coast and affected the livelihood of 47,000 small-scale fishermen. According to local media, the petitioner had claimed damages of Rs 393 million (\$6.55million) per month for the affected fishermen from the day the oil starting spilling from the vessel into the sea till the day its wreckage was removed. Earlier, Federal Minister for Ports and Shipping Senator Babar Khan Ghorri told media that owner of vessel had pointed out that Pakistan has submitted huge claim through number of agencies and it should be routed by one body with reasonable claims with documentary proof. However, the federal government, director general (DG) of ports and shipping and the Karachi Port Trust (KPT) pleaded before a Sindh High Court bench on Wednesday (Sep 6) that none of them bore any responsibility in the grounding of the vessel, its subsequent splitting into two parts and the pollution caused by the spillage of 28,000 tons of crude oil into the sea. They submitted that when the Greek vessel sailed into the Karachi Harbour the port channel was in perfect shape and all the signs installed to guide vessels were in place. They submitted that M/s Polembros Shipping Limited, the owners of the vessel, and its crew were responsible for grounding and breaking the vessel. After the reply was filed by the federal government, DG Ports and Shipping and KPT, counsel for the petitioner Rashid A Rizvi sought time to go through them and file a rejoinder. The bench, comprising Justice Anwer Zaheer Jamali and Justice Zia Perwez, allowed the counsel's request and adjourned the hearing till a date to be fixed by the office of the court. The next date of hearing in the criminal proceedings in the court of a judicial magistrate district South has been set for Sep 19. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**TERRA NOVA FPSO (Canada)**

London, Sep 5 — A press report, dated Sep 1, states: Petro-Canada said on Friday (Sep 1) its floating production tanker *Terra Nova FPSO* is now expected back on site in early October. The company said planned dry dock work on the vessel has been completed and production is expected to resume at the end of October, instead of late September as previously scheduled.

**TINIAN EXPRESS (Panama)**

Honolulu, Sep 5 — Ferry *Tinian Express* is still under repair at Saipan. — Lloyd's Agents.

**TIRTA NIAGA I (Indonesia)**

London, Sep 2 — Product tanker *Tirta Niaga I* arrived Paradip on Jun 18 and still in port on Aug 30.

**TOM TOUGH (Australia)**

See *Global Peace*.

**TORO (Greece)**

Troy, Michigan, Sep 6 — Bulker *Toro* (16887 gt, built 1983) went aground below the Snell Lock around 2100, local time, Tuesday. The pilot reported they were taking on water in the forepeak, but were out of the shipping channel. The *Algoisle*, bound for Hamilton with iron ore, was told to be prepared to stop which, it did below the *Toro* near Cornwall Ontario. The *Toro* was down bound and was bound for Progresso, Mexico, with a load of wheat from Thunder Bay, Ontario, with a scheduled stop for fuel in Montreal. — Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping News. (Note — *Toro* sailed Thunder Bay Sep 1.)

London, Sep 6 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1140, UTC: Bulker *Toro*, with a cargo of bulk grain, grounded below the Snell Lock in the St. Lawrence, at 0048, UTC, this morning. The vessel is still aground and has taken 12,000 gallons of seawater in the No.1 ballast tank. No injuries and no pollution reported. The crew remain on board along with a pilot. Divers are on scene.

Montreal, Sep 6 — Bulker *Toro*, Thunder Bay for Mexico, ran aground in the St. Lawrence Seaway near Snell Lock at 2050 yesterday. The forepeak is flooded and she is hard aground by the bow. No pollution and no cargo damage. We expect that some of the canola cargo will have to be removed in order to refloat. Cause was reportedly due to an error in navigation. — Lloyd's Agents.

**TSEZAR (Russia)**

Portsmouth, UK, Sep 1 — Product tanker *Tsezar* (2597 gt, built 1980) has run aground near Vladivostok. Vessel loaded at Vladivostok port and was bound for Sakhalin's Korsakov port when it ran aground near Skryplev Island. The vessel refloated but was detained for inspection later on. No fuel leaks were discovered. No water was getting into the tanker's engine-room. No injuries. — Correspondent.

London, Sep 1 — Following received from Vladivostok MRCC, timed 1716, UTC: *Tsezar* has refloated after it ran aground off Vladivostok. Vessel is at Vladivostok undergoing divers inspection.

**VELOS (Cyprus)**

London, Sep 3 — Bulker *Velos* (36438 gt, built 1991) is presently in distress in Skagerrak on a voyage from the Baltic to Egypt with a cargo of potash. At 1015 local time the vessel called for help after it was in collision with an unknown vessel which has resulted in

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

several leaks into the ballast tanks of the *Velos*. The vessel is anchored at lat 57 28.11N, long 9 22.38E awaiting help from the Danish authorities. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 4 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1525, UTC: Bulker *Velos* reported in lat 57 42 7.56N, long 10 42 21.96E at 1620, UTC, today. Vessel to undergo diver inspection this evening.

London, Sep 5 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1225, UTC: Divers were unable to carry out an inspection of bulker *Velos* yesterday, due to bad weather. The inspection is currently being carried out and the results are awaited.

London, Sep 6 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1315, UTC: Divers carried out an inspection of bulker *Velos* and found lots of damage on port side. Intention is for vessel to proceed to Danish port for discharge and some repairs to enable vessel to proceed for permanent repairs.

Copenhagen, Sep 7 — Bulker *Velos* was given permission by the Danish Maritime Authorities at 2330 hrs, last night, for one voyage from Skagen to Aabenraa (coal-terminal). The vessel left Skagen at 0210 hrs, this morning, bound for Aabenraa where it is ETA 1230 hrs, Sep 8. The bulk carrier is being escorted by SvitzerWijsmuller tug *Fenja*. The cargo of potash will be discharged at Aabenraa. The vessel will then sail to a shipyard for repairs. — Correspondent.

**VINDO (Antigua & Barbuda)**

See Dealer.

**WEILUN 17 (China)**

Antwerp, Sep 6 — When bulker *Long Shun* (5982 gt, built 2000) tried to overtake bulker *Weilun 17* (2996 gt, built 2004), in Shanghai waters, the two vessels collided due to communication problem in the early morning of Aug 28. At the time of collision, the former was laden with 9600 tonnes of coal, sailing from Qinhuangdao to Zhenjiang port, while the latter was sailing with 5600 tonnes cargo in bulk. After the collision, the fore part of *Long Shun* and stern of *Weilun 17* were found damaged. The accident was soon settled down between ship owners. The former vessel, that sustained minor damage, went on its voyage; the latter vessel, with more serious damage, is now repaired at Nantong. — "DPS Teamhead Surveyors."

**YARD NO.203 ODENSE (DIS)**

London, Sep 6 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: On Sep 1, Maersk Line took delivery of container carrier *Yard No.203 Odense*, now *Emma Maersk*. The vessel will soon enter the worldwide service network on the AE1 (Europe - Far East) service. First port of call will be Aarhus, Denmark, on Sep 7.

**YUAN JIANG CHENG (China)**

See *Suzhou Huosixian 0288*.

**ZANIS GRIVA (Liberia)**

London, Sep 1 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1435, UTC: Chemical tanker *Zanis Griva* (10944 gt, built 1985) has anchored at mile marker 18.2 in the Mississippi River due to steering problems.

London, Sep 6 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1435, UTC: Chemical tanker *Zanis Griva* proceeded at 2300, UTC, Sep 1, with tug assistance, due to Coast Guard restrictions, for Pilot Town, where arrived same day. Class attended vessel at pilot Town Sep 2 and Coast Guard restrictions lifted. Vessel allowed to proceed under own power Sep 2.



**PHILIPPINES**

Manila, Sep 5 — The Philippine Coast Guard detained tug *Marc* (78 gt, built 1988), along with its two officers, on Saturday (Sep 2) after Coast Guard officials found that the vessel's master and chief engineer were carrying fake licenses. The vessel was chartered by Philippine oil refiner Petron to tow a barge to Guimaras island. The barge was to be used to transport oil, collected from the *Solar 1* oil spill, to a recycling centre. The tug and its two officers are being held at the Guimaras Coast Guard station. Administrative as well as criminal charges are set to be filed against the two officers for "falsification of public documents". The Coast Guard is also set to question the tug's owner, Manila-based Asian Shipping Corporation, for hiring officers with bogus papers. Also being investigated is Petron Corp, which chartered *Marc*. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 6 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Bow Power* (28001 gt, built 1987) was detained on Jun 7 at Staten Island, New York, where arrived Jun 6. The vessel sailed Jun 14.



**ALALAA 1 (North Korea)**

Bucharest, Sep 1 — General cargo *Alalaa 1* is still under arrest at Constantza in respect of a claim for unpaid repairs/drydocking by two Belgian Companies: Zeebrugge Drydock MV. and Soenen B.V.B.A. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ALEXANDRIA (Egypt)**

Zeebrugge, Sep 5 — General cargo *Alexandria* (10022 gt, built 1991) under embargo/arrest at Antwerp at 1748, Sep 3. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**ANJUM (North Korea)**

Karachi, Sep 4 — General cargo *Anjum* released from court. Vessel beached Aug 29 at Salia abad, close to Manora Island Karachi. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ANNA (Lebanon)**

Beirut, Sep 5 — General cargo *Anna* is still reported at Tripoli, Lebanon, under arrest. — Lloyd's Agents.

**BAI LONG QUAN (China)**

London, Sep 1 — General cargo *Bai Long Quan* is currently still at Western Anchorage No.1, Hong Kong, under Admiralty and High Court arrest.

**BIGA (Canary Islands)**

Bilbao, Sep 1 — General cargo *Biga* is still under embargo at Bilbao. — Lloyd's Agents.

**BOREAS (Cyprus)**

Bilbao, Sep 1 — General cargo *Boreas* is still under embargo at Bilbao. — Lloyd's Agents.

**CHERYL ANNE (Philippines)**

Manila, Sep 5 — The Bureau of Customs reported that it had seized the Philippine-registered, barge *Cheryl Anne* (797 gt, built 1982) while moored at Surigao City in the southern Philippines. The Customs Bureau said that the non-propelled oil barge was arrested last Friday (Sep 1) for allegedly bringing two million litres of 'hazardous used oil' into the country from Palau. Also taken into custody was the barge's master, Jose Pineda, and 15 crewmembers. The cargo was consigned to a company named Powerzone Philippines. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**CLARY (Singapore)**

Maassluis, Sep 4 — Bulker *Clary* (12165 gt, built 1979), which arrived Rotterdam Jul 6 and was under arrest/detained, was released Aug 31 and sailed same day. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**ELWOOD (Panama)**

Maassluis, Sep 4 — General cargo *Elwood* was reported still under detention at Rotterdam on Aug 31. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**FISHING VESSEL APPREHENDED BY RUSSIA**

Portsmouth, UK, Sep 7 — Russian authorities have revealed 250 tons of illegally caught cod and haddock on refrigerated general cargo *Castor* (671 gt, built 1982) used for trans-shipment of fish in the Barents Sea. The vessel is registered in Lithuania, Georgia and Belize, but the owner lives in Murmansk. The crew of 14 persons are all Russians. Aleksander Sosov, Head of the Coast Guard in Murmansk, says the vessel has been under suspicion of

A complete online archive covering the last 10 years of Lloyd's Casualty Week. For further information please call +44 (0) 20 7017 4482.

illegal actions for a year. "We discovered an unknown ship in the Russian economic sector. When we tried to stop it the ship sailed to the Norwegian sector. Thanks to the Norwegian Coast Guard the *Castor* was stopped and we brought the ship into harbour in Murmansk", Aleksander Sosov says. FSB, formerly KGB, has opened an investigation. The captain of the vessel denies he has done anything illegal. — Correspondent.

**GLAROS (Panama)**

La Spezia, Sep 1 — General cargo *Glaros* is currently still under arrest at La Spezia. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**GREGORIO I (Panama)**

London, Sep 7 — A press report, dated Sep 6, states: Cyprus police discovered a major arms cache on board impounded Panamanian-registered general cargo *Gregorio I* (3901 gt, built 1983) that they raided earlier in the day, news reports said today. The vessel, which contained illegal arms supplies, arrived from the Egyptian port of Port Said and was headed for the Syrian port of Lattakia. Special police forces raided the vessel with a court order after receiving a tip off from Interpol. Deputy Chief of Police, Yiorgos Aristidou, said that the purpose and origin of the cargo remained unknown, while the accompanying documentation was being thoroughly examined as it had specified a different cargo. The eight members of the crew have been held by Cyprus police and officers of the Department of Merchant Shipping, while the vessel's captain claimed the cargo contained meteorological equipment. (Note — *Gregorio I* arrived Limassol Sep 5.)

**JAVA BASSET (Singapore)**

See *Java Beagle*.

**JAVA BEAGLE (Singapore)**

Karachi, Sep 4 — Anchor handling tugs *Java Beagle* and *Java Basset* are still under arrest by the court. Prospects of release unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

**LAMA (Belize)**

Beirut, Sep 5 — General cargo *Lama* is still lying sunk and under arrest at Beirut. — Lloyd's Agents.

**LUCHEGORSK (Russia)**

London, Sep 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Product tanker *Luchegorsk*, stopped by the Guinean military on Aug 21, left the port of Conakry last night. The vessel left Guinea's economic zone and resumed fueling fishing vessels off Sierra Leone. All crewmembers are in good health. The master of *Luchegorsk* proved to the marine police that the *Luchegorsk* was in Sierra Leone's economic zone at the moment of seizure. Data obtained from a satellite confirmed this fact. Russian diplomats were involved in an effort to get the crew and the tanker released.

**OTAPAN (Mexico)**

London, Sep 7 — A press report, dated Sep 6, states: The Netherlands' junior environment minister arrived in Ankara last Monday (Sep 4) for talks with his Turkish counterpart on the fate of an asbestos-ridden tank barge *Otapan* refused entry to Turkish waters, the Dutch government said. Pieter van Geel and Osman Pepe met to discuss the *Otapan*, which set sail from the Netherlands for Turkey in July to be ridded of asbestos at the Simsekler shipyard near Izmir in the west of the country. Turkey's environment minister had said earlier the vessel, which sails under the Mexican flag, would be turned away because it contained far more asbestos than originally thought. The Dutch authorities had estimated there was one ton of asbestos on board, basing the figure on information from the vessel's owner. But Van Geel's spokesman admitted the figure had been a big underestimate. "More realistic estimates suggest it is carrying 45 tons of asbestos", said Jeroen Boes, who added that the vessel's owner Basilisk had sold it to the Simsekler yard. "Given that the ship was sold in international waters, we do not know whether it is Turkish property yet", he said. The Dutch government had previously said it co-owned the *Otapan* with Basilisk, a debt collection company.

**SKY LUCKY (Hong Kong)**

London, Sep 1 — Container Carrier *Sky Lucky* (ex *OOCL Exporter*, 41266 gt, built 1976) which arrived at Hong Kong at 0641 hrs, today, was subsequently reported at Kwaichung Container Berth No.5, Hong Kong, under Admiralty and High Court arrest.

London, Sep 5 — Container Carrier *Sky Lucky* sailed from Hong Kong at 2204 hrs, Sep 4.

**Pipeline Accidents**



**TARAPOA AREA, ECUADOR**

London, Sep 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Ecuadorian state-owned oil company Petroecuador announced Tuesday (Sep 5) that it had controlled an oil spill in the Cuyabeno nature reserve two weeks after an oil pipeline burst. Galo Chiriboga, president of Petroecuador, said the company would now start cleaning and repairing the area affected, and a minimum of six months is needed to complete the work. According to the company, the spill, in the Amazon province of Sucumbios, would have a lasting impact on the area, which hosts many plants and animal species that are at risk of extinction. "Three lagoons are seriously affected, and we are containing the oil's spreading towards the others," said Lucy Ruiz, the company's manager of

environmental protection, adding that the reserve would never be exactly the same as before. The two-week spill contaminated more than 600,000 hectares of the nature reserve all together. The people who live in the area have threatened to take "forceful measures" to demand the company clean the environment and compensate for the environmental damage.

**Pollution**



**UMIA RIVER, SPAIN**

London, Sep 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Officials in north-western Spain are struggling to contain a highly toxic chemical river spill heading towards the Atlantic Ocean. The discharge into the Umia River was caused by a fire at a chemical plant in the Galicia region late last week. The three-kilometre long spill is slowly moving down the river, killing fish and plants in its path. The water supply to some 80,000 people has been cut off, and shell fishing areas have been closed as a precaution. The turquoise-coloured petroleum pollutant could reach the Atlantic Ocean in two days, officials in Galicia estimate. They are building a series of dams to try to stop the spill. The cause of the fire at the chemical plant is still being investigated.

**Weather & Navigation**



**AUSTRALIA**

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Hay Point Berth No.1 was closed at 1430 hrs, today, as a result of adverse weather and heavy swells. The next scheduled berthing for this berth, subject to the weather conditions, will be at 0700 hrs, tomorrow. Hay Point Berth No.2 is continuing to load. However the situation is being closely monitored. DBCT have also vacated all three berths at this Terminal. They will next attempt to berth another vessel at 0900 hrs, tomorrow. Conditions are not expected to abate tonight.

London, Sep 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Gale force winds and heavy rain have caused major disruptions to Sydney's transport network. The conditions have caused long delays for commuters travelling by road, rail, ferry and air. Sydney Airport schedules are returning to normal after wind gusts of almost 100 kph delayed a number of flights. A mudslide has closed the south coast line rail line between Scarborough and Waterfall, and Eastwood Station on the northern line is closed due to the

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

heavy rain. Ferry services to Manly have also been delayed and Parramatta Wharf remains closed due a heavy flow on the river. Motorists have experienced delays across the city with localised flooding and minor accidents causing traffic jams and diversions on a number of major roads. The Sydney Catchment Authority is reporting moderate to heavy falls across the catchment area. The Bureau of Meteorology expects the wild weather to continue throughout the day, with more storms predicted over the weekend (Sep 9-10).

#### BAY OF BENGAL

London, Sep 5 — A press report, dated Sep 4, states: A total of 300 fishermen in 26 trawlers which had set out for deep sea fishing in East Midnapore district on Sep 1 have gone missing while four fishermen on another boat remained untraced after it sank 70km off the popular beach resort. Fourteen fishermen of the boat *Mamoni Sakhi-2* that sank were, however, rescued by another trawler which was one among 100 trawlers that had set out from Digha for the high seas on Sep 1, Secretary of the Digha Fishermen and Fishtraders Association, Barun Maiti, said. Maiti said that apparently the trawlers were caught in a storm caused by the deep depression in the Bay of Bengal.

#### CHINA

Beijing, Sep 1 — The worst drought to hit southwest China in more than a century is spreading to neighbouring provinces with temperatures reaching record highs, state media said today. The densely populated municipality of Chongqing and eastern parts of Sichuan province have been plagued by repeated heatwaves and have seen no significant rainfall since early July. The drought is the worst since 1891 when meteorological records began in Chongqing, now hosting a population of 30 million, and had brought direct economic losses totaling 6.5 billion yuan (\$817 million), Xinhua said. Heat and drought had also hit the neighbouring province of Guizhou, the eastern provinces of Zhejiang, Anhui and Jiangxi, and the central provinces of Hunan and Hubei, Xinhua said. Temperatures of up to 42.4 degrees Celsius were recorded in Chongqing yesterday, after a high of 43.4 C on Wednesday (Aug 30). Chongqing city, the industrial heart of the municipality with a population of 12 million, reported a record high of 44.5 C on August 16. Some 18 million people have been short of drinking water and 11 million hectares of crops, mostly rice but including corn and tobacco, have been destroyed or damaged, Xinhua news agency said. The impact has been broad. Crop production is down and vegetable prices are soaring. Millions of schoolchildren and teachers have seen the start of term postponed due to the latest heatwave which is expected to last at least until Monday (Sep 4).

#### HURRICANE "IOKE"

London, Sep 3 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Ioke" was located near lat 25.7N, long 152.4E. Movement over past six hours 300 degs, at 12 knots. The position is accurate to 25 nautical miles and based on the eye being fixed by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 100 knots, with gusts to 125 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 65 nautical miles in the east semicircle and 60 nautical miles in the west semicircle. Radius of 50 knot winds: 85 nautical miles in the east semicircle and 75 nautical miles in the west semicircle. Radius of 34 knot winds: 160 nautical miles in the east semicircle and 145 nautical miles in the west semicircle. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Sep 4: The centre is predicted to be near lat 28.7N, long 148.1E, with maximum sustained winds of 95 knots and gusts to 115 knots.

London, Sep 4 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Ioke" was located near lat 29.8N, long 148.8E. Movement over past six hours 325 degs, at 16 knots. The position is accurate to 40 nautical miles and based on the eye being fixed by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 70 knots, with gusts to 85 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 55 nautical miles in the east semicircle, 40 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 50 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Radius of 50-knot winds: 80 nautical miles in the east semicircle, 70 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 75 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Radius of 34-knot winds: 160 nautical miles in the east semicircle, 145 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 145 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Sep 5: The centre is predicted to be near lat 35.6N, long 146.8E, with maximum sustained winds of 55 knots and gusts to 70 knots.

#### HURRICANE "JOHN"

Los Cabos, Mexico, Sep 1 — Hurricane "John" was moving toward one of Mexico's most exclusive beach resorts today, forcing hundreds of foreign tourists to flee ahead of howling winds, rough seas and lashing rain. Stores boarded up windows and five-star hotels readied their own refugee shelters for mostly U.S. guests who gave up plans to play golf, swim or go boating at the Los Cabos resort on the tip of Baja California peninsula. Many vacationers were taking no chances and headed for the airport to seek flights home before "John", a moderate-strength Category Two storm, reached at Los Cabos. Rescue workers began evacuating at least 10,000 residents from low-lying areas to temporary shelters, whether they wanted to go or not. Residents lined up at supermarkets in a rush to buy food, water and gasoline as the hurricane's first rains hit the resort, which is made up of two towns, Cabo San Lucas and San Jose del Cabo. The

U.S. National Hurricane Centre downgraded "John" to a Category 2 hurricane yesterday afternoon, but said it still had sustained winds early today of 105 mph. Its strength was unlikely to change before it hit Baja California later in the day. The hurricane swirled west of the Islas Marias small island chain and penal colony, headed for Los Cabos 170 miles away. After reaching the resort, the storm was expected to bounce back out into the Pacific, posing no threat to the United States. Rainfall of six to 10 inches, with isolated deluges of 18 inches, was possible over the southern part of Baja California and along Mexico's west coast. The Mexican government discontinued storm warnings late yesterday for the Pacific coast of mainland Mexico. — Reuters.

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "John" roared over the sparsely populated eastern tip of the Baja California peninsula late yesterday, but appeared to spare the glistening resorts of Los Cabos and impoverished local residents huddled in shelters. The Category 2 storm made landfall near the isolated hamlets of Boca de la Vinorama and Los Barriles, about 40 miles north-east of San Jose del Cabo. It was moving north-west at 10 mph. Forecasters expected the hurricane to lash the state capital of La Paz with top sustained winds of 105 mph, before weakening slightly as it crosses the narrow stretch of land and heads out to sea. "John" was not likely to affect the United States. While stores reopened, in Cabo San Lucas and San Jose del Cabo, two hours after hurricane-force winds first lashed the peninsula, most bars and restaurants remained shuttered. Some streets were flooded, but the water was no more than ankle-deep. In San Jose del Cabo, a brief bout of heavy winds toppled the signs of shops and sent metal gates flying in the air. But there were no reports of major damage.

London, Sep 3 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "John" was located near lat 26.3N, long 112.1W. Present movement north-north-west or 330 degs, at seven knots. The position is accurate to 30 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots, with gusts to 55 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 75 nautical miles in the east semicircle, 25 nautical miles in the south-west quadrant and 30 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. Dissipating inland.

London, Sep 4 — A press report, dated Sep 3, states: Residents dragged trees from their yards in La Paz today as tropical storm "John" moved up the Baja California peninsula, soaking fishing villages and retirement communities and threatening flooding in parts of the US south-west. The weakening storm hurled rain on the normally arid Baja, threatening flash floods. Forecasters said there could be up to 18 inches of rain in isolated areas. The storm was also expected to dump up to three inches of rain in

desert areas from southern California to west Texas in the next few days and could cause some flooding, said meteorologist Eric Blake of the US National Hurricane Centre in Miami. President Vicente Fox visited Los Cabos today and was headed to La Paz to survey the damage. "John" was a Category 2 hurricane with winds of 110 mph when it hit the southern tip of the peninsula late Friday (Sep 1). However, officials reported no deaths and little destruction, though some shantytown shacks were blown down. La Paz, a city of more than 150,000, was among the hardest hit. The storm knocked down trees, sent billboards flying and cut electricity. The storm was initially forecast to slam into the resort area of Los Cabos and move westward out to sea, but Blake said a high-pressure ridge was weaker than expected and that allowed the storm to keep travelling north up the peninsula. The storm had maximum sustained winds of 45 mph and was located about 20 miles south-west of the ancient mining town of Santa Rosalia today after moving past Loreto, which is being developed as a massive resort aimed at US visitors and retirees. It was moving north-west up the spine of the narrow peninsula at about nine mph and was expected to fade into a tropical depression as it remains over land most of the day. Forecasters said it was likely to move out to sea well south of Tijuana later this week. Los Cabos Mayor Luis Armando Diaz said homes had been damaged and a highway cut off farther along the coast where the storm hit, between his city and La Paz. In one of those towns, Los Barriles, residents reached by telephone told local radio stations that tin roofs had been ripped from homes. The airport serving Los Cabos reopened yesterday after remaining closed for nearly three days.

London, Sep 5 — A press report, dated Sep 4, states: The rapidly dissipating remnants of hurricane "John" brought heavy showers to the deserts of northern Mexico and the south-western United States today. Moisture from the storm was causing thunderstorms over eastern Arizona, southern New Mexico and west Texas, and could still dump 2.5 to seven cm as far west as southern California through tomorrow, causing some flooding, said Mark Willis, a meteorologist with the US National Hurricane Centre in Miami. "John" was downgraded to a tropical depression yesterday and was weakening fast today. The storm's maximum sustained winds dropped to about 30 mph and its vague centre was about 90 miles north of the mining town of Santa Rosalia. Officials said as much as 45 cm had fallen in isolated areas of the normally arid Baja California peninsula, and forecasters warned of deadly flash floods. President Vicente Fox yesterday toured the city of La Paz, a state capital of about 150,000 people where the storm ripped tin roofs off houses, downed trees and power lines

and flooded streets. "Fortunately there is no human loss and the impact (in terms of damage) is relatively modest," Fox said as he pledged to help residents whose homes had been affected. "John" was a Category 2 hurricane with winds of 180 kph when it struck near the southern tip of the Baja peninsula on Friday (Sep 1), but officials reported no deaths. A total of 160 houses on the peninsula lost their roofs and four houses collapsed, officials said. About 1,155 people remained in government shelters. Mexico's health secretary was sending in teams to protect the state against dengue and other diseases.

La Paz, Sep 4 — At least three people, including one Briton, were killed when Hurricane "John" slammed into Mexico's Baja California peninsula, authorities said today. Three other people are missing after the passage of "John", which has been downgraded to a tropical depression, and is now off the west coast of Baja California state and dumping rains on southern U.S. States. But the storm is no longer a major threat. A British tourist was found drowned on the west coast of Baja California Sur state after his camper trailer was dragged away by a flooding river, the state government said. The two other dead were Mexicans who also drowned when they were swept away by swollen rivers in separate accidents. The Miami-based National Hurricane Centre said today that there was "not much left of 'John'" and it would fizzle out later in the day but could still drop rain over the United States tomorrow. "Moisture from 'John' could help produce one to three inches over the southwestern United States and western Texas through Tuesday," the centre said. — Reuters.

London, Sep 6 — A press report, dated Sep 5, states: Flash flooding triggered mudslides that trapped vehicles in southern California as the fading remnants of hurricane "John" dumped rain on parts of the South-west. Eight separate mudslides covered a stretch of road in the San Jacinto area with up to six feet of mud and rocks yesterday afternoon, trapping 19 vehicles but causing no injuries, said Riverside County Fire Captain Bret Cerini. Hurricane "John", which pounded parts of Mexico with up to 20 inches of rain, did not directly cause the California rain but its remnants helped push tropical moisture into the region, said meteorologist Ted Mackechnie at the National Weather Service. "It kicked up the moisture and helped it to spread into our area," Mackechnie said. Normally dry southern New Mexico got enough rain from the storm system to cause isolated road flooding yesterday, and southern Arizona had scattered rain. In Texas, a half-mile section of Interstate 10 near downtown El Paso was closed by water yesterday morning, police spokesman Javier Sambrano said. A Continental Airlines jet got stuck in mud yesterday at El Paso International Airport when it strayed off a taxiway, airline

spokeswoman Julie King said. No one was hurt. Across the border from El Paso, the rain flooded neighbourhoods in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, knocked down utility poles and caused several traffic accidents. Hundreds of people were evacuated from one neighbourhood because of concerns about a dam, said Luz del Carmen Sosa of the city's public safety department. The hurricane was blamed for the deaths of three people on Mexico's Baja California peninsula, officials said.

## SOUTH AFRICA

London, Sep 1 — The strong south-westerly gales that have blown along the east coast of southern Africa for much of Tuesday (Aug 29) and Wednesday have resulted in delays to shipping at Durban and Richards Bay, as well as bringing icy cold weather to the region and a reminder that although today is officially the start of Spring, winter may well have a surprise or two still in store. Richards Bay port was closed shortly before 1700, Tuesday as strong winds and a heavy swell posed a danger to vessels in the channel. The port remained closed on Wednesday as winds reached 50 knots peaking to 60kn and at least three ships raised anchors in the outer anchorage and headed out to sea to ride out the weather. The outer anchorage at Richards Bay is in quite an exposed position. In Durban the wind and swells also hampered vessel movements and port working and by late yesterday there were about 28 vessels in the outer anchorage.

## THAILAND

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: In the province of Uttaradit, the flood situation is critical. A bridge in the provincial town was destroyed, leaving the Uttaraditdharmmaram Temple inaccessible; so a rescue team had to travel by boat to give food to the monks. All roads leading into Lablae district were under deep floodwaters, with only larger vehicles allowed access. The district was effectively cut off from the outside world. Landslides on the Uttaradit-Denchai Road blocked traffic and motorists were warned of possible landslides while traveling on hillside roads. In the northern province of Chaing Mai, the Chiang Mai municipality has built sandbag embankments to prevent flood as the Ping River rises. The authority issued a warning for local residents living in flood prone areas, including Chiang Mai Night Bazaar, Chiang Mai's famous shopping centre, to brace for possible flood late today. It is expected the Ping River will soon rise to 4.20 metres and overflow into low lying areas in provincial commercial zones. Two schools in the flood-prone areas closed today. Three districts in Chaing Mai have been affected by the flooding. As many as 1,000 homes and other structures in San Pa Tong district were inundated. Some areas along the river are under

as much as two metres of water and rescue workers have worked to help some villagers stranded in about 100 houses, while croplands and longan orchards are also inundated with losses. In San Kamphaeng district, about 1,500 houses have been affected by the floods. A bridge was damaged and a school was closed today.

#### TROPICAL STORM "ERNESTO"

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm "Ernesto" made landfall on the southern North Carolina coast late yesterday, coming ashore with heavy rains but sustained winds that fell just short of hurricane levels. The storm's official arrival near Long Beach in Brunswick County came near the end of a long day of rain in the eastern half of North Carolina. "Ernesto" dropped more than eight inches of rain on the Wilmington area, a record for August 31, according to the National Weather Service. "Ernesto"'s centre made landfall at 2330 hrs, with sustained winds near 70 mph, four mph short of hurricane strength. The storm's tropical force winds extended up to 145 miles from the centre, mainly to the east. Its northern bands had already drenched the states' eastern counties starting in the midafternoon, prompting dozens of flood, tornado and storm warnings and watches. North Carolina's and Virginia's governors declared a state of emergency and forecasters issued a hurricane watch from the South Santee River in South Carolina to Cape Lookout, about 50 miles east of Jacksonville, as the storm approached. The National Hurricane Centre warned of a storm surge of three feet to five feet in the Carolinas. The National Park Service closed some facilities on the Outer Banks, including two campgrounds near Cape Hatteras. The Coast Guard closed ports at Wilmington and Morehead City in anticipation of gale-force wind. Twenty-six shelters were opened in eastern North Carolina, and more than 200 people sought refuge, said Patty McQuillan, state spokeswoman. Bladen County had minor power outages, and no injuries were immediately, McQuillan said. In a region that has a long acquaintance with violent tropical storms, "Ernesto"'s wind was less a concern than the threat of flooding. Central and parts of eastern North Carolina were already soaked by thunderstorms that began yesterday afternoon. Virginia Governor Timothy Kaine declared a state of emergency, putting 200 National Guardsmen on duty and opening the state's Emergency Operations Centre in suburban Richmond. North Carolina Governor Mike Easley also declared a state of emergency, activated 200 National Guard troops and had other emergency teams on standby. In Pennsylvania, officials worried about the storm reaching a dam north of Pittsburgh that was damaged by recent heavy rain there. No immediate evacuations were ordered in the

Carolinas, though both states urged residents to keep abreast of forecasts and obey any instructions to get out of danger.

London, Sep 5 — A press report, dated Sep 4, states: Tropical storm "Ernesto" caused at least six deaths and an estimated \$33 million in damages in Virginia, state officials said yesterday. The death toll grew with the discovery of the body of a Newport News woman who died of carbon monoxide poisoning from a portable generator, state Department of Emergency Management spokesman Marc LaFountain said. LaFountain said the woman hooked up the generator in her garage after losing electrical power during the storm. He said an open garage window did not provide adequate ventilation. Three people died in unrelated car crashes attributed to the storm, and a Gloucester couple were killed after a massive tree crushed their modular home. Northumberland County was hammered by an unexpectedly brutal storm surge. LaFountain said preliminary damage estimates from Northumberland County were \$16 million, nearly half the statewide total. LaFountain, who emphasised that final damage figures could change significantly, said preliminary reports from localities put the damage estimates at \$24 million for homes, \$3 million for businesses and \$5 million for public facilities, including roads and government buildings. Northumberland reported \$860,000 in agricultural damage. Dominion Virginia Power, the state's largest utility, reported about 39,000 customers still without power yesterday evening. More than 600,000 customers were affected by the storm, the company said. All primary and interstate highways were clear yesterday, but the Virginia Department of Transportation reported 43 secondary roads were still blocked by downed trees or power lines or were washed out by floodwaters.

#### TROPICAL STORM "FLORENCE"

London, Sep 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm "Florence" formed today in the open Atlantic, becoming the sixth named storm of the 2006 hurricane season, and was likely to grow. "Florence" had top sustained wind near 40 mph, 1 mph over the 39 mph threshold for a tropical storm, and it was expected to slowly intensify to hurricane strength, according to the National Hurricane Center. "Our forecast does have it becoming a hurricane by Friday morning (Sep 8), minimal hurricane, Category 1," said Mark Willis, a meteorologist at the hurricane center. It was still too early to tell if it would hit the United States, Willis said. At 1100, EDT, the storm was centred 935 miles east of the Lesser Antilles and was moving west at about 12 mph, forecasters said. Its tropical storm-force wind extended 115 miles from its centre.

London, Sep 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm "Florence" gained strength in the open Atlantic today and could become a hurricane by the weekend, but forecasters said it was too soon to tell if it would reach the United States. "Florence" had sustained winds near 50 mph this morning. "Several days down the road it could very well strengthen into a hurricane," said National Hurricane Centre forecaster Jack Beven. Forecasters have said that could happen as early as Friday (Sep 8). At 1100 hrs, the storm was centered about 800 miles east of the Northern Leeward Islands, or about 2,000 miles east-southeast of Miami, and was moving toward the west-northwest at about 12 mph. "The concern would be Bermuda at this point, how close the destructive force winds will move toward it," said Dave Roberts, a forecaster at the hurricane centre. "Florence"'s centre was about 1,295 miles southeast of Bermuda today. Tropical storm-force wind extended up to 290 miles from its centre. "Although Florence continues to get better organized, it remains an unusually large Atlantic tropical storm, and large cyclones tend to take longer to develop and intensify than smaller ones do," said hurricane specialist Stacy Stewart.

London, Sep 7 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Florence" was located near lat 20.1N, long 53.2W. The position is accurate to within 50 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the west-northwest or 300 degs at nine knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 999 mb. The maximum sustained winds are 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. The radius of 34 knot winds: 225 nautical miles in the north-east quadrant, 250 nautical miles in the south-east quadrant, zero nautical miles in the south-west quadrant and 100 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. At 0600, UTC, Sep 8, the centre is predicted to be near lat 22.6N, long 57.7W, with maximum winds of 55 knots and gusts to 65 knots.

#### TYPHOON "CHANCHU"

Manila, Sep 6 — Batangas Bay Carriers Inc, the owner and operator of product tanker *Malitam*, has reversed its decision to repair the vessel following reports that the government will require all domestic tankers to have double-hulls by 2008. *Malitam* is a single-hulled, double-bottom tanker. Batangas Bay officials said that it would not make sense to spend on repairs if the vessel will have to be scrapped in two years. "Ongoing repairs have been put on hold until a final decision is made," a source in the company said. Batangas Bay is now leaning towards declaring the vessel a constructive total loss so they can collect on the hull insurance. The proceeds could then be used to purchase a double-hulled tanker to meet local safety standards. The



vessel is presently moored at the del Pan area of Manila's Pasig River. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

## Earthquakes



### PAPUA NEW GUINEA

London, Sep 1 — A report, dated today, states: A magnitude 6.8 earthquake has occurred in the Bougainville region, Papua New Guinea, in lat 06.77S, long 155.47E, depth 54 km at 1018, UTC, today.

### UNITED STATES

London, Sep 1 — A strong earthquake jolted the central Aleutian Islands early today. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage, but the quake had a magnitude of 6.0, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, and it could be felt in Dutch Harbor on Unalaska Island and Akutan Island. It occurred at 0404 hrs about 12 miles north-east of Unalaska Island.

## Volcanic Activity



### MOUNT MAYON, PHILIPPINES

London, Sep 7 — A press report, dated Sep 6, states: Vulcanologists are not inclined to downgrade Mount Mayon's alert status despite its period of "quietness" in the past four days. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said even with the decrease in seismic activity, the probability of ash blasts and lava dome collapse was still high. It added that while the decrease in seismic activity and lack in acceleration of events at Mayon had become evident from the institute's monitoring networks, the parameters for an eruptive stage still exist. Scientists explained that lava flow, tremors, volcanic quakes and explosions were still present. Julio Sabit, acting PHIVOLCS resident volcanologist, said that the volcano, which has been in a "period of quietness" for the past four days, calls for a full re-evaluation of the seismic activity. "We need about two weeks of observation before we downgrade the alert status of the volcano," Sabit said. "Let's see if the pattern of calmness continues to keep going for at least 10 days then we might recommend a change on the alert status to a lower level," he remarked. In the past 24-hour observation period, volcanologists detected 13 volcanic earthquakes caused by magma intrusion while lava tumbling down the slopes generated 295 tremor episodes. Sulphuric gas disgorged from the crater summit remained high at 2,032 tons yesterday. Lava deposit that spilled out from the

volcano's crater was estimated to have reached 52 million cubic metres, PHIVOLCS said. Alert Level 4 remains in effect, which means the 6,480 families or 30,237 people from 22 villages housed in 21 evacuation camps in five towns and three cities of Albay province would have to stay in their respective holding centres until the volcano's condition normalises.

### SOUFRIERE HILLS, MONTSERAT

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Montserrat's Soufriere Hills volcano blasted ash and steam into the air today, and authorities warned the Caribbean island could see heightened activity in coming days. Earthquakes also reverberated from the 3,000-foot volcano, said Sue Loughlin, director of the Montserrat Volcano Observatory. The activity did not affect the northern side of the island, where all of Montserrat's 5,000 residents live, but the observatory raised the volcano's alert status. "The volcano is extremely active," Loughlin said.

## Political & Civil Unrest



### AFGHANISTAN

London, Sep 4 — A press report, dated today, states: At least four Afghan civilians and a British soldier have been killed in a suspected suicide bomb attack on a Nato convoy in Kabul, officials say. Another UK soldier and four civilians were also hurt in the blast on the Kabul-Jalabad road. Separately, a Nato soldier has been killed and several others wounded in a so-called "friendly fire" incident. The soldier left wounded by the suicide attack today was very seriously injured, the Ministry of Defence said. The friendly fire death happened at dawn as Nato troops battled Taleban insurgents in the Panjwayi district west of Kandahar. The soldiers called in air support and two Nato aircraft responded, but fired cannon at their own soldiers during a strafing run.

### INDIA

London, Sep 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Security forces in Indian-administered Kashmir say they have killed a top commander of a militant group. Police official LI Mohanty said that Billoo Gujjar of the Islamic separatist group Hizbul Mujahadeen was killed in Udhampur district. The incident happened after security forces raided Mangal Kundi village threw a cordon around the area. Mr Mohanty said Gujjar had been active in the area since the last 15 years and had been involved in the killings of security forces and civilians. Security forces recovered some ammunition, diaries and a satellite phone from the killed militant. The militant carried a reward of 500,000 rupees (\$12,000) on his head.

### IRAQ

Baghdad, Sep 1 — Shopkeepers and homeowners in Baghdad cleared rubble and looked for bodies today, the morning after a series of explosions killed 50 people and devastated homes and a bazaar just before nightfall. Five times as many were wounded in blasts that police blamed mostly on a spray of rockets across mainly Shi'ite east Baghdad. A General in charge of a department dealing with explosives told state television, however, that militants rented shops and apartments, planted devices and set off co-ordinated explosions. With little sign of forensic teams at several blast sites, it was unclear how he reached that conclusion within four hours. Hours after the first blasts, which police said were from seven Katyusha rockets, residents heard more mortar rounds go off, part of a confusing and deadly evening in Baghdad, where U.S. and Iraqi troops began a big security crackdown last month. A senior Interior Ministry official put yesterday's death toll at 50, while other police sources put it at 43. Health Minister Ali al-Shemari said 257 people were treated for wounds. No official would say who was responsible. Shopkeepers in the Amin district cleared up after one of the explosions devastated their two-storey market. With twisted steel and cabling and fallen concrete filling much of the main walkway of the souk, now exposed to the sky as a section of roof had disappeared, the blast appeared to have been greater than that made by a typical Katyusha rocket. The attacks also coincided with U.S. President George W. Bush's launch of a pre-election round of speeches to rally Americans to maintain their military presence in Iraq. Hours earlier, Shi'ite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki said his forces would take control of most of Iraq from U.S.-led foreign troops by the end of the year. A formal handover of command to Iraq's Defence Ministry is scheduled for tomorrow. Moves like the assumption of formal Defence Ministry control of Iraq's armed forces will leave Maliki in overall command, although U.S. generals will clearly have a major say. After a month that saw U.S. deaths up nearly 50 percent to at least 64, U.S. troop levels are at their highest since January and up 10 percent on July at 140,000, the Pentagon said. — Reuters.

London, Sep 1 — A bomb targeting an oil pipeline south of Baghdad exploded today, sparking a fire and cutting supply to a major electricity station, but causing no casualties, police said. The bombed pipeline was on the outskirts of Musayyib, about 40 miles south of Baghdad, police Col. Salah Salman Mudir said. The pipeline feeds Musayyib's electricity station, which provides power to the cities of Karbala, Najaf, Hillah and Diwaniyah, he said. The damage will lead to longer power cuts in the cities, said Ahmed Hassan, the chief engineer of the Babil province electricity department. He said the power supply would now be cut for six-hour

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

stretches and be turned on for two hours, rather than the previous four hours off and two hours on. "If this pipeline is not fixed within three days, the hours of power cuts will be increased," he added.

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Fourteen British service personnel have died after their aircraft crashed in Afghanistan, the MoD has said. Twelve RAF personnel, a Royal Marine and an Army soldier were among those who died in the crash in the southern province of Kandahar. The aircraft belonged to Nato-led international force against the Taliban. UK Defence Secretary Des Browne said all indications are that this was a terrible accident. He added, this is dreadful and shocking news. I know that the people of Britain will join me in sending our deep condolences to the loved ones of those who have lost their lives. I can say, however, at this stage all the indications are that this was a terrible accident and not the result of hostile action. An International Security Assistance Force spokesman said, enemy action had been discounted at this stage. It is believed the cause of the crash was a technical fault. Nato forces say the aircraft was supporting the Nato mission in the area. The crash is thought to be the biggest single loss of British troops in Iraq or Afghanistan since military operations began there in 2001. The latest crash comes as Afghan and Nato troops began a major anti-Taliban drive in the Panjwayi district of Kandahar which has seen months of fighting. Earlier, Nato said its forces had launched a major offensive against known hideouts of Taliban insurgents in the Panjwayi district of Kandahar, with the aim of driving them out of the area. There was no indication of an enemy attack on the plane, which was not a fighter jet, Maj Scott Lundy said. Afghanistan is experiencing its bloodiest period since the fall of the Taliban in 2001. Much of the fighting has been concentrated in the south. The plane came down about 12 miles west of the city of Kandahar, Maj Lundy of the International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) said. It went off the radar and crashed in an open area in Kandahar. Nato forces are at the scene but there is no word on how many people were on board. A large Canadian contingent is based in Kandahar province. A local tribal elder said that the wreckage of the plane was burning in an open field. I can see three or four helicopters in the sky, and coalition forces are also arriving in the area, he said.

London, Sep 4 — A press report, dated Sep 3, states: Authorities today announced the capture of al-Qaida in Iraq's No 2 leader, accusing him of "brutal and merciless" terror operations, including the bombing of a Shiite shrine that touched off the sectarian bloodletting pushing Iraq toward civil war. Iraq's national security adviser said Hamed Jumaa Farid al-Saeedi, known as Abu Humam or Abu Rana, was arrested a

few days ago as he hid in a residential building south-west of Baqouba. The arrest has left al-Qaida in Iraq suffering a "serious leadership crisis," national security adviser Mouwafak al-Rubaie said. "Our troops have dealt fatal and painful blows to this organisation." He accused the terror suspect of supervising the creation of death squads and ordering assassinations, bombings, kidnappings and attacks on Iraqi police and army checkpoints. Not much is known about al-Saeedi, but al-Rubaie said he was the second most important al-Qaida in Iraq leader after Abu Ayyub al-Masri. Al-Masri is believed to have taken over the group after a US air strike killed leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi north of Baghdad on Jun 7. Al-Rubaie said al-Saeedi was "directly responsible" for Haitham Sabah Shaker Mohammed al-Badri, an Iraqi whom authorities have accused of leading the Feb 22 bombing against the Shiite shrine in Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad. The attack inflamed tensions between Shiite and Sunni Muslims and triggered reprisal attacks that have killed hundreds of Iraqis. Al-Saeedi's capture "will affect al-Qaida in Iraq and its operations against our people, especially those aimed at inciting sectarian strife," al-Rubaie said. The US-led coalition and Iraqi authorities have announced numerous arrests after al-Zarqawi was killed, that officials claim have thrown al-Qaida in Iraq into disarray. However, rampant sectarian violence and other attacks have continued, with at least 20 Iraqis killed in bomb attacks and shootings today. The US military command announced that four US troops had been killed — two soldiers killed by a roadside bomb today in Baghdad and two Marines in separate incidents Friday (Sep 1) and today in the volatile Anbar province, west of the capital. Tensions, meanwhile, rose in the north, after the president of the Kurdish region, Massoud Barzani, threatened secession today, two days after he ordered the Iraqi flag to be replaced with the Kurdish one, sparking harsh words in Baghdad. "If we want to separate, we will do it, without hesitation or fears," Barzani said during an address to the Kurdish parliament. Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki issued a terse statement saying only the national flag should be hoisted throughout the country. The Kurdish region has gradually been gaining more autonomy since the 2003 US-led invasion, and Sunni Arabs fear the Kurds are pushing for independence. In other violence across Iraq, according to police, a bomb exploded at an accessories market in Khalis, 50 miles north of Baghdad, killing four people and wounding 21, including at least one child; gunmen killed two policemen and wounded another in Baqouba, while elsewhere in the city, a car bomb killed three people; an overnight mortar attack east of Baghdad killed six people, including two children, and wounded 15; a roadside bomb targeting a police

patrol in eastern Baghdad killed two policemen and a civilian and wounded three policemen; a civilian was killed in a drive-by shooting in Amarah, 200 miles south-east of Baghdad; a suicide car bomb targeting a police patrol killed two policemen and wounded five people in the northern city of Mosul.

London, Sep 4 — Two British soldiers were killed today and two more injured when their patrol came under attack near the southern Iraqi city of Basra, the Ministry of Defense said. "Two British soldiers have died as a result of an attack on a British patrol," a spokeswoman said. She said the patrol was hit by a roadside bomb and small arms fire near the town of Ad Dayr, north of Basra. "One other British soldier was seriously injured, and a further one suffered minor injuries," the spokeswoman said. Those injured were evacuated for emergency medical care and taken by helicopter to a British field hospital at Shaibah Logistics Base. — Reuters. (See issue of Sep 5.)

Baghdad, Sep 4 — The Iraqi army killed 14 suspected insurgents who had been plotting to attack Shi'ite pilgrims south of Baghdad, the army's general command said in a statement today. The military said it launched an operation after receiving intelligence that insurgents in Jurf al-Sakhar, a mainly Sunni town 85 km south of Baghdad, planned to attack pilgrims heading to the holy Shi'ite city of Kerbala. The statement said the 14 insurgents and an Iraqi soldier were killed after Iraqi army units came under fire. Some 22 wanted suspects were also detained in the operation. It did not make clear when it took place. In a separate incident, the remains of 80 people, believed to be Kurdish victims of Saddam Hussein's regime, were unearthed in two mass graves near the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk today, a Kurdish security official said. Tens of thousands of Kurds were killed in a military campaign in 1998 codenamed Anfal. The deputy head of intelligence for Kirkuk, Salah Khaled, said the bodies were believed to date from Anfal, when the military razed villages, launched poison gas attacks and rounded up men, women and children before shooting them in mass graves in northern and southern Iraq. — Reuters.

London, Sep 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Iraq's parliament voted to extend a state of emergency today, while Britain's foreign secretary stressed that transferring control of Iraq's security from the U.S.-led coalition to the government was key. The state of emergency has been in place for almost two years, and covers every region except for the autonomous Kurdish region in the north. It grants security forces greater powers such as implementing curfews and making arrests without warrants. British Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett, on her first trip to Iraq since taking up the foreign minister post in May, met with Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh and discussed the transfer of security control from the

U.S.-led coalition to Iraqi authorities. Over the past week, a disagreement has emerged over the handover of Iraq's armed forces command. A highly anticipated ceremony marking the transfer had been scheduled for Saturday (Sep 7) but was called off at the last minute. The two sides still had "to complete some legal and protocol procedures that will lead to a complete understanding between the Iraqi government and the multinational troops," the Defense Ministry said. Yesterday, Ali al-Dabbagh, spokesman for Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, told The Associated Press that the ceremony would be held "if not the end of this week, early next week depending on the prime minister's schedule." Meanwhile, police found five unidentified blindfolded bodies dumped in Saweria, about 50 kilometres south of Baghdad. All had been shot several times in the head and chest and bore signs of torture, said Mamoun Ajeel al-Rubai at Kut hospital morgue. In the city of Baqouba, 60 kilometers northeast of Baghdad, which has seen a series of violence incidents in the past days, at least eight people were killed, police said. Gunmen fired on a police patrol, killing three policemen, while two civilians died in two separate drive-by shootings, Diyala province police said. Mortar attacks on two areas of a town south of the city killed a total of three people and wounded 21. In Samarra, 95 kilometres north of Baghdad, a car bomb parked near a residential house exploded, injuring a family of five. When people nearby ran to help the family, another bomb exploded within minutes, killing three people.

#### ISRAEL-LEBANON

Beirut, Sep 1 — A local press report, dated Aug 31, states: A lucrative contract to supply dairy products to United Nations peacekeepers in South Lebanon may have motivated the destruction of Lebanon's largest dairy farm, Liban Lait said Tuesday (Aug 29). The Bekaa-based factory had been providing the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) with milk and yogurt since it out-bid an Israeli firm in 2001, but has been inoperational since six precision-guided bombs targeted the dairy's processing plant on July 19. "The Israelis knew the outcome of conflict and they knew that they would be asking for 15,000 troops to be stationed at the border," Liban Lait's marketing manager, Mark Waked, told "The Daily Star". Waked estimated the contract to be worth between \$2 million and \$3 million with an increased UNIFIL contingent in Lebanon. UNIFIL's procurement department said they had not issued any invitations to bid for their dairy contract yet, and refused to specify a future date for the tender. They also declined to divulge which Israeli firm supplied UNIFIL with dairy products in the past. UNIFIL's media co-ordinator, Hassan Saklawi, said a cargo ship has delivered food to the

Naqoura harbor every second day from a logistical base in Cyprus since the conflict began. He said UNIFIL no longer gets its milk from the local market, but could not specify the origin and brand of the new supplies. Liban Lait's cows and some of its utilities were spared from Israeli fire, but the entire processing plant has been burned to the ground. Waked hopes that Liban Lait - whose products account for 70 percent of the annual dairy consumed in Lebanon - will be able to resume regular processing within two months. Though no complete estimate of damages to Lebanon's industrial sector have been issued, factories suffered at least \$200 million in losses." — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: The Lebanon donor conference in Stockholm has raised more than \$940m in pledges of new money, Swedish Foreign Minister Jan Eliasson has said. The organisers of the aid conference had set a target of \$500m. The new pledges bring the total amount of money raised to help with the rebuilding of Lebanon to \$1.2bn. PM Fouad Siniora told the meeting his country had sustained billions of dollars of damages during the 34-day war between Israel and Hezbollah. Mr Siniora said Lebanon's recovery from its civil war had been "wiped out in days". The Lebanese government has previously put the cost of damage at \$3.6bn. It says 15,000 homes were damaged in the conflict and has appealed for \$75m for temporary housing and \$30m to repair major roads and put up bridges. Ministers from more than 60 countries attended the conference, as well as officials from the UN, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the Red Cross. Sweden's foreign minister announced the amount of money raised at a press conference in Stockholm saying, "the conference has thus met its objective with a wide margin". At the end of the meeting the participants issued a statement calling on Israel to end its air and sea blockade of Israel, dubbing it "a major impediment to the early recovery process". Meanwhile, the Israeli army says it has handed back control of one part of its border with Lebanon, near the Israeli town of Metulla, to the Lebanese authorities. It is the first time since the ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah that Israeli troops have withdrawn from any part of the border area.

London, Sep 4 — A press report, dated Sep 3, states: Italian soldiers moved into southern Lebanon in trucks and armoured vehicles today as the first big wave of international peacekeepers took up positions to monitor a shaky truce between Israel and Hezbollah guerrillas. Lebanese officials scoffed at an Israeli call for peace talks. Israeli security officials said they expect the army to be out of Lebanese territory within the next two weeks, when they decide whether sufficient UN forces have arrived in south Lebanon to enforce the truce. The officials did not specify when

Israel would plan to lift its air and sea blockade. Israel says it has to maintain the blockade to prevent Iran and Syria from providing more weapons and rockets to Hezbollah guerrillas. The timetable for a pullout coincided with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's call for peace talks. Lebanese Information Minister Ghazi Aridi responded angrily and quickly. "Let him dream on. He will never see the day," Aridi said. "Before he talks about peace, he is required to withdraw his troops from Lebanon and lift the blockade." "Olmert must know that Lebanon will never negotiate with Israel or with him," he said. There is "absolutely no trust between Lebanon and Israel." After weeks of delays since the Aug 14 truce between Israel and Hezbollah took effect, the strengthened UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon, known as UNIFIL, has finally begun to take shape. But it could take months for it to reach its full strength of 15,000. Under the cease-fire plan, 15,000 Lebanese soldiers were also to be deployed to assert control over the Hezbollah stronghold south of the Litani River and to prevent arms from reaching the guerrillas. The first large batch of peacekeepers arrived in Lebanon today, with soldiers and marines from two Italian regiments reaching their bases in the south of the country. About 860 troops have arrived, the Italian Defence Ministry said in a statement. The ministry said the troops would not be further deployed until later this week. The French army said that about 200 troops and 100 vehicles loading onto vessels along France's Mediterranean coast and would reach Lebanon by the end of the week. The Italians will bring the total number of UN peacekeepers in Lebanon to 3,250 — including the 2,000 UNIFIL troops who were already in place and 250 French soldiers who arrived last week. Israel raced to destroy Hezbollah arms caches ahead of its impending withdrawal. French Gen Alain Pellegrini, who commands UNIFIL, confirmed Israel has been destroying Hezbollah arms in territories it still occupies in the south. The Israeli military said it had demolished an unspecified number of Hezbollah bunkers. Pellegrini said such actions violated the truce, as do reconnaissance missions by Israeli jets and drones over Lebanese air space. "The cease-fire is holding for the moment but it's fragile," Pellegrini said. The UN cease-fire resolution calls for Hezbollah to eventually be disarmed, but does not direct peacekeepers to take on that task. Instead, the force will ensure a buffer zone along the Israeli-Lebanese border is free of Hezbollah fighters and arms up to the Litani River, 18 miles to the north. At the same time, Lebanese troops are supposed to prevent new weapons shipments to Hezbollah from Syria, a Hezbollah ally. Israel's devastating offensive on Lebanon was triggered when Hezbollah guerrillas seized two Israeli soldiers in a cross-

border raid on Jul 12. More than 850 Lebanese and 150 Israelis died in the conflict. A 55-year-old Lebanese man was killed today by a cluster bomb left from an Israeli airstrike in the village of Kfar Sir near the Litani River.

Beirut, Sep 4 — A local press report, dated today, states: The UNIFIL II peacekeeping force picked up more weight on over the weekend (Sep 2/3) as the first of 1,000 Italian troops arrived in the largest deployment so far of international reinforcements since the Aug 14 cease-fire. The deployment of international troops had been delayed in part because of negotiations over the expanded UN force's mandate and efforts to persuade hesitant countries to contribute to what is seen as a potentially risky mission. The full 15,000-member force has not been assembled yet, but with several major European countries on board with contributions, pledges continue to trickle in daily. Italy's pledge of 2,500 troops for the peacekeeping force is the largest so far. The first 1,000 Italian troops, who began arriving Saturday, will immediately move to positions 20 kilometres inland of Tyre, according to the Italian Defence Ministry. The first to arrive were 150 marines with automatic weapons and blue berets, transported in gray UN helicopters to a hotel in Tyre. The Italian Marines secured two beaches, where the remainder of an 880-member battalion off the coast in warships had been scheduled to land. However, only part of the battalion made it to shore due to high seas on Saturday. Some vehicles and equipment were diverted further south to Naqoura. More Italian troops were deployed Sunday. Additional troops unloaded heavy equipment at Beirut Port and about 150 commandos arrived at Rafik Hariri International Airport on Sunday. Lieutenant Federico Mariani, a spokesman for the Italian troops, said half of the full contingent of 878 commandos had landed in Tyre by early Sunday. He said the troops were going to a staging area on the outskirts of Tyre. Lieutenant Andrea Catini, a platoon leader with the Italian Army's Lagunari Serenissima Regiment, said about 800 marines from his unit and from the navy's amphibious San Marco Regiment were setting up at two logistics bases near Borj Qalaway, 30 kilometres east of Tyre. The Italian contingent brings the total number of international troops in Lebanon to 3,250, including the 2,000 previous UNIFIL troops and 250 French troops who arrived last week. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 4 — A local press report, dated today, states: Lebanese MPs continued an open-ended sit-in Sunday (Sep 3) for the second day in a row to protest Israel's seven-week blockade, which is still in place almost three weeks after a UN-brokered cease-fire. Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, who arranged for the sit-in, told local daily An-Nahar Sunday the "protest will continue day and night

and I will personally sleep in Parliament until the sea and air blockade is lifted off Lebanon." Berri launched his call for a sit-in on Thursday, inviting 128 deputies from all sides to take part in the protest at the Parliament building in Nijmeh Square until the siege is lifted. In a letter to Arab governments Berri also "asked and insisted that all Arab aircraft and vessels defy and break the blockade without seeking any permission from Israel." Responding to his call, Qatar Airways announced Sunday that it will resume direct flights to Beirut Monday. A spokeswoman from Qatar Airways said "we have asked for authorization from the Lebanese authorities and they have given it. Therefore flight QR 422 is going to go to Beirut." The three-hour flight from Doha should therefore land in Beirut Monday at 1530. It will make Qatar Airways "the first international carrier to make a commercial flight into Beirut since the war ended," the spokeswoman said. The only two companies which have since the blockade been authorized to operate commercial flights to Beirut, via Amman, are Lebanon's Middle East Airlines and Royal Jordanian. — Lloyd's Agents.

Beirut, Sep 4 — A local press report states: A slick caused by Israel's bombardment of a power plant in Jiyeh last month, dumping 15,000 tons of fuel oil that has spewed a black tide along a 87-mile stretch of the coastline. Few places have been hit harder than Byblos, which dates back 7,000 years and lies 22 miles north of Beirut. Thick black oil laps against the ancient stone wall of the harbor under the shadow of a 13th century watchtower. Workers use a mechanical digger to scoop it from the water and dump it into plastic tanks on the quayside. From here it is taken to Beirut to be mixed with gravel and stone to make building material. Much of it will be used to patch up roads blown apart by Israeli bombs during the war, which ended with a United Nations-backed truce on Aug 14. "Since we started, we've dredged over 100 tons of oil from these waters," said Nabil Saad of the Byblos town council. "We still have several more days' work to do." A mile down the coast, around 100 volunteers are shoveling blackened sand from the beaches. Environmentalists say the slick could harm dolphins, Bluefin tuna fish and loggerhead turtles. Baby turtles hatch on the Lebanese coast each summer and then crawl toward the sea. Campaigners fear that when they get there, some will die in the deadly black tide. Marine Life Threatened "The scene is horrific, the seabed is completely covered with fuel oil which will threaten marine life for many years to come if it is not contained and removed immediately" said Mohammed El-Sarji, Greenpeace activist and head of the Lebanese Union of Professional Divers who conducted several dives in Jiyeh. The Israeli air and sea blockade of Lebanon, imposed at the start of the

34-day conflict, significantly complicated the clean-up operation, making it impossible to assess the slick. This week, Israel finally granted U.N. environmental experts permission for an aerial survey of the spill, described by Lebanese Environment Minister Yacoub Sarraf as the biggest environmental catastrophe in Lebanon's history. Cleanup of a massive oil spill caused by Israeli air strikes on a fuel depot could take up to one year, the environmental group Greenpeace Mediterranean said. Professor Rick Steiner of the University of Alaska, who is advising the Lebanese government on the spill said. "Everything on it, limpets, invertebrate fauna, algae, fish, crabs, mussels, it was all dead." Complicating the clean-up is the fact that the spill is heavy fuel oil. "It moves in different ways from crude oil, it's thicker and it doesn't evaporate as easily," Steiner said. "This might be the first time ever that seabed contamination has been documented this clearly. The oil is extensive and very toxic and we need to find a way to save the marine environment." The spillage has spread as far north as Syria and, according to some environmentalists, has even reached eastern Turkey. After Israel gave permission, UNEP said surveillance flights should be carried out as swiftly as possible. The United Nations has agreed an action plan to deal with the spill but says it needs to raise 50 million euros (\$64.18 million) to pay for it. Blow to Tourism In Byblos, once a Phoenician port and one of the busiest trading posts in the eastern Mediterranean, the slick has helped decimate a tourist industry already hit by war. Thirty miles further north, on an island nature reserve off the coast, environmentalists have raked the sand clean in a bid to save turtles due to hatch any day now. "There are 16 turtle nests at the reserve," said Manal Nader, director of the institute of the environment at Balamand University in northern Lebanon. Some Lebanese environmentalists say Israel should pay for the clean-up operation, although few believe this will happen. In the meantime, the inhabitants of Byblos struggle to clean up the mess. "The place got hammered," Steiner said. "To see this Phoenician harbour, this important archeological site covered in toxic oil, it really is heartbreaking." — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 5 — Israel is allowing a limited flow of vessel to enter Lebanese ports, despite the formal continuation of the naval blockade in place since July. According to the Lloyd's Agent in Beirut, a number of product tankers and bulk carriers containing relief cargoes have been able to discharge over the past week. The development will be welcome news for the Lebanese economy, badly hit after at least three tankers carrying gasoline were turned away during recent fighting. The move comes after a United Nations official last week urged a complete end to the

blockade. A spokesman for Beirut-based G Sahyouni & Co said: "Vessels come to 65 miles off Beirut and get permission from the Israeli navy. After that they can come in." According to the company, combined chemical and oil tanker *Quality Spirit* is currently alongside at Beirut. Also in the port is a ro-ro vessel carrying humanitarian aid on behalf of the World Food Programme. General cargo *Nevcivan* arrived on Aug 30 and departed on Sep 1, after discharging aid from the Red Cross. Another combi is due to leave today while two product tankers are expected over the next few days, closely followed by an LPG carrier. However, it appears that the blockade is still in force for container vessels, thanks to Israeli fears that they may contain arms bound for Hezbollah forces. As many as 18,000 containers are thought to be dispersed in ports in Turkey, Greece, Cyprus and Malta. However, according to G Sahyouni & Co, it is now possible to discharge containers at Lattakia then trailer them south. (See issue of Sep 5.)

London, Sep 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A bomb blast near the southern Lebanese city of Sidon has seriously wounded a senior intelligence officer and killed four of his aides and bodyguards. Officials said Samir Shehadeh was hit by a remote-controlled bomb as he drove past the village of Rmeileh. Col Shehadeh was an investigator into the killing of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in early 2005. The incident comes amid a fragile truce after 34 days' bitter fighting between Israel and Hezbollah guerrillas. Both vehicles of Col Shehadeh's two-car convoy were riddled with shrapnel. Police sealed off the area and began collecting evidence. Government officials said Col Shehadeh was taken to hospital in Sidon and his condition was stable.

London, Sep 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A bomb blast near the southern Lebanese city of Sidon has seriously wounded a senior intelligence officer and killed four of his aides and bodyguards. Officials said Samir Shehadeh was hit by a remote-controlled bomb as he drove past the village of Rmeileh. Col Shehadeh was an investigator into the killing of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in early 2005. The incident comes amid a fragile truce after 34 days' bitter fighting between Israel and Hezbollah guerrillas. Both vehicles of Col Shehadeh's two-car convoy were riddled with shrapnel. Police sealed off the area and began collecting evidence. Government officials said Col Shehadeh was taken to hospital in Sidon and his condition was stable.

#### IVORY COAST

Abidjan, Sep 4 — A meeting of political leaders in Ivory Coast meant to break a political deadlock blocking long-delayed elections has been postponed, officials in the war-divided West African state said today. The meeting between President Laurent

Gbagbo, opposition leaders and Guillaume Soro, the leader of rebels who tried to oust Gbagbo in a failed 2002 coup, was re-scheduled for tomorrow, apparently to give Soro time to return from Paris. "The meeting at which they will all come together will be tomorrow," a source at the prime minister's office, who declined to be named, told Reuters. An official at the rebel headquarters in the northern half of the country, which the rebels have controlled since a brief 2002/03 civil war, said Soro would return in time for the talks. A string of peace deals to reunite the former French colony have stumbled. The latest U.N.-backed plan kept Gbagbo in power after his mandate expired last October, when polls failed to take place. The presidential elections were rescheduled for this October but delays in the peace process have again rendered them "technically impossible," the U.N. has said. The head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission in the Ivory Coast, Pierre Schori, said regional leaders would meet on the margins of the world body's General Assembly in New York this month then advise the African Union on how to proceed. Schori said the African Union would then pass on proposals for the consideration of the U.N. Security Council. — Reuters.

#### JORDAN

Amman, Sep 4 — A lone gunman opened fire on a group of foreign tourists in the Jordanian capital Amman today, killing a British man and wounding six, an official and a witness said. Jordanian government spokesman Nasser Joudeh denied earlier reports that the attack was carried out by two men, one of them an Iraqi. He said the gunman, a Jordanian, had been arrested and was being questioned. Joudeh told Reuters the wounded were three Britons, a Dutch national, a New Zealander and their Jordanian tour guide. "One British citizen has died as a result of his injuries and the others are receiving treatment," he said. Police cordoned off the site of the attack near the Roman amphitheatre in the downtown area of the capital. Witnesses said the gunman shot at least 12 bullets before he finished his ammunition and was chased in the crowded downtown area before he was arrested. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. Interior Minister Eid al-Fayez told reporters in a briefing near the site that police were investigating if the incident was an isolated act of violence by a sole gunman. — Reuters.

#### NIGERIA

London, Sep 1 — The operators of Brass Terminal, Agip, have declared a 'force majeure' with effect from Aug 24. This is due to oil pipeline vandalism, which has resulted in a cut in production by about 60,000 bpd.

#### PAKISTAN

Karachi, Sep 1 — The business activities, industrial production and

movement of cargoes to and from ports are partially paralysed in different parts of Pakistan today due to strike called by main opposition parties to protest against the killing of local tribal leader Nawab Akbar Bugti in a Army operation last week. The strike call were given by opposition parties - Muttahida Majalis Amal (MMA), ARD, PONM and four Balochistan parties alliance. All markets, banks and schools were closed in all major cities across the country and police were patrolling to avoid any unwanted misshape.

London, Sep 4 — A press report, dated Sep 3, states: A bomb damaged a gas pipeline in south-western Pakistan today, cutting supplies to thousands of homes in a region tense after a rebel tribal leader died in a battle with government forces. The blast damaged less than three feet of 18-inch-wide pipeline in the mountainous area of Lakpass south of Quetta, capital of Baluchistan province, police official Hamid Shakil said. No one was reported hurt, but the blast disrupted gas supplies to about 2,000 homes and businesses in Mastung and Kalat districts, Shakil said. There was no claim of responsibility, but authorities have blamed rebel Baluch tribesmen for similar attacks in the past on pipelines, gas fields, railroads and security forces in Baluchistan. Baluch rebels have waged an often violent campaign for a greater share of wealth obtained from natural resources, including gas and oil, extracted in their province. Today's explosion came amid widespread anger in the province over the Aug 26 killing of prominent tribal chief Nawab Akbar Bugti. Authorities have said Bugti died when his cave hideout collapsed during fighting between security forces and fighters loyal to the tribal chief. Bugti, accused by the government of leading anti-government attacks in Baluchistan, was buried in a state-managed ceremony in his home town of Dera Bugti on Friday (Sep 1).

#### PHILIPPINES

Manila, Sep 4 — Six Philippine marines and eight Muslim rebels were killed and dozens more were wounded in the heaviest day of fighting in the latest campaign to flush out Islamic extremists from a remote southwestern island. A senior military official said today that troops stormed a mountainous area on Jolo island, where leaders of the Abu Sayyaf group and two Indonesians suspected of carrying out the 2002 Bali bombings, were believed to be hiding. Abu Sayyaf's leader, Khaddafy Janjalani, is suspected of sheltering Umar Patek and Dulmatin, Indonesian members of the regional group Jemaah Islamiah, which is seeking an Islamic superstate in parts of Southeast Asia. "We believed that we had struck the main Abu Sayyaf group," Major-General Eugenio Cedo told reporters. "We were told the high-value targets such as Khaddafy Janjalani, Umar Patek, Dulmatin, Radullan Saheron and Abu Solaiman were in the group that we've

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

encountered." Colonel Allan Luga, an officer at the military command centre in Manila, said six soldiers died and 21 were wounded in nearly three hours of fighting. Eight rebels were killed and 56 were wounded as helicopter gunships fired rockets at their hideout, forcing them to flee deeper into the mountains, Luga said. It was the worst single day for fatalities since last November when a previous offensive on Jolo killed nine soldiers and at least 12 rebels. Manila will this week resume peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the largest of four Muslim rebel groups in the southern Philippines, to try and end an insurgency that has killed more than 120,000 people in nearly four decades. — Reuters.

**SOMALIA**

Baidoa, Sep 4 — Gunmen loyal to Somalia's interim government battled local militias in its temporary capital of Baidoa today, in clashes that killed at least five gunmen and wounded seven, officials and witnesses said. Fierce gunbattles broke out near the airport as 100 policemen fought local militiamen who set up road-blocks to extract money from travellers. Many wounded militiamen said they had not been paid and were given the green light by local authorities to collect "taxes". Today's fighting and the fatal shooting of a minister in July in Baidoa have raised concerns about the ability of President Abdullahi Yusuf's government to secure its own base. The fractious administration is already under pressure from rival Islamists who seized Mogadishu from U.S.-backed warlords in June and now control huge swathes of southern Somalia. — Reuters.



**Labour Disputes**

**BANGLADESH**

Karachi, Sep 4 — Bangladesh Biman Sammilita Sangram BBSS), comprising 11 associations and unions of state owned airlines-Biman, including Bangladesh Airline Pilots' Association (BAPA), has announced suspension of flights on the Syedpur, Rajshahi, Barisal and Cox's Bazaar routes from Sep 5 and on all the domestic routes from Sep 6, if their demands for uninterrupted salary and allowances are not met by the time. They through local media also threatened to stop the ground handling of both international and domestic airlines at all the airports of the country from Sep 7. Meanwhile, Biman Managing Director MA Momen has requested the government to take necessary steps and resolve the issues. It is said for the last two months, payment of salary for all staff has been irregular, and employees such as pilots have not been paid their allowances. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**BRAZIL**

London, Sep 1 — Workers at Volkswagen's oldest and largest Brazilian factory decided today to extend a strike until Monday (Sep 4), when they will decide whether to mount more protests over planned layoffs of 1,800 employees. The strike began Tuesday after workers started receiving pink slips as part of Volkswagen AG's plan to restructure its Brazilian operations. Workers are showing up for their shifts, but don't do any work in what union leaders are calling a "strike of occupation." Volkswagen has said the plant in Sao Bernardo do Campo, an industrial suburb of Sao Paulo, is unprofitable because of its high labour costs. The factory has 12,000 employees, 9,000 of whom work on production lines that turn out about 900 cars daily. Brazilian media reported today that the strike is starting to affect production at some of the company's four other Brazilian plants, because the factory in Sao Bernardo de Campo also makes parts used at the other units. VW said, however, that it would send workers at several other plants on paid leave to reduce production because of excess vehicle inventory.

Sao Paulo, Sep 4 — Workers at Volkswagen AG's biggest Brazilian plant ended a strike today after the German company agreed to reevaluate plans to cut 1,800 jobs, officials from the labor union at the factory and the automaker told Reuters. Production was returning to normal as representatives from both sides entered a new round of negotiations about the jobs. Workers at the Sao Bernardo do Campo car plant, which employs 12,000, downed tools last week after Volkswagen announced a round of layoffs and a possible plant closure. A one-day warning strike over planned layoffs at Volkswagen's three passenger car plants in May resulted in 2,500 vehicles not being produced. — Reuters.

**CHILE**

London, Sep 1 — A pres report, dated today, states: A strike at the world's largest privately-owned copper mine has ended after workers voted in a secret ballot. Union members at Chile's Escondida mine accepted new contracts, so ending a 25-day dispute, but it will take up to a week for full production to resume. Workers voted more than 13 to one to accept a new 40-month contract, with a five percent wage rise and a \$17,000 bonus. The new contract also provides health and education benefits for members, said a union official. The union said 1,607 workers voted to accept the deal, with 121 voting against. During the strike, with production down to about 40%, the mine was losing about \$16m every day, said company officials. Union president Luis Troncoso said that both he and the workers were satisfied with the outcome and that the contract would be signed today. The miners are expected to return to work tomorrow, though full production is unlikely to be reached until the end of next week.

In a statement, Escondida said it was "convinced that the final result of this large process will prove beneficial to both sides".

**INDIA**

New Delhi, Sep 4 — About 45,000 oil workers in India will strike indefinitely from the early hours tomorrow, affecting the country's crude oil production, refining and supplies, a top union official said today. "Our talks with the government have failed and we are going ahead with our strike," Ashok Singh, convener of the Oil Sector Officer's Association, said. The government said it had contingency plans ready to counter any problems arising out the proposed strike. — Reuters.



**MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE, AUSTRALIA**

London, Sep 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A 10-year-old boy left with cerebral palsy after a Queensland public hospital bungled his birth has been awarded \$5.3 million in compensation, the state's largest ever personal injury payout. Christopher Hills, who is confined to a wheelchair and will be totally dependent on others for the rest of his life, was brought into Supreme Court Justice Phil McMurdo's Brisbane courtroom yesterday afternoon to hear the announcement. The \$5,390,397 figure includes \$2.9 million to cover Christopher's future care needs, \$215,000 towards therapeutic equipment and \$519,000 to compensate him for future income loss. Also of significance was the awarding of \$220,000 in general damages, believed to be the highest amount of general damages awarded in Queensland to date under the current Act. The State of Queensland, which ran the Toowoomba Hospital and employed the relevant staff involved in Christopher's June, 1996 birth, had previously admitted negligence in his birth, which was the cause of his cerebral palsy. The boy's birth involved an emergency caesarean section following foetal cardiac arrest. He suffered brain damage which left him with permanent cerebral palsy, according to the judgment. Christopher has no intellectual disability and boasts an average to above-average IQ but suffers from significant physical limitations including an inability to stand or sit unsupported. He has no functional hand use, meaning he is unable to feed himself and has severely impaired speech. He is entirely dependent on others for everyday activities such as bathing, dressing and movement.

## Railway Accidents



### AMERSFOORT, NETHERLANDS

London, Sep 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Ten people were injured when a shunter locomotive and a commuter train collided in Amersfoort station this morning. The drivers of the trains suffered cuts to their faces while eight passengers were also taken to hospital with various complaints including back and neck injuries, a spokesperson for the Railway Police said. The passenger train, destined for Alkmaar, was leaving Amersfoort Station in the central Netherlands when it collided with the other locomotive. Both were badly damaged but the track emerged relatively unscathed as the engines had not picked up speed when the accident occurred. It caused delays on the line from Amersfoort to Amsterdam and Schiphol Airport. Services will return to normal once the damaged trains are removed from the track, network manager ProRail said. An investigation has been launched.

### BENNETT AREA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

London, Sep 5 — A press report, dated Sep 4, states: A Yukon man was killed and three rail workers injured after a train derailment in northern British Columbia on the White Pass railway. Just after 1300 yesterday, a working train carrying the four employees went off the rails between Log Cabin and Bennett, on the BC section of the line. Gary Danielson, president of the White Pass and Yukon Route Railroad, said the cause of the accident was not known. The train, consisting of a locomotive and eight cars loaded with gravel, was heading north towards Bennett when it derailed. Bruce Harder, a 45-year-old heavy equipment operator from Carcross, died in the accident. Transport Canada is investigating.

### CHAOHU, ANHUI PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A cargo train derailed in Chaohu, East China's Anhui Province at about 2300, yesterday near the Shaohu Castine Factory CO. Ltd. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

### CHITTAGONG AREA, BANGLADESH

Karachi, Sep 4 — Three bogies of a Dhaka-bound goods train of Bangladesh Railway, derailed between Fouzderhat and Chittagong Port yard in southern Bangladesh at about 0715, yesterday. Railway and local sources said three bogies of the train, two with oil and one with general cargoes, went off the tracks while the train was

crossing the area. However, the cause of the derailment is yet to be ascertained. A relief train from the Pahartali Depot recovered the bogies at about 6.35 pm while train services to and from Chittagong port were not hampered as the spot of the mishap is part of the exclusive train line for carrying cargoes to and from the Chittagong Port through the main Dhaka-Chittagong rail track. An inquiry committee to probe the accident was formed. — Lloyd's List Correspondent

### FAUJDERHAT AREA, BANGLADESH

Karachi, Sep 7 — Another Dhaka-bound cargo train of Bangladesh Rail carrying containers from Chittagong Port derailed in country disturbing communications in southern part. Media reported that traffic stopped between Chittagong and Dhaka and a few other destinations after three bogies of a cargo train derailed near Fauzderhat Railway Station around 0900, Sep 6. Later, a rescue team reached the spot and cleared the track in evening. The accident forced the railway authorities to cancel the schedule of Dhaka-bound Karnaphuli Express and Chandpur-bound Meghna Express. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

### PHRAE PROVINCE, THAILAND

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: At least three people were injured and a driver was missing yesterday after a passenger train derailed in northern Thailand, police and railway officials said. The first carriage of the train from northern tourist spot Chiang Mai to Bangkok came off the rails and plunged into a river in Phrae province, some 500 km north of the capital. "At least one driver was missing and also three people were injured. But we have no further information," a police official in the province said. Railway officials also confirmed the accident but gave no further details. Hospital officials said the three people were slightly injured. Police could not say how many passengers were on the train at the time of the accident.

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescuers are searching for an engine driver and an assistant after a northern line State Railway of Thailand passenger train ploughed into a landslide covering the tracks and plunged into the Yom River in Phrae Province. Continuing heavy rains led to the rain-soaked mountainside above the railway line giving way, and the slide covered the railline right-of-way, leading to the accident. While some were injured as most of the passengers were earlier transferred to another train in Lampang Province, only the engineer and a technician were positively identified as being missing, pending further information from the authorities. Landslides blocking roads delayed the arrival of a rescue team, including divers searching for those missing. Train service from Uttaradit

to Chiang Mai has been temporarily closed due to rail line blockages in several areas.

### SHIBIN AL-QANATER AREA, EGYPT

Cairo, Sep 4 — An Egyptian passenger train and a freight train collided head-on north of Cairo today, killing at least two people and injuring 16 others, security sources said. One security source and Arab satellite television station Al Jazeera reported that as many as five people had died, but other security sources put the death toll at two, including the driver of one of the trains. Rescuers were still searching the wreckage for more casualties, the sources said. The crash occurred in the town of Shibin al-Qanater, 30 km north of the Egyptian capital. There was no immediate word on the cause of the crash, but security sources said the trains were travelling in opposite directions on the same track and collided head-on. — Reuters.

## Robberies & Thefts



### PAINTINGS, NORWAY

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated Aug 31, states: Two masterpieces by artist Edvard Munch have been recovered two years after they were stolen from an Oslo museum. The Scream and Madonna were found in a police operation. "We are 100% certain they are the originals. The damage was much less than feared," police said. They had been missing since two armed men ripped them from the wall and threatened staff at the Munch Museum in the Norwegian capital in August 2004. Three men were found guilty of charges relating to the theft in May. The artworks will now be examined by experts to establish what effect their two-year disappearance has had on their condition. Mr Stensrud said no reward had been paid but would not give details of how the paintings were recovered. Police said no new arrests had been made and the two gunmen remain at large.

## Miscellaneous



### OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

Cairo, Sep 4 — Egypt has detected four new cases of bird flu in poultry, the first infections found in two months, officials said today. Three of the cases were found late last week in so-called "backyard", or domestically bred, poultry in the Egyptian capital while a fourth was detected in a village near the southern city of Sohag, an agriculture ministry official

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

said. Bird flu infected 14 Egyptians, killing six, between March and May after the virus first surfaced in Egyptian poultry in February. The vast majority of Egyptian commercial poultry flocks have been vaccinated, while 20 percent of domestic birds had received vaccines, the agriculture ministry official said. Most of the people infected in Egypt became ill after coming into contact with "backyard" birds, officials said. Egypt has culled 30 million birds since February to contain the virus. An official from the Food and Agriculture Organisation said the expected onset of cooler weather in the autumn could still cause a flare-up of cases in poultry, and urged increased surveillance accompanied by a fair compensation scheme. Officials said Egypt detected the four new poultry cases during a surveillance and testing campaign, stepped up in recent weeks, that included random checks on domestic poultry. — Reuters.

Jakarta, Sep 7 — A 14-year-old Indonesian girl who died in June was infected with bird flu, health officials said today. The case took a long time to identify because it was from blood samples taken during routine surveillance of people with mild influenza symptoms. Health Minister Siti Fadilah Supari said tests on the girl's blood sample were completed late yesteryday. "It turned out positive," Supari told reporters, adding chickens had died in the neighbourhood where she lived in Makassar, the capital of South Sulawesi province. The fatality takes Indonesia's confirmed death toll from bird flu to 47, the highest in the world. The Indonesian government has so far refused to conduct mass culling of poultry, citing the expense and logistical difficulties in capturing and killing millions of backyard fowl. The agriculture ministry said this week it would begin vaccinating about 300 million poultry next month against bird flu, with 60 million poultry targeted in the three months to December. A nationwide campaign to improve public awareness was also launched last week as officials warned that the threat from the disease was likely to increase when the wet season starts in October. — Reuters.

#### **OUTBREAK OF VIRUS ON BERMUDA FLAG VESSEL**

London, Sep 6 — A press report, dated Sep 5, states: A vomiting virus on passenger (cruise) *Sea Princess* (77499 gt, built 1998) is reported to have affected up to 200 of the 2,258 passengers onboard. The cruise will now end one day early, with the vessel returning to Southampton on Friday (Sep 8) and miss out the intended destination of Lisbon, to allow extra time to disinfect the vessel. A 30% refund has been offered to the 2,258 passengers and Princess Cruises says only 15 people are still sick. The vessel departed from Southampton on Sep 2, for a seven-night cruise to Guernsey, France, Portugal and Spain. The virus is suspected to be the Norovirus,

which is a common cause of stomach bugs and lasts 48 hours. Princess Cruises said there had been a smaller outbreak on the last two days of the vessel's previous cruise but it does not believe the two outbreaks are linked. Passengers were informed of the first outbreak when they got to their cabins on Saturday (Sep 2), when a precautionary health notice through their door advised of widespread "Norovirus activity". One passenger said: "They are decontaminating cabins now but they should have done this before we got on when the ship was empty." Sick passengers must stay in their rooms for the two-day period of illness, and extra medical staff were joining the ship tomorrow. As well as the 30% refund, passengers have been offered a £150 discount on future voyages.



#### **CHEMICAL FACTORY, KARACHI, PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Sep 6 — A fire broke out in a privately owned chemical factory in SITE, industrial area in Karachi, Sindh Province of Pakistan on Tuesday night (Sep 5). According to central fire brigade, the fire erupted in a tin foil packing factory where huge quantities of chemicals and plastic were also stored. A large numbers of fire fighting vehicles took part in operation. It took more than 12 hours to completely extinguish the fire, a spokesman of fire brigade department said and added during which a fireman was injured when the roof of the factory collapsed. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **COAL MINE, DHANBAD AREA, INDIA**

Dhanbad, Sep 7 — At least 54 miners were feared dead in eastern India after the roof of a state-owned coal mine collapsed following an explosion, a mine official said today. The incident took place in the Dhanbad district of the eastern state of Jharkhand late yesterday. As many as 57 miners had entered the mine in the western Jharia area, about 170 km north of state capital Ranchi, when a blast to open up a new mining area caused the roof collapse, releasing deadly methane gas, the official said. "This is an unprecedented situation and the chances of their survival are zero," Partha Bhattacharya, chairman of Bharat Coking Coal Limited, told Reuters. "The miners were working at a depth of 460 metres when the explosion and the gas leak reduced the oxygen level to almost zero," Bhattacharya, whose state-run firm owns the mine, said. Rescue operations were launched overnight, but Bhattacharya said rescuers had only been able to get past level three of the 18-level mine. The 54 miners

were believed to be trapped in the last level. Rescuers said a fire in the mine, triggered by the blast, had made their task tougher. Three miners who were rescued complained of severe breathlessness. — Reuters.

#### **FOREST, CHINA**

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Smoke billowed upwards as a forest fire was spreading rapidly through the parched timberlands of Chongqing Municipality on Aug 31. More than 4,000 people have been mobilized to fight the fire which began at 1300 hrs in Yakou Village, 40 km north-east of downtown Chongqing. It soon spread to neighbouring areas, ravaging 66 hectares of forest. The cause of the fire was still unclear, but the prolonged drought has contributed to its spread, said firefighter.

#### **GOLD MINE, CHITA REGION, SIBERIA, RUSSIA**

Moscow, Sep 7 — Fire broke out yesterday at a gold mine in Russia's Eastern Siberia owned by London-listed Highland Gold Mining, trapping up to 19 workers underground, Russia's Emergencies Ministry said. A ministry spokeswoman said that altogether 48 people were in the gold mine in the Chita region, bordering China, when the fire erupted at a depth of 85 to 135 metres. Rescue workers safely evacuated 29 of them. "Yes, it's our mine," said a Highland Gold spokeswoman. She could not immediately give more details. — Reuters.

#### **PREMISES, LAHORE, PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Sep 6 — A big fire broke out in a multi-storey plaza located on Gulberg's Main Boulevard, in Lahore city, in Punjab Province of Pakistan on Tuesday (Sep 5). As a result office furniture, computers and other equipment worth millions of rupees were burnt to ashes. According central fire brigade, the fire that erupted at the City Towers' eighth floor at 0730 was put out by the fire brigade and Rescue 1122 after four hours' struggle. The cause of the fire could not be ascertained, but the owner puts the blame on short-circuiting in the server room of a textile group's office in the 13-storey building. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **REFINERY, SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Sep 5 — South African miner Lonmin Plc said today it had shut its precious metal refinery after a minor fire and that it expected to need five to seven days to recover full operations. Lonmin said the incident, in which there were no injuries, would result in the deferring of up to 25,000 ounces of platinum sales for 2006 into the first quarter of the 2007 financial year. — Reuters.

#### **REFINERY, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 5 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A fire broke out yesterday afternoon at Citgo



Petroleum Corp.'s refinery. Citgo spokesman Shawn Trahan said the fire started in the "Tier 2" system of the refinery after 1600, yesterday. Air monitoring was conducted to gauge any off-site impact, and none was detected, Citgo reported. The company said there were no injuries to refinery workers. The company has not released any other information, including the cause of the fire.

**WAREHOUSE, FINKSBURG, MARYLAND, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 7 — A press report, dated Sep 6, states: Damage was estimated at \$3 million from the three-alarm fire that destroyed a fiberglass insulation warehouse in Finksburg, the state fire marshal's office said yesterday. A short in a damaged electrical cable ignited the fire yesterday morning on the first floor of Cary Insulation in the 2900 block of Dede Road, off Route 140, Deputy State Fire Marshal W. Faron Taylor said. The fire caused no injuries.

**WAREHOUSE, SOUTH WOODFORD, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Workers were evacuated and roads sealed off as up to £1m worth of polyester fabric went up in flames at a South Woodford warehouse. A toxic plume rose hundreds of metres into the sky over Redbridge as 75 firefighters from across east London battled to control the blaze at Zaftex Textiles, on the Raven Road industrial estate. The alarm was raised at 1550, Aug 30, as the fire took hold and ash-covered employees emerged from the inferno. Company boss Farouk Randera said that half-a-million yards of stock might have been destroyed as well as most of the three-storey building and half of its roof. Neither the business nor the contents of the warehouse were insured. He said: "From what the fire people say it was accidental. It could have been a cigarette or it could be an electrical fault, but I think that's unlikely." Fifteen fire engines, including a major incident unit and a scientific support unit, battled to bring the blaze under control. Mr Randera has owned the company since 1982 and said he hopes to have the warehouse back up and running by Christmas, but did not know if he would have to lay-off staff. It will take a week or two to clear the debris. Firefighters managed to get the blaze under control by 2200 hrs and the cause of the blaze is now under investigation. Mr Randera said: "I had a no smoking rule in the warehouse because it's polyester fabric which will burn."

**WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated Aug 31, states: A wildfire has burned 20 houses and 15 other buildings and continued to spread in southern Montana, officials said today. The wildfire was about 156,000 acres, or about 244 square miles. Fire

officials had issued evacuation orders for about 500 homes in Stillwater and Sweet Grass counties. Two private bridges across the Stillwater River also were destroyed. Authorities said they didn't know when people would be able to return to their homes. Numerous risks remained, including downed power lines and burned trees that could fall at any time. Officials were bringing in the National Guard to staff road blocks. The Red Cross set up a shelter at the county fairgrounds in Columbus, about 36 miles southeast of Big Timber. Temperatures were cooler today, but winds were gusting to 20 mph. Authorities said conditions were improving. Weather conditions were better at a wildfire in Washington. Wet and cool weather helped slow the growth of a large wildfire in southeastern Washington and winds spawned by a cold front helped push some smaller fires back on themselves, but a windy forecast may make the reprieve short-lived. The 76,000-acre fire complex in the Blue Mountains was 20 percent contained, and 1,175 firefighters were on at the scene, but a warmer, drier weather forecast, with highs rising into the 90s by Sunday (Sep 3), could refuel the blaze. In California, firefighters made progress today in battling a 2,000-acre wildfire in the San Bernardino National Forest. About 1,230 firefighters took advantage of mild winds and an increase in humidity overnight by building lines and setting backfires. The blaze was 60 percent contained this morning, with full containment predicted by early tomorrow evening.

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters hoped to fully surround a 2,000-acre blaze in the San Bernardino National Forest by tonight after gaining significant ground with the help of mild winds and higher humidity. The Emerald Fire was 75% contained last night. A two-day mandatory evacuation of Mountain Home Village was lifted and Highway 38, which runs through town, was reopened. The evacuation of a nearby Christian camp also was lifted. The favourable conditions helped the some 1,230 firefighters on the blaze build lines and set backfires to burn out 6-foot-high chaparral. Air tankers and helicopters also were working over the steep terrain. Four firefighters had been injured. Since breaking out Tuesday (Aug 29), the fire has scorched an area equal to 3 square miles. Authorities said the fire was caused by "illegal and negligent" target shooting in the nearby town of Highland. No arrests have been made.

London, Sep 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire crews battled to contain a wind-whipped wildfire in south-central Montana that has spread across 180,000 acres and burned 26 homes. The fire made a late evening run on its west side, prompting evacuation orders for homes in the Susie Creek area south of Big Timber, said Gwen Shaffer, a fire information officer. "We had crews in that area and they were close to

buttoning things up there when the winds came up and the fire just took off," she said late yesterday. "We're sending additional crews and they'll be working through the night." The fire is classified as the nation's No.1 firefighting priority. Risk to people and property, and the potential for a fire's growth, are among the factors considered in establishing the rankings. They influence the allocation of crews and equipment. There have been no reports of death caused by the fire, which has burned more than 281 square miles, nor reports of major injury to people. The fire, about 15 miles south of Big Timber, began with lightning August 22 and has led to evacuation alerts for dozens of homes. The National Guard yesterday continued to staff roadblocks restricting access to the fire area. Other Montana fires burning yesterday included three fires in the Gallatin Mountains west of Emigrant. Together they had burned almost 18,000 acres, or over 28 square miles. In Nevada, wildfires that have scorched hundreds of square miles of prime habitat has prompted an emergency antelope hunt and relocation of unprecedented scope, state officials said. Nevada Department of Wildlife officials authorized a special hunt of 200 antelope and the relocation of up to 350 others after determining the blackened rangeland is unable to support the herd of more than 1,000 animals northwest of Elko, about 290 miles east of Reno. Nevada ranks second nationwide behind only Texas in the amount of land charred by wildfires this year - 1.13 million acres, or 1,777 square miles, according to the National Interagency Fire Council.

**WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES & CANADA**

London, Sep 5 — A press report, dated Sep 4, states: Thick smoke is hindering efforts to fight the blazing forest fire that has spread across the border from Washington state into British Columbia. The Tatoosh fire reached Canada yesterday and is burning between Manning and Cathedral Parks, just south of the town of Princeton, B.C. American and Canadian fire crews have joined forces to attack the blaze with air and ground crews. But the dense smoke and remote terrain has made it impossible to fight the fire with water. Instead, fire crews are hoping a ditch will stop the fire's advance. Fire information officer Radha Fisher said the fire measures approximately 1,000 hectares on the Canadian side of the border. The fire is burning in the Pasayten wilderness area, which stretches along the U.S. border, and is not yet threatening any communities or structures. The closest structure is about 5 kilometers away from the fire. Although fire officials have not issued an evacuation notice, the people of the small community of East Gate, on the perimeter of Manning Park, are preparing for the possibility. Meanwhile, other residents are

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

actually heading to their cabins to try to protect their properties as best they can. Smoke is currently the main concern and locals are urged to contact fire officials if smoke is becoming a problem. The smoke covers much of the southern B.C. Interior and the east end of the Fraser Valley. Another larger fire, known as the Tripod Complex fire, in Washington state is burning 6 kilometres from the B.C. border. It has been sending a steady stream of smoke into Canada. Ignited by lightning on July 24, the fire is being fuelled by heavy timber and debris.

London, Sep 5 — A press report, dated today, states: The fate of two British Columbia parks threatened by forest fires is riding on the wind. The southeasterly breezes that have blown heavy smoke into B.C. from Washington state have been keeping B.C. firefighters grounded in the battle against a fire that crossed the border on the weekend. Jeanne Rucker, fire information officer for the B.C. Forest Service, estimated Monday (Sep 5) that the Tatoosh fire now burning halfway between Manning Park and Cathedral Park at 1,600 hectares. Both parks abut the US border several hours east of Vancouver. Rucker said a fire management team is currently based in Princeton, 250 kilometres east of Vancouver, while another team is being set up in Oliver, another 90 kilometres east, to deal with the massive Tripod fire, about five kilometres south of the border. Rucker, who drove through Merritt, 75 kilometres south of Kamloops on Monday morning, labelled the smoky conditions in the valleys as "horrific." The smoke was so bad Sunday night that the pilot of an Air Canada Airbus 321 with 83 passengers took the unusual step of declaring an emergency landing when smoke was detected in the cabin of Flight 149, from Toronto.

London, Sep 6 — A press report, dated Sep 5, states: Firefighters made some headway against an enormous wildfire that chased hundreds of residents from their homes, but officials cautioned on today that it was far from being contained. The fire, in south-central Montana, has burned 26 homes, blackened more than 280 square miles and was classified as the nation's No 1 firefighting priority. "We're still working on this thing on all fronts," said Dixie Dees, a fire information officer. Crews were able to build additional fire lines around the blaze yesterday when the wind did not pick up as feared. Eight aircraft dumped 14,000 gallons of fire retardant, and a fleet of about seven helicopters dumped 190,000 gallons of water, said Allison Jackson, another fire information officer. The fire, started by lightning on Aug 22, was estimated at 25% contained today, authorities said. About 265 homes were evacuated in just a few hours on Sunday night (Sep 3) on the western flank of the fast-moving blaze, said Kelly O'Connell, Sweetgrass County

disaster and emergency services coordinator. Fire officials feared that wind and higher temperatures this week would create extreme fire conditions. Firefighters in Washington state were still battling fires that have charred more than 270,000 acres, or nearly 422 square miles. "Red flag" warnings for low humidity and gusty wind were in effect today in north-central Washington for a group of wildfires that had blackened more than 32,000 acres in a wilderness area north and south of the town of Mazama. Part of the fire had crossed the border into Canada, covering nearly four square miles between Manning and Cathedral provincial parks, about 125 miles east of Vancouver. Up to two dozen new wildfires started by lightning in northeast Nevada on Sunday and yesterday had spread across more than 117,000 acres of rangeland by today. "Resources are stretched thin all over the West and it's going to be a big problem getting help," fire information officer June McMillen said from Elko, NV. The three biggest Nevada fires threatened scattered ranches and had destroyed at least one barn, but no housing areas were in danger, McMillen said. In Southern California, a wildfire raced over at least one square mile of steep, rugged terrain in the Los Padres National Forest, prompting hundreds of campers and fly fishermen to evacuate a recreation area. The fire broke out yesterday about 10 miles north-west of Castaic. There was no immediate threat to homes. (See issue of Sep 6.)

London, Sep 7 — A press report, dated Sep 6, states: After being grounded by smoke for a day, firefighting helicopters returned to work today, pouring water on a nearly 290-square-mile wildfire in Montana that had destroyed 26 homes and forced hundreds to evacuate. A small fleet of helicopters and airplanes that had been dumping tens of thousands of gallons of water and fire retardant each day was briefly pulled off the fire yesterday because of the low visibility, said fire information officer David Daniels. The aircraft were back on duty by late afternoon and the helicopters returned today. Ground crews, meanwhile, made gains on the blaze, increasing containment to 45% by this morning, said Joan Dickerson, a fire information officer. They were still struggling to contain advancing flames on the fire's north-west corner, though. "That's the piece we're trying to hold onto again today and secure that corner," she said. "If we can get through that today, things are going to look pretty good." Because of the fire, the state Department of Environmental Quality said air quality in Bozeman and in the fire area was "very unhealthy." Schools moved some athletic practices inside. People with asthma were having flare-ups. The lightning-sparked blaze had been spreading mostly to the east and the north before a wind shift last week sent firefighters and equipment scrambling back to the fire's western

edge. About 265 homes were evacuated Sunday night (Sep 3) on the fire's western flank, although fire information officer Dave Daniels said firefighters appeared to have prevented any homes from being damaged. About 840 people evacuated earlier along the eastern edge were allowed to return late Monday. In Washington state, 10 large, active fires have blackened nearly 468 square miles. The largest of those, north-east of Winthrop, had covered more than 161,000 acres, or about 251 square miles, and was 56% contained. That fire was within a mile of the Canadian border. A separate 32,000-acre fire crossed the border into British Columbia, about 125 miles east of Vancouver. An evacuation alert was issued to an undetermined number of residents "to get people ready in case they do have to leave on short notice," said Mary Ann Leach of the Kamloops Fire Centre in British Columbia. Elsewhere, Nevada fire officials were hampered by a lack of resources in their battle against a new round of wildfires that had blackened 217,000 acres, or 339 square miles, by today. Dry lightning touched off up to two dozen new blazes Sunday and Monday across the region, fire information officer June McMillen said from Elko. One Nevada blaze, which had covered 110,000 acres near Battle Mountain, swept past a small gold mine without causing any major damage. "It was an underground mine and the miners just hunkered down underground as the fire moved by," McMillen said. In Southern California, a wildfire had spread across 1,700 acres of brush in steep, rugged terrain in the Los Padres National Forest. On Monday, the fire had prompted hundreds of campers and fishermen to evacuate a nearby recreation area. No homes or other structures were threatened.



**9N-ACR**

London, Sep 4 — A press report, dated today, states: An Air Dynasty helicopter carrying cargo crashed at Dhaulagiri Base Camp yesterday morning. The five-seater helicopter was carrying cargo to the base camp with only the pilot, Hira Babu Dahal, on board. According to the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal, the chopper (9N-ACR, AS-350) had left Pokhara at 0736 hrs and it had skidded while landing at 14,000 feet at 0800 hrs. According to the CAAN, a three-member technical team has left for Pokhara for preliminary investigation.

**ACCIDENT, MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A jet's landing

gear caught fire on the runway at Miami International Airport after two tires blew out during landing, officials said. No one was injured, and the fire was quickly extinguished. US Airways Flight 431 was arriving from Charlotte, NC, with 113 passengers and five crew members when it blew two tires on the runway shortly before noon, airline spokesman Morgan Durrant said. A small fire ignited in one of the blown-out tires, Durrant said. The passengers and crew escaped using inflatable slides from the plane's exits, then waited in a grassy area near the runway. Helicopter footage showed the flames extinguished and the plane surrounded by white foam. Passenger Jenna Kettenburg, 25, of Trenton, NJ, said that the landing was normal at first but suddenly became rough. "It was real jagged and shaky," she said. The plane's oxygen masks came down and passengers were told to evacuate on the slides.

#### **C-GFWF**

London, Sep 6 — On Sep 2, the Discovery Helicopters Ltd Bell 206L-1 (C-GFWF) helicopter was picking up a group of kayakers at the confluence of the Tulsequah and Taku rivers, about 60 nautical miles south of Atlin, BC. A sling load of about 700 pounds of gear on the river bank was attached to the long line before a decision was made to return the passengers to the Tulsequah Chief Exploration mine camp before flying their gear out. The helicopter took off with four of the passengers but crashed into the river when it came to the end of the long line which had remained attached to the aircraft. Two passengers received minor injuries and the helicopter was destroyed.

#### **CRASH, CONNERSVILLE AREA, INDIANA, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A man was killed yesterday when a small plane he was piloting crashed onto farmland near Connersville, authorities said. The crash happened at about 1500 hrs, in the 6000 block of West County Road North. Witnesses reported hearing the plane stall and then watched it dive nose-first into the ground, authorities said. The pilot's name was not immediately released. He died instantly of massive internal injuries, Fayette County Coroner Joe Todd said. The aircraft belonged to the man, Fayette County sheriff's Deputy Billy Wayson said.

#### **CRASH, DUXFORD, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Sep 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A plane has crashed on take-off close to the Imperial War Museum Duxford, near Cambridge. The privately-owned T-33 training jet went down on the Royston side of the airfield this afternoon. Two people escaped from the wreckage. A museum spokesman said both crew members were "fine". The cause is not known.

US-built T-33s first flew in March 1948 but continued to be used to train pilots into the 1980s.

#### **CRASH, FUNGURUME AREA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

London, Sep 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Three foreigners and a Congolese pilot died yesterday after the private plane they were travelling in crashed in the Democratic Republic of Congo, said airport officials. One official said the passengers were two South Africans and an American. Another official, Gustave Ngeleka, said: "According to our information, there were four people on board, three of them foreigners. There were no survivors." Ngeleka said the plane, which belonged to the DRC airline ITAB, appeared to have hit an overhead power cable shortly after taking off from Fungurume, a mining area 200km northwest of Lubumbashi. The plane had taken off at 1700 hrs, in the direction of Lubumbashi, capital of the mineral-rich Katanga province in southeastern DRC. ITAB was one of 50 other DRC airlines on a European Union blacklist of about 100 air companies banned from flying in EU airspace.

#### **CRASH, MARSHALL BRANCH CREEK AREA, KENTUCKY, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 4 — A press report, dated Sep 3, states: The pilot of a Cessna 150 was found dead today in the mountains of eastern Kentucky after a day of searches that commenced when a witness notified police that he had seen an aircraft clip some trees and crash. Authorities located the aircraft's wreckage at around 1615 hrs. It went down near the Marshall Branch Creek in the Shelby Gap, which is close to the border between Pike and Floyd Counties. The pilot was the only person on board, said Phillip Thacker, a dispatcher with the Pike County Sheriff's Department. The pilot's identity, along with the aircraft's departure point and destination, were unknown. Airports in the region reported yesterday that they were not missing any aircraft.

#### **CRASH, MASHHAD, IRAN**

London, Sep 4 — A press report, dated today, states: An Iranian Tupolev Tu-154 passenger aircraft skidded off the runway while landing on Friday (Sep 1) and raked its wing along the ground, sparking a fire that killed 29 of the 148 people on board. Rescue workers in the north-eastern city of Mashhad carried survivors of the crash on stretchers out of the gutted aircraft, which lay in a pool of water near the runway with its middle charred and its roof collapsed. Iranian television showed firefighters spraying the engines with water. "The plane was shaking badly during the landing, then it suddenly lurched to the left," one survivor, Sahar Karimi, said by telephone from a hospital in Mashhad.

State television reported that a tyre exploded as the aircraft landed, but a spokesman for Iran's Civil Aviation Organisation, Reza Jafarzadeh, said investigators had not confirmed that and it was still not clear what caused the aircraft to slide off the runway. The flight by Iran Airtour, which is affiliated with Iran's national air carrier, was arriving from Bandar Abbas on Iran's southern coast when the accident occurred.

#### **CRASH, MOUNT VERNON STATION, PERTH, AUSTRALIA**

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people have been killed and three others injured in a light aircraft crash in Western Australia's Gascoyne region. The Cessna 172 crashed at the remote Mount Vernon Station, 1,000 km north of Perth, early this afternoon. A man and an 18-month-old girl died. The 40-year-old male pilot, a 59-year-old woman and a three-year-old girl survived. Dr Stephen Langford from the Royal Flying Doctor Service says it is understood the survivors injuries are not life threatening. "It's been there since about 1400, AWST, and they've been extracting the survivors and taking them to the nearby air strip." The injured will be flown to Perth this evening. Dr Langford says it is believed all five on board were related. At this stage the cause of the crash is not known.

#### **CRASH, OCALA AREA, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people were killed yesterday night when their plane crashed after take off in Marion County, Fla. Officials said the 1946 Luscombe plane had just taken off from a private grass airstrip along County Road 484 near Ocala when it crashed. Witnesses said the plane got about 80 feet off the ground when it appeared to lose power. The plane then slammed into the ground nose first. The names of the victims were not released.

#### **CRASH, SANDOWN, ISLE OF WIGHT, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Sep 5 — A press release from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, dated Sep 3, states: Solent Coastguard were alerted at just before 1600, this afternoon to a light aircraft which had crash landed in the shallows just off Sandown beach, just outside of the Sandown and Shanklin Inshore Lifeboat station on the Isle of Wight. The Bembridge Coastguard Rescue Team were immediately turned out and the Coastguard Rescue helicopter based at Lee on Solent was scrambled. The Bembridge RNLI inshore lifeboat was also requested to launch. The Isle of Wight Police were also on scene. It was soon established that the individuals from the aircraft had been recovered to the beach by members of the Sandown Inshore Rescue team and an ambulance was on its way. It later transpired that no medical treatment was required. Dave

Lee, Watch Officer at Solent Coastguard said: We have also been in touch with our colleagues at the Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination centre at Kinloss to inform them that the aircraft was taking part in a Schneider trophy event. It seems the crew could not make the airfield so had to make a controlled landing on the beach at Sandown. The wings are out of the water and there is no pollution. The Police have arranged for the Sandown Inshore Rescue tractor to tow the aircraft from the beach.

#### **CRASH, SPRINGVILLE AREA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 7 — A press report, dated Sep 6, states: A California Department of Forestry aircraft crashed in the Tulare County foothills this morning, killing the two people on board. The aircraft went down north-east of Springville. Reports indicated that CDF firefighters had been fighting a small forest fire in the area, but it was not known whether the aircraft was involved in battling that blaze. An investigation into the cause of the crash is ongoing.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, BOURNEMOUTH AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Aug 31 — The aircraft carrying the Wales squad from Cardiff to Prague for Saturday's match against the Czech Republic was forced to land at Bournemouth airport because of a cracked windscreen. The flight was aborted after 25 minutes with the captain reporting a loss of altitude because of the windscreen damage. The squad were expected to be delayed for around an hour before a replacement aircraft was found to continue the journey.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, FORT LAUDERDALE-HOLLYWOOD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A Beechcraft 1900, operated by Gulfstream International Airlines as Continental Connection Flight 9207 from the island of Eleuthera, made a safe emergency landing at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport yesterday after a tyre burst during takeoff from the Bahamas. No one was injured, officials said. It landed shortly after 1700 hrs. None of the 20 passengers or crew members on the flight were injured, airport spokesman Greg Meyer said. "Emergency crews were standing by and ready to go, but they weren't needed," Meyer said. Meyer said the tyre ruptured when the aircraft took off from Eleuthera.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, QUETTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Sep 5 — An Islamabad-bound Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight made an emergency landing at the Quetta International airport in Balochistan Province of

Pakistan yesterday evening due to some technical faults in the aircraft. The PIA flight PK-352 had taken off from the Quetta airport at its scheduled time for Islamabad, but after half an hour flying, the pilot felt some technical problems in the aircraft and informed the authorities concerned. The aircraft was flown back to Quetta. PIA sources told media the aircraft was carrying 118 passengers. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **EP-MCF**

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated today, states: An Iranian Russian-built Tupolev passenger aircraft caught fire after its tyre burst on landing at an airport in Iran's north-eastern city of Mashhad today, killing at least 80 people, state television and officials said. State television said 147 people were on board and put the death toll at 80. A civil aviation official said 148 people were on the state-owned Iranairtour aircraft but did not give a death toll. Television pictures showed a broken-up aircraft, parts of its fuselage charred, lying on the side of the runway. Firefighters were shown trying to extinguish the fire in the smouldering wreck. An Iranairtour official confirmed the incident involved one of its aircraft but gave no details. The aircraft caught fire at 1345 hrs, 1015 GMT. State television said the aircraft slipped off the side of the runway when a tyre burst on landing, and subsequently caught fire. State television said the aircraft was travelling from Bandar Abbas.

London, Sep 1 — Tupolev 154M, EP-MCF, operated by Iran Air Tour, 148 occupants, from Bandar Abbas Airport bound Mashad Airport, crashed on landing at Mashad Airport at about 1345, Sep 1. Aircraft written off.

London, Sep 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Landing Iranian passenger aircraft, Tupolev 154 EP-MCF, skidded off the runway, at Mashhad, Iran, yesterday, and raked its wing along the ground, sparking a fire that killed 29 of the 148 people on board. Rescue workers in the city of Mashhad carried survivors on stretchers out of the gutted aircraft, which lay in a pool of water near the runway with its middle charred and its roof collapsed. Iranian television footage showed firefighters spraying the engines with water. "The plane was shaking badly during the landing, then it suddenly lurched to the left," one survivor, Sahar Karimi, said from a hospital in Mashhad. "Then it caught fire, and all the passengers rushed to the emergency exit," she said. The 11 crew members survived, "and this can help the investigation team to reach its conclusions sooner," a Civil Aviation official said.

#### **INCIDENT AT MIAMI AIRPORT, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES**

London, Sep 1 — A press report, dated Aug 31, states: A jet's landing gear caught fire on the runway at Miami International Airport after two

tyres blew out during landing, officials said. No one was injured, and the fire was quickly extinguished. U.S. Airways Flight 431 was arriving from Charlotte, N.C., with 113 passengers and five crew members when it blew two tyres on the runway shortly before noon, airline spokesman Morgan Durrant said. A small fire ignited in one of the blown-out tyres, Durrant said. The passengers and crew escaped using inflatable slides from the plane's exits, then waited in a grassy area near the runway. Subsequent helicopter footage showed that the flames had been extinguished and the plane was surrounded by white foam. According to Federal Aviation Administration records, the Boeing 737 jet was built in 1989.

#### **N1172U**

London, Sep 6 — A press report, dated Sep 5, states: Authorities in Wayne County, Ohio, are investigating the crash of a single-engine aircraft this afternoon. The aircraft crashed in the area of Smucker and Egypt roads in Orrville while attempting to land in a cornfield just before 1300 hrs, according to the Ohio State Highway Patrol. The pilot, 80-year-old Los Angeles resident Winston H. Niver, was pronounced dead at the scene by the Wayne County coroner's office. There were no other people on board. It had been reported that Niver's aircraft was out of fuel, which was the reason behind the attempted emergency landing. Investigators said the aircraft's nose crashed into the field during the attempted landing. Niver was traveling from Burlington, Vermont, to his home in California. The Federal Aviation Administration was at the scene of the crash this afternoon. The crash remains under investigation.

London, Sep 7 — Mooney M-20J (Mooney 201) N1172U crashed near Orrville, Ohio, at 1630, Sep 5. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

#### **N181Y**

London, Sep 5 — Beech 96-A55, N181Y, privately operated, crashed under unknown circumstances on departure from McGregor, Texas, at 1300, local time, Sep 2. The one person on board was fatally injured, the aircraft was destroyed.

#### **N1857C**

London, Sep 5 — A press report, Sep 4, states: A man and woman from Massachusetts were seriously injured this evening when their single-engine plane veered off a runway and slammed into a hanger during takeoff. Authorities said that the plane was departing from a grass runway at Hampton Airfield just after 1800 hrs, when it suddenly shifted to the right and one of its wings clipped the hanger, spinning the plane nose-first into the building. "It hit with such force that the engine and prop are in the building," said North Hampton police Lt. John Scippa. Officials did not identify the people on the plane, a

Cessna 170B, but said they were being flown to a Boston hospital with severe injuries.

London, Sep 5 — Cessna 170B, N1857C, privately operated, on departure roll, veered to the right and struck a hangar at Hampton, Virginia, at 2207, local time, Sep 4. The one person on board was fatally injured, the aircraft sustained substantial damage.

#### **N1893M**

London, Sep 5 — Cessna 337G, N1893M, privately operated, shortly after departure, struck a powerline and crashed into a field one mile from the airport at Prescott, Arizona, at 1627, local time, Sep 2. The three persons on board were fatally injured, the aircraft was destroyed.

#### **N270SH**

London, Sep 4 — A press report, dated Sep 3, states: A jury has awarded \$3.2 million in damages to a woman whose daughter died in a Grand Canyon helicopter crash that killed six others, including a pilot known for leading wild sightseeing tours. Attorneys for Ikuko Hatano, whose daughter, Makiko, died in the 2003 crash, said the Clark County jury's verdict against Las Vegas-based tour operator Sundance Helicopters proved that Sundance was negligent in the crash. "My client is extremely happy," attorney Michael Ely said Friday. "It's a fair, right and just result." The jury chose not to impose punitive damages against the company that could have resulted in a larger verdict. Makiko Hatano and five other tourists took a ride in the Eurocopter AS 350BA (Ecureuil) (N270SH), flown by pilot Takashi Mezaki, on Sep 20, 2003. Authorities believe the helicopter's blade gouged the wall of the canyon, leading the aircraft smashed to the ground and burst into flames. All seven on board were killed. In a nearly two-week trial in the courtroom of District Judge David Wall, attorneys for Hatano said Mezaki had a history of reckless flying. They said Sundance failed to fire the pilot for the reckless behavior. "The National Transportation Safety Board did interviews with passengers from prior flights, and these passengers told of some pretty wild rides," Ely said. According to Hatano's attorneys, an administrator with a Las Vegas aviation company once got on a flight with Mezaki and was given a thrill ride. He notified Sundance about the flight and Mezaki was suspended, but the suspension never was imposed formally. The attorneys also said that at least one other passenger had complained about Mezaki's flying before the crash. These issues resonated with the jury, said Hatano family attorney Carolyn Ellsworth, who spoke with jurors afterward. "They absolutely felt the pilot was reckless," Ellsworth said. "They also felt that although Sundance was negligent in the supervision and retention of their pilot, the malice wasn't sufficient to come back with

punitive damages." The National Transportation Safety Board has yet to issue a formal finding as to the cause of the crash. Attorneys for Sundance said a helicopter phenomenon commonly called jack stall or servo transparency was to blame for the crash. The phenomenon involves a temporary loss of control of the aircraft because of a problem with the hydraulic system.

#### **N2932J**

London, Sep 5 — A press report, dated Sep 4, states: Virginia state police said two people from South Carolina were killed today when their Florence, SC-bound single-engine aircraft crashed in a wooded area of Pittsylvania County near Smith Mountain Lake. Authorities said 34-year-old Ira Nash and 28-year-old Erika Nash were in the two-seat Cessna 150G when it went down around 1130 hrs. Police said the Nashes had been at a family reunion at Smith Mountain Lake and were heading home when they ran into heavy fog and attempted to turn around. Police said all-terrain vehicles were needed to reach the muddy crash site, and debris stretched for a mile.

London, Sep 5 — Cessna 150G, N2932J, privately operated, crashed under unknown circumstances 23 miles southwest of Lynchburg, near Penhook, Virginia, at 1530, local time, Sep 4. The two persons on board were fatally injured, the aircraft was destroyed.

#### **N431CA**

London, Sep 6 — A press report, dated Sep 5, states: A Fayette County Circuit Court judge this morning approved an emergency order to preserve all evidence in the federal investigation into the crash of Comair Canadair CL-600-2B19 (CRJ200ER) (N431CA) in Lexington, Kentucky, which killed 49 people. It was the first lawsuit against Comair to make it to court. Lawyers for the family of crash victim Rebecca Adams argued that without the order they would not be able to find out who is responsible and liable for the crash. Judge Pamela Goodwine's decision meant that all tapes, documents, and other evidence must be preserved. "The next best thing we can do is make sure a protective order like this is in place so when they're done with the evidence, we get it," said Robert Clifford, one of the attorneys for the Adams family. The decision also means that, as the investigation continues, the families of the 49 victims will not be left out on what the NTSB turns up. In addition, attorneys for those families will also have the authority to subpoena experts and witnesses related to the crash. "It's not our government's job to say who caused this crash in context of legal liability," said Clifford. "It's the job of lawyers for the parties. And that's the job we've undertaken." Attorneys will not get most of the evidence until after the NTSB has finished their investigation, but they say they can get some now, and they will start sending out subpoenas. However, attorneys say it will be anywhere from two to five years before these lawsuits are wrapped up. Two suits have now been

filed in the aftermath of the crash, with more expected in the coming days.

#### **N4813T**

London, Sep 5 — Piper PA-28-140, N4813T, privately operated, shortly after departure, crashed under unknown circumstances at Auburn, California, at 1550, local time, Sep 2. The aircraft was destroyed.

#### **N6401G**

London, Sep 5 — Cessna 150K, N6401G, privately operated, crashed under unknown circumstances, wreckage located in the vicinity of Shelby Gap, Kentucky, at 1450, local time, Sep 2. The one person on board was fatally injured, the aircraft was destroyed.

#### **N6569L**

London, Sep 5 — Mitsubishi MU-23-35, N6569L, operated by Intercontinental Jet Inc., approach crashed under unknown circumstances 35 north west of Panama City, Florida, at 1618, local time, Sep 1. The one person on board was fatally injured, the aircraft was destroyed.

#### **N71927**

London, Sep 5 — A press report, dated Sep 4, states: Federal investigators are heading to Marion County to search for clues in a fatal aircraft crash. The aircraft crashed on private property off county Road 484 near Interstate 75, WESH 2 News reported. "The aircraft went up and got about 80 ft in the air and started banking to the left, and all of a sudden, it just lost power took a nosedive down and crash-landed in the middle of a field," Marion County Sheriff's Office Capt. James Pogue said. Federal investigators plan to arrive on the scene around 1000 today.

London, Sep 5 — Luscombe 8A, N71927, privately operated, after departure from a grass strip, crashed in a field at Bellview, Florida, at 2145, local time, Sep 3. The two persons on board were fatally injured, the aircraft was destroyed.

#### **N9026C**

London, Sep 5 — Cessna 180, N9026C, operated by Idaho Pilots Inc., on attempt to land at a private strip, overshot the runway, clipped the trees, and crashed into the Owyhee River's edge, Owyhee, Oregon, at 0330, local time, Sep 3. The aircraft was destroyed.

## Space Vehicles



#### **ATLANTIS**

London, Sep 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Nasa has postponed the launch of the space shuttle Atlantis due to a technical problem with the spacecraft's onboard

power supply, officials say. Atlantis had been scheduled for a 1229 hrs (1629, UTC) lift-off today from Florida's Kennedy Space Centre. The space agency said it would now try to launch the shuttle tomorrow. Officials said the launch had been scrubbed because one of the three fuel cells providing electricity to the shuttle malfunctioned. "The launch rules say you need to have three good, operating fuel cells," said Nasa spokesman Bruce Buckingham. "We're going to see if it's something that's a real problem or whether it's something we can rectify." Two previous launch attempts have been delayed because of a lightning strike and Tropical Storm "Ernesto". The problem was discovered shortly before an overnight meeting to decide whether to start pumping the shuttle's fuel tank with liquid hydrogen and oxygen. When the fuel cells were powered up, a low voltage reading came from one of the alternating current units. The other two units spiked up to compensate for the lower voltage in the first unit. The delay puts more pressure on Nasa to get Atlantis off the ground this week or postpone the launch until late October in order not to interfere with a Russian mission to the space station later in the month. If the weather deteriorates again or if the technical problems persist, the shuttle has two more days to attempt a lift-off: tomorrow and Friday (Sep 8). Failing to launch this week could delay the Atlantis mission until late October.

London, Sep 7 — A press report, dated today, states: NASA hopes to figure out what caused the latest problem keeping Atlantis earthbound: an electrical short in a 30-year-old motor. If the agency determines by Thursday night (Sep 7) that the cause of the short is not serious, NASA can try to launch the shuttle Friday morning. On Wednesday, NASA scrubbed Wednesday and Thursday launch attempts because of the short in one of Atlantis' electricity-generating fuel cells. The delays follow postponements last month due to a lightning strike on the launch pad and the approach of Tropical Storm "Ernesto". If a Friday launch is viable, there's a 70 percent chance of good weather for an 1140, EDT attempt. Atlantis and its six astronauts plan to haul 17 tons of girders and solar panels into orbit and resume construction of the international space station, which has been on hold since the Columbia disaster 3 years ago. Astronauts will make three spacewalks to put the pieces together. NASA is caught in a schedule squeeze. The space agency made an agreement with the Russians not to attempt a launch after Friday because Russia is sending a three-person Soyuz capsule to the space station on Sep 18. If it doesn't launch Friday, the space agency may have to wait until late October, or relax daylight launching rules instituted after the 2003 Columbia accident and try again at the end of September. Once the Russian Soyuz comes back, NASA may

attempt a launch as early as Sep 28 or 29 even though the launch would be in darkness, spokesman Allard Beutel said. NASA rules say shuttles have to be launched in daylight so that the big external fuel tank can be photographed for evidence of any broken-off pieces of foam of the sort that doomed Columbia. There is a slight chance of a Saturday launch, but NASA would have to shorten its construction mission on the international space station, something Wayne Hale, space shuttle program manager, has said he would not like to do.



### BANGLADESH

Chittagong, Sep 3 — Shipment of Bangladesh export and import cargoes came to a halt, yesterday, as most feeder vessel operators suspended their operation, following a High Court show-cause notice about imposition of congestion surcharges. No shipping company under the banner of Chittagong Feeder Trade Committee (CFTC), except the HRC, the largest Bangladeshi owned company with 10 vessels, loaded any export cargo from Chittagong port yesterday. At the same time, no Chittagong bound import cargo was loaded at ports in Singapore, Colombo and Klang. The stalemate is feared to deepen as both Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and the CFTC remained rigid on their position. Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) sources said a meeting of the shipping ministry, CFTC, BGMEA and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association has been called today, at the commerce ministry, to settle the matter. — Lloyds Agents.

Chittagong, Sep 4 — The crisis over transporting containers to and from Chittagong Port was partially resolved yesterday as two of the five feeder vessels operating companies agreed to continue operations following a meeting at the commerce ministry Govt. of Bangladesh. Representatives of the feeder vessel operators have agreed to withdraw and refund the congestion surcharges. Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has also agreed to withdraw its cases against the Chittagong Feeder Trade Committee. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 5 — A press report, dated today, states: The shipping companies have launched a protest and suspended transporting cargoes to and from Chittagong port after the High Court ruled a US \$130 surcharge they imposed in June on every six-metre-long container transported by the ships was illegal and notified them

to return the money. Companies stated, surcharge levied on local exporters and importers was needed to recover delay costs caused by "huge" port congestion. All but one company namely, HRC, the largest Bangladeshi-owned shipping company with 10 ships, took part in the protest. A deadlock has been created and if it persists, it will be a disaster for Bangladesh because the suspension will affect more than 75% of their export and import trade. This move has alarmed garment manufacturers whose exports account for over 75% of the country's \$10.5bn export trade and who have been enjoying a recent boom in business. Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), a trade body of 4,200 garment factories, threatened to file suit against the companies over their action as the shipping companies were going against the law of the land and also international maritime laws.

London, Sep 5 — A press report, dated today, states: The crisis of shipment of goods and commodities through Chittagong seaport has been partially resolved as the local feeder vessel operators have agreed to resume operation. An emergency tripartite meeting of users and various service providers of the Chittagong port and all relevant government agencies, held at the commerce ministry on Sunday (Sep 3), agreed to resolve the crisis through negotiations. Accordingly, the shipping ministry will hold a meeting with the two Singapore-based Chittagong Feeder Trade Committees on today to settle all issues relating to the stand-off between the feeder service operators and exporters and importers, especially the garment traders. The crisis emerged when the feeder ship operators, except one local company, suspended operation following a contempt of court order upon a plea from the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association. The association went to the court challenging collection of congestion surcharge by feeder ship companies and the court issued a stay. This prompted the feeder vessel operators to suspend shipment. Only HRC Shipping Limited, the largest local operator with 10 vessels, declined to join the strike that halted most of the cargo transport activities to and from the Chittagong port, the country's main seaport. The other major private local operator, QC Group having six vessels, also attended the commerce ministry meeting. Sunday's commerce ministry meeting decided that the surcharge should be paid not by local exporters or importers, but on the basis of 'freight on board' system. Necessary steps will be taken to pay back, if possible, to those exporters who would pay surcharge by mistake, said one of those who attended the meeting. The garment association leaders, too, agreed to withdraw the case if an understanding was reached through talks with the feeder vessel operators.

## Port Conditions

### INDIA

London, Sep 5 — Haldia Oil Jetty No.2 will be decommissioned from Sep 7 to 11, for replacement of fenders. According to information from the port, Haldia Oil Jetty (HOJ) No.2 will re-open for shipping from Sep 12.

### ITALY

Genoa, Sep 4 — Port situation/berthing delays: Genoa: No vessels waiting for berth. Savona: No vessels waiting for normal berth, one vessel waiting for special berth. La Spezia: No vessels are waiting for berths. — Lloyd's Agents.

### SYRIA

Aleppo, Sep 4 — Current delays for vessels berthing: two days 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
<b>Australia</b>		
Abbott Point	13-09-2006	Coal: 9 vessels due by 30/9.
Brisbane	13-09-2006	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 2 vessels due by 23/9.
Dalrymple Bay	13-09-2006	Coal: DBCT berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; DBCT berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; DBCT berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; other vessels not scheduled: 3 vessels waiting; 24 vessels due by 5/10. A six-day planned maintenance shutdown will start at berth No. 2 a.m. 18/9 to p.m. 23/9; there is also a planned maintenance shutdown for berth No. 1 during October.
Dampier	13-09-2006	Iron ore: Parker Point berth 1: 1 vessel loading at berth, 4 waiting; 14 vessels due by 9/10; Parker Point berth 2: 1 vessel berthed, 1 waiting; 9 vessels due by 24/9; Parker Point berth 3: shut down from 7-18/9; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel loading, 3 waiting; 8 vessels due by 13/9.
Esperance	13-09-2006	Sep 13: Grain: 2 vessels due by 28/9, both to load wheat; no delays expected. Sep 11: Iron ore: 4 vessels due by 21/9.
Geraldton	13-09-2006	Sep 13: Grain: 2 vessels anchored, 1 to load wheat, 1 barley; 1 vessel due 28/9 to load wheat; up to 10 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Sep 11: Iron ore: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 3 vessels due by 24/9; maintenance shutdown at berth No. 4 from 14-16/10.
Gladstone	13-09-2006	Sep 13: Grain: 1 vessel due 17/9 to load wheat; no delays expected. Sep 11: Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 7 waiting; 33 vessels due by 2/12; shiploader No. 1 will be shut down from 11-15/9; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 5 vessels due by 15/10.
Hay Point	13-09-2006	Coal: Berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 9 vessels due by 21/9; Berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 2 vessels due by 21/9; berth closed for maintenance from a.m. 18/9 to p.m. 23/9; 2 vessels due by 23/9, not yet scheduled for berthing.
Newcastle	13-09-2006	Sep 13: Three vessels due by 7/10, all to load wheat; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Sep 11: Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 21 waiting; 44 vessels due by 30/9; 10-13 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 22 vessels off port awaiting berths; Dykes 4+5: 10 vessels waiting; 14 vessels due by 30/9; 11-14 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 11 vessels off port awaiting coal.
Port Hedland	13-09-2006	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 3 vessels due by 15/9; there will be a nine day shiploader shutdown starting ca. 29/9; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 5 vessels due by 20/9; 6 other vessels due by 24/9, no e.t.a. received; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 4 vessels waiting; 13 vessels due by 21/9; "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 1 vessel due 10/9; no other vessel due with no e.t.a. received; Cockatoo Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 2 vessels due by 21/9.
Port Kembla	13-09-2006	Sep 13: Grain: 2 vessels due by 22/9, both to load wheat; no delays expected. Sep 11: Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 14 vessels due by 27/10.
Port Walcott	13-09-2006	Iron ore: Two vessels loading at berth; 8 vessels arrived; 11 vessels due by 29/9.
Whyalla	13-09-2006	Iron ore: 1 vessel loading; 7 vessels due by 26/10.
<b>Azerbaijan</b>		
Apsheron	11-09-2006	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 2 vessels berthed, of which 1 completed discharging fuel oil, 1 completed discharging kerosene; 1 vessel due 12/9 to discharge kerosene.
Baku	11-09-2006	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; AzerTrans terminal - Nobel avenue: 3 vessels due by 13/9, 2 to discharge crude oil, 1 gasoil; Sangachal district: no vessels.

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

## Port Conditions

### Bulgaria

Bourgas	11-09-2006	Nine vessels in port operating, of which 4 loading (1 steel sheets, 1 copper anodes, 1 coils, 1 metal), 3 discharging (1 metals, 1 jet fuel, 1 copper concentrate), 1 empty vessel, 1 under repairs; 2 vessels in roads of which 1 to discharge iron ore, 1 to load gasoil; 7 vessels due, of which 3 to load coils, 4 to discharge (1 coal, 1 equipment, 1 sugar, 1 iron ore).
Varna	11-09-2006	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 4-10 September: Twenty-nine vessels in port operating of which 17 loading (1 scrap, 5 bulk wheat, 1 bulk barley, 1 bulk sulphuric acid, 1 bulk clinker, 4 soda, 1 equipment in packing cases, 1 kaolin/chamotte, 1 kaolin/feldspar/silica sand, 1 TSP), 9 discharging (2 petcoke, 2 clinker, 1 liquid urea, 3 bulk coal, 1 raw phosphate), 3 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in roads.

### Colombia

Barranquilla	06-09-2006	Max. permissible draft: 9.0m fw; shore cranes operational; Four vessels berthed (1 container, 2 general cargo, 1 bulker), none anchored; 11 vessels due (4 containers, 3 general cargo, 2 bulkers, 1 tanker, 1 coal vessel), with no delays expected.
Buenaventura	06-09-2006	Shore cranes operational; Eight vessels berthed (4 containers, 1 general cargo, 2 bulkers, 1 tanker); 3 vessels anchored (2 containers, 1 general cargo); 28 vessels due (17 containers, 3 general cargo, 4 bulkers, 4 tankers), with 2 days delay expected.
Cartagena	06-09-2006	SPRCTG: Shore cranes operational; Four vessels berthed (3 containers, 1 general cargo), none anchored; 26 vessels due (23 containers, 2 general cargo, 1 bulker), with no delays expected; MEB: shore crane operational; 3 vessels due (2 containers, 1 general cargo), with no delays expected; Contecar: shore crane operational; 1 general cargo vessel berthed, no vessels anchored; 3 vessels due (2 containers, 1 general cargo), with no delays expected.
Santa Marta	06-09-2006	Shore cranes operational; Two vessels berthed (1 coal vessel, 1 bulker), 1 coal vessel at anchor; 8 vessels due (3 containers, 3 general cargo, 2 bulkers), with no delays expected.

### Cyprus

Larnaca	12-09-2006	One conventional vessel discharging at berth; 2 conventional vessels due 13/9; no delays expected
Limassol	12-09-2006	Four container vessels discharging/loading at berth, 1 conventional vessel discharging at berth; 3 container vessels, 2 conventional vessels, 1 Ro/Ro, 2 passenger vessels due 13/9; no delays expected.

### Egypt

Adabiya	11-09-2006	Six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), all general cargo..
Alexandria	11-09-2006	Twenty-nine vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 19 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 3 tankers, 2 containers, 1 passenger vessel; 6 vessels at inner anchorage, 6 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	11-09-2006	Twenty-four vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 19 general cargo, 1 bulk carrier; 9 vessel at outer anchorage, none at inner anchorage.
Dekheila	11-09-2006	Eleven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 6 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 1 container vessel; 2 vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	11-09-2006	Six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 4 container vessels.
Suez	11-09-2006	Seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 5 general cargo, 2 passenger vessels; 3 tugs, 1 vessel dry-docked.
Suez Canal	11-09-2006	Twenty-two vessels transiting Northbound, 31 Southbound.

### Estonia

Tallinn	11-09-2006	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): One coal vessel loading at berth, 1 cocoa bean vessel discharging at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 2 vessels due, with 8 days berthing delay expected..
---------	------------	---

### India

Kolkata	11-09-2006	2 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Containers, 1 vessel discharging Pipes; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 3 vessels under repair; 3 vessels under arrest; 3 vessels due ( Containers-2, Passenger).
Haldia	11-09-2006	11 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Iron Ore-2, Steel ), 8 vessels discharging ( Crude, Coke-3, General Cargo-2, Rock Phosphate, Fertiliser ); 7 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage ( 4 to load, 3 to discharge), 6 vessels waiting at anchorage ( 2 to load, 4 to discharge) ; 4 vessels due (Containers, Crude, POL, Steel).
Paradip	11-09-2006	9 vessels operating at berth of which 6 vessels loading ( Iron Ore-3, Thermal Coal, Chrome Ore-2), 3 vessels discharging ( N. C. Coal, Hard Coke, C. P. Coke); 2 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to load; 24 vessels due.

A complete online archive covering the last 10 years of Lloyd's Casualty Week. For further information please call +44 (0) 20 7017 4779.



## Port Conditions

Visakhapatnam	11-09-2006	14 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading ( Iron Ore-2, Steel Cargo-2, POL Product), 8 vessels discharging ( Coking Coal-2, Urea, Wheat, Crude Oil, Lime Stone, Rock Phosphate, Granite), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 7 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage ( 5 to discharge, 1 to load, 1 to load and discharge) ; 34 vessels due ( Iron Ore-6, Steel Cargo, Cement, Ferro Manganese, Granite, C P Coke, Product Tankers-2, Molten Sulphur, DAP-2, Urea, Coking Coal-10, Containers, Timber, Alumina, Caustic Soda, Bauxite, Met Coke, Product Tankers ).
Chennai	11-09-2006	13 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading ( Granite Block, Lubricant Oil, Barytes, Molasses), 7 vessels discharging ( Wheat-2, Steam Coal, MOP, Steel Coil, Coking Oil, Containers), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 6 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage ( 1 to load, 5 to discharge); 7 vessels due ( Sugar, Supply-2, Containers, Project/Granite Block, Orthoxlyn, Granite Block).
Tuticorin	11-09-2006	3 vessels discharging at berth ( Wheat-2, Thermal Coal), 1 vessel for repair works ( bunkering); 3 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage ( 2 to discharge, 1 to load).
Cochin	11-09-2006	5 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels discharging ( Crude, Soda Ash, MOP, Wheat), 1 vessel waiting to load General Cargo; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge.
New Mangalore	11-09-2006	5 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (Iron Ore Fines, Container), 3 vessels discharging ( Fertiliser, Timber, POL Crude); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage ( 1 to load, 1 to discharge); 17 vessels due (POL Crude-2, LPG, Iron Ore Fines-3, Container-2, POL Product, Crude Palm Oil, Granite Stone, Met Coke, Phosphoric Acid ).
Mormugao	11-09-2006	3 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Iron Ore, 2 vessels discharging ( Met Coke, C. P. Coke); 2 vessels working at midstream and loading Iron Ore; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to load; 4 vessels under dry docked; 6 vessels due (Coking Coal, Tubes & Pipes, Coking Coal, Iron Ore-3)
Mumbai	11-09-2006	17 vessels operating at berth of which 8 vessels loading ( Steel/H/ Pkgs/General/Project-5, SBM in bulk/Bagged SBM, POL-2), 8 vessels discharging (Steel/Project/General-4, Wheat, Palm Oil/Rubber Process-2, Rock Phosphate), 1 vessel loading and discharging Steel/Woodpulp/II/Lift; 3 vessels working at midstream at anchorage discharging POL; 3 vessels not ready to work at anchorage ( 2 to load, 1 to load and discharge), 4 vessels awaiting order at anchorage to discharge, 2 vessels waiting at anchorage ( 1 to load, 1 load and discharge) ; 13 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 7 vessels under arrest; 33 vessels under laid up ( Berths not required for cargo operations); 32 vessels due ( Containers-5, General Cargo-27).
J.N.P.T.	11-09-2006	9 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels discharging (CBFS, Lubricant Oil), 7 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to load and discharge; 2 vessels due Containers.
Kandla	11-09-2006	13 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading Agriculture Product, 6 vessels discharging ( Super Kerosene Oil, Chemical, Marble Blocks, Fertilizer-3), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel working at midstream and discharging Timber Logs; 12 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage ( 8 to load , 4 to discharge), 6 vessels not ready to work at anchorage ( 2 to discharge, 4 to load).
Ennore	11-09-2006	1 vessel operating at berth anchorage discharging Thermal Coal, 1 vessel working at inner anchorage loading Iron Ore, 1 vessel due ( MV An Ho ( Coal).
<b>Israel</b>		
Ashdod	12-09-2006	No labour problems. One general cargo vessel loading at berth, 11 vessels discharging at berth (5 general cargo, 6 bulkers), 3 vessels loading/discharging at berth (1 containers, 1 car carrier, 1 tanker); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage load/discharge; 24 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	12-09-2006	No labour problems. One general cargo vessel discharging at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; no vessels due, with no delays expected..
Haifa	12-09-2006	No labour problems. Five vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 8 loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 4 tankers); 5 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (2 containers, 3 tankers), 4 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 13 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected..
<b>Kazakhstan</b>		
Aktau	11-09-2006	Oil products: 4 vessels in roads, all to load unknown cargoes; 2 vessels due by 12/9, both to load unknown cargo.

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

## Port Conditions

### Russia

Novorossiysk	11-09-2006	Twelve vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 1 steel billets/pipes, 1 bulk cement, 1 scrap, 3 wheat, 2 slabs, 1 copper, 1 coils, 1 aluminium, 1 vegetable oil; 4 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 1 wheat, 1 copper, 1 bulk cement, 1 coils; 57 vessels due, of which 52 to load (1 HBI, 4 slabs, 8 copper, 2 bulk urea, 2 pipes, 5 steel billets, 6 wheat, 1 wire rods, 3 DRI, 1 bulk NPK/bulk urea/bulk ammonium nitrate, 2 coils, 1 pig-iron, 1 bulk cement, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 4 aluminium, 1 cellulose, 1 steel billets/coils, 1 WRIC/steel billets, 1 steel billets/steel sheets, 1 pipes/H-beams/vehicles/equipment, 1 vehicles, 1 soda ash, 1 WRIC, 1 UAN solution, 1 diesel oil), 3 to discharge (1 coils, 1 debars, 1 vegetable oil), 2 to discharge/load containers; Oil terminal: 1 tanker berthed loading crude oil; 1 tanker in roads to load crude oil; 5 tankers due, all to load, of which 4 crude oil, 1 diesel oil.
--------------	------------	--

### Slovenia

Koper	11-09-2006	Port working normally. Eight vessels berthed of which 2 discharging/loading containers, 2 loading general cargo/sawn timber, 1 discharging general cargo, 2 discharging bulk cargoes, 1 passenger vessel; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load sawn timber; 11 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 2 to discharge/load containers, 2 car carriers to load/discharge, 1 car carrier to discharge vehicles, 1 tanker to discharge liquid cargo, 1 vessel to discharge general cargo, 1 to load general cargo/sawn timber, 3 to discharge bulk cargo.
-------	------------	---

### Spain

Bilbao	11-09-2006	Thirty-two vessels operating (6 tankers, 26 other vessels), of which 10 loading, 18 discharging, 4 loading/discharging.
Sagunto	11-09-2006	Eighteen vessels in port operating, of which 1 loading steel products, 15 discharging (13 steel products, 1 gas, 1 fruit), 2 loading/discharging steel products; no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.

### Sri Lanka

Colombo	11-09-2006	Rains being experienced. Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Ten vessels loading at berth (9 containers/feeders, 1 essential services), 16 discharging at berth (10 containers/feeders, 2 bagged soya bean meal, 1 bagged fertiliser, 2 Ro/Ro, 4 bulk cement, 1 bagged soya bean meal, 1 bagged sugar); 5 container/feeder vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 6 vessels dry-docked; 6 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays expected.
Trincomalee	11-09-2006	Two vessels discharging at berth; no vessels waiting.

### Turkmenistan

Okarem	11-09-2006	Oil products: 1 vessel in roads to load crude oil.
Turkmenbashi	11-09-2006	Oil products: 4 vessels in roads, 3 to load gasoil, 1 unknown cargo.

### Ukraine

Illichevsk	11-09-2006	Ten vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading (2 steel products, 1 wheat, 1 barley, 1 sunflower oil, 1 petrol), 3 discharging nickel ore, 1 loading/discharging containers; 6 vessel in roads, of which 4 to load (1 barley, 1 spirit, 1 sunflower oil, 1 billets), 2 to load/discharge containers; 10 vessels due, all to load, of which 6 steel products, 2 coal, 1 project cargo, 1 sunflower oil.
Mariupol	11-09-2006	Thirteen vessels in port operating, of which 11 loading (4 steel, 3 fire-clay, 1 barley, 2 coal, 1 coke), 2 to discharge load (1 containers, 1 magnetite/kaolin); 17 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 12 steel, 1 coal, 3 fire-clay, 1 wheat/barley; 45 vessels due, of which 44 to load (28 steel, 4 coal, 1 coke, 6 fire-clay, 1 barley, 1 wheat, 1 bran, 1 slag, 1 equipment/fire-clay), 1 to discharge equipment.
Odessa	11-09-2006	Nineteen vessels in port operating, of which 10 loading (6 metal, 1 pig-iron, 1 oil, 1 wheat, 1 grain), 5 discharging (3 luggage, 1 citrus, 1 metal), 2 discharging/loading containers, 2 passenger vessel; 7 vessels in roads, of which 6 to load (3 metal, 2 barley, 1 grain), 1 to discharge barley, 2 to load/discharge containers; 77 vessels due, of which 36 to load (22 metal, 2 scrap, 4 pig-iron, 1 ore, 2 wheat, 1 peas, 1 coal, 3 grain), 6 to discharge (3 metal, 1 bananas, 1 general cargo, 1 barley), 35 to discharge/load containers.

**Port Conditions**

**United States**

Beaumont, TX	12-09-2006	Louis Dreyfus terminal: no delays.
Galveston, TX	12-09-2006	No new restriction in draft (normal 39 ft. 6 ins. b.w. max. deep draught enforced - 40 ft. with ideal conditions). Channel open under normal traffic; ADM-Farmland terminal: 2-3 days delay.
Kalama, WA	12-09-2006	Kalama export terminal: 1 day's delay; United Harvest terminal: no delays.
New Orleans, LA	12-09-2006	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 3-4 days delay expected; Cargill-Westwego: 2 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 3-4 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: no delays; ADM/Destrehan: 3-4 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 3-4 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 2 days delay expected; ADM/Paulina: 3-4 days delay expected; Zen-Noh/Convent: 1-2 days delay expected; Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays; Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: 1 day's delay; Mile 158.0 Myrtle Grove midstream terminal: 2 days delay; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 2 days delay.
Portland, OR	12-09-2006	Columbia Grain terminal: 2 days delay; CLD Irving terminal: no delays; CLD, O Dock terminals: 1 day's delay.
Seattle, WA	12-09-2006	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 1 day's delay.

**Published by Lloyd's MIU, Sheepen Place, Colchester, Essex CO3 3LP.**

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

**Copyright © Lloyd's MIU, an Informa business This casualty information is copyright. Unauthorised copying prohibited by law.**

**ISSN 0047 4908**

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

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

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