China buys more U.S. soybeans ahead of trade talks -USDA
The U.S. Agriculture Department on Monday reported more soybean exports to China, the latest in a flurry of buying the world's top buyer of the oilseed has done ahead of high-level trade negotiations with the United States. USDA said that exporters reported the sale of 198,000 tonnes of soybeans to China for delivery in the 2019/20 marketing year that began on Sept. 1. Another 240,000 tonnes of soybeans were sold for shipment to unknown destinations, which traders have said often refers to China.

India's annual thermal coal imports seen topping 200 mln T - Moody's unit
India's ICRA Ltd, a unit of Moody's Investors Service Co, said on Monday it expects the energy hungry nation's thermal coal imports to be more than 200 million tonnes in 2019/2020, due to lower-than-expected production by state-run Coal India Ltd. ICRA said it expects Coal India, which has missed annual production targets over the last few years, to fall short of its 2019/20 production forecast of 660 million tonnes by up to 75 million tonnes.

Australia's Port Hedland iron ore shipments to China fall more than 5% in Sept
Iron ore shipments to China from Australia's Port Hedland terminal, the world's biggest iron ore port, fell more than 5% in September from a month earlier, port data showed on Tuesday. Shipments to China totalled 36.05 million tonnes in September, down from 38.14 million tonnes in August, the Pilbara Ports Authority said.

Japan's Marubeni puts Brazil port terminal Terlogs on sale - sources
Japan's Marubeni Corp has put a Brazilian port terminal on sale, four sources familiar with the matter said on Tuesday, aiming to shed an asset that has faced tough competition from rival ports in southern Brazil. Marubeni in Japan did not immediately respond to a request for comment. In February, Marubeni issued a statement expressing concern about the loss of competitiveness of its Terlogs terminal at the São Francisco do Sul port, in Santa Catarina state.

As Fortescue taps Guinea, China eyes broader iron ore supply sources -CEO
China is looking beyond current suppliers like Australia to procure raw materials in future as its steel demand continues to grow, the chief executive of the world's No. 4 iron ore producer Fortescue Metals Group warned on Thursday. Even as clouds gather over the global economy amid the bitter trade war between Washington and Beijing, Fortescue CEO Elizabeth Gaines told an industry event in Melbourne that China still has a considerable way to go before it reaches peak steel usage, predicting robust growth this year.

FranceAgriMer raises wheat export outlook on trader optimism
Farm office FranceAgriMer sharply increased its forecast for French soft wheat exports this season, pointing to optimism among traders that a big harvest and competitive prices would let France expand overseas sales. In supply and demand projections released on Wednesday, the agency raised its estimate of French soft wheat exports outside the European Union in 2019/20 to 11.7 million tonnes from 11.0 million seen last month.
Russia's deputy PM returns to idea of grain OPEC creation - Interfax
A Russian Deputy Prime Minister in charge of agriculture has proposed the creation of a grain organisation along the lines of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Interfax news agency reported on Saturday, citing his office. Russia, the world's largest wheat exporter, is one of the world's largest oil producers, but is not a member of OPEC.

Iraq replaces the head of its state grain agency
Iraq, a major Middle East wheat and rice importer, has replaced the head of its state grain buying agency, government sources and a document showed on Tuesday. Naeem al-Maksousi was replaced by Hassanein Mahdi Elwan, a document reviewed by Reuters showed.

Egypt's GASC buys 295,000 tonnes of Russian, Ukrainian wheat
Egypt's state grain buyer (GASC) has bought 295,000 tonnes of Russian and Ukrainian wheat in an international purchasing tender, it said on Tuesday. Of the total, GASC bought 180,000 tonnes of Russian wheat and 115,000 tonnes of Ukrainian wheat, GASC said.

French wheat exporters see Morocco imports at 3.8 mln T
French wheat exporters said on Tuesday they expected Moroccan imports of soft wheat to rise to 3.8 million tonnes in the 2019/2020 season, with France supplying 65% of that. Last season, Morocco imported 2.6 million tonnes of soft wheat, according to Morocco's grains and cereals agency (ONICL).

Russia's Putin: China ready to buy as much soy beans from Russia as we can produce
Russia's President Vladimir Putin told a forum on Thursday that China was ready to buy as much soybeans from Russia as it can produce but Moscow does not currently have enough capacity to meet the full demand from the world's top soy importer. "They are ready to buy from us as much as we can produce but the issue is we are not ready for this now... not yet ready for such volumes," Putin said.

Strategie Grains cuts EU rapeseed crop and import estimates
Consultancy Strategie Grains reduced again its monthly estimate of the European Union's rapeseed harvest but cut its outlook for imports as it revised down expected crushing demand. In a monthly oilseed report, the firm lowered its EU rapeseed production estimate to 16.9 million tonnes, down from 17.0 million seen previously and a new 13-year low.

Ukraine grain exports rise 45% so far in 2019/20 season-ministry
Ukraine has increased its grain exports by 45% to 14.47 million tonnes so far in the 2019/20 July-June season thanks to higher wheat shipments, Ukraine's agriculture ministry said on Tuesday. The volume included 9.2 million tonnes of wheat, 55% more than in the same period a season earlier, the ministry said in a statement.

MARKET NEWS

BALTIC INDEX: The Baltic Exchange's main sea freight index, which tracks rates for ships ferrying dry bulk commodities, hit a two-week high, as vessel rates across the board continued to strengthen.