Tug rescues barge off PNG

A TUG contracted to supply the Stena Clyde oil drilling rig has come to the rescue of 11 crew from an overturned barge off the Papua New Guinea coast.

A distress call and emergency beacon was detected yesterday afternoon 90nm off the capital Port Moresby.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority said it diverted a plane to the area and detected the upturned vessel and three lifeboats in the water. One lifeboat had people in it. One person was reported injured.

The PNG-flagged vessel Go Rigel, operated by Australian company Oil Search in the Gulf of Papua was called to assist in the rescue.

“Oil Search provided two vessels and a helicopter to aid the relevant authorities in the rescue effort,” the company said in a statement, noting its offshore drilling operations were not impacted by the rescue.

PNG's National Maritime Safety Authority identified the barge as the Mundi Navigator.

Four kidnapped off Nigeria

PIRATES in speedboats were reported today to have kidnapped four Indian and Polish crew members off oil supply vessel off Nigeria.

Two security sources told Reuters that the gunmen assaulted the Singapore-flagged, 2,558gt tug MDPL Continental One on 13 June about 30nm off the oil-producing Niger Delta.

The vessel was ransacked and seafarers taken hostage.

The tug's operator is listed as Marine Delivery.

The tug's management company, CS Offshore, confirmed to the news agency an incident took place that day, but declined to divulge more details "in order not to endanger those involved".