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The **BUGSIER 18** in action during the Schlepperballett at the Hafengeburtstag 2003 in Hamburg

Photo : Henk de Winde ©

EVENTS, INCIDENTS & OPERATIONS

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Pakistan to release Indian crew

THE Pakistan government will tomorrow release 14 crew members of the Indian vessel **Raj Laxmi**, which was detained last year for violating Pakistani territorial waters. The goodwill gesture comes as part of renewed efforts by the South Asian nuclear neighbours to bring their relations back to normal. The decision to release the crew and other detainees was taken by premier Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali on May 6. "The status of the crew members and others has been confirmed by the Indian government, and they will be handed over the Indian authorities " Pakistani officials maintained.

Essco Spirit freed



THE arrest warrant against the Greek bulk carrier **Essco Spirit**, detained in Halifax, Nova Scotia since early February, has been lifted. Legal counsel for the cargo interests says an agreement has been reached with respect to the amount and the type of security posted against the cargo. The vessel was on its way from Quebec to Greece with 6,700 tonnes of wheat when it diverted to Halifax for fuel. It was detained on February 7 by Transport Canada for various safety and labour

code violations, and arrested when a \$2.35M lawsuit was filed against the owner, Essco Maritime. The violations were corrected and the detention order lifted last month, but the suit filed by the owners of the cargo and vessel charterers for breach of contract and damage to the cargo is still pending. A final settlement could be reached out of court or could end up going to an arbitration hearing in London. The wheat is being discharged in Halifax, where inclement weather has been slowing the unloading process.

Petersburg to close for birthday

FOR security reasons, the 300th anniversary celebrations at St Petersburg at the end of this month will halt all maritime access to the port, a port authority official told Fairplay. Deliveries of cargoes in and out of the city by lorry will also be halted. The port will be closed to vessels from 1000 on May 29 to 1600 on June 1. The measures will apply to the main port as well as the smaller berths near St Petersburg such as Lomonosov and Kronstadt. Other ports in the eastern Gulf of Finland, including

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Vyborg and Primorsk, will work normally, port authorities there said. Andrei Markelov, spokesman for the maritime administration of St Petersburg, told Fairplay the reason was that state guests and President Vladimir Putin will be moving by water between the city and the presidential residence at Strelna. A spokesman for the Sea Commercial Port Company of St Petersburg said expects to handle vessel loading and unloading normally. The big stevedore group said it will give priority to vessels of 20,000-40,000 DWT, which normally require four days for processing cargo.

Port Kembla seeks collision damages

PORT Kembla Coal Terminal has started legal action in the Federal Court of Australia against Braverus Maritime of the Marshall Islands, the owner of the Safmarine-operated bulk carrier **SA Fortius**, which collided with a berth and coal-loader at Port Kembla on April 15 last year. The news was confirmed by the terminal's insurer, Ace Insurance. A cross-claim by Port Kembla Port Corp against the ship's owner has also been launched and it is believed that other claims or cross-claims relating to the incident may have been registered. One estimate suggests the repair bill for the port's number two berth and number one shiploader may be in the region of A\$15M-16M (\$9.7-10.3M) and that the coal terminal may wish to add two or three million dollars in lost business. PKCT general manager John Brannon estimated earlier this year that about 600,000 tonnes of coal exports had been lost as a result of the incident

RCCL Newest Ship to Sail from NYC

Royal Caribbean's newest ship, **Serenade of the Seas**, will arrive in New York this August. The Serenade of the Seas will be the first Royal Caribbean ship to sail an inaugural season from New York City, as well as the first to offer Canada itineraries from The Big Apple. Set to be delivered on July 31, 2003, Serenade of the Seas first will sail a series of special, pre-inaugural cruises before offering four- and five-night itineraries to Canada from New York City, Sept. 1 through Oct. 27. "Serenade is the third in our Radiance-class series of ships, which combine an elegant, yacht-like design with many of the most innovative amenities and onboard programs available in the cruise industry," said Adam Goldstein, executive vice president, Royal Caribbean International.

CASUALTY REPORTING

SEGITIGA BIRU (INDONESIA)

The operation to salvage general cargo Segitiga Biru, which was being carried out by the Inter Coastal Shipowner's P&I Club in consultation with the vessel's agent, Parekh Marine Agencies (PMAPL), has run into difficulties. According to Kolkata Port Trust authorities, the vessel has fully sunk, along with with the entire 145 tonnes of volatile heavy oil and 5,327 tonnes of toxic soda ash cargo on board. However, some confusion remained over whether the vessel had actually sunk, with the Coast Guard maintaining until late evening that the vessel had not sunk, and rumours to that effect being spread by a few shippers. KoPT officials said that legal action against seven involved parties, including the Indonesian shipping company, PMAPL and the P&I Club had already been initiated and legal notices served on them.

SHIPYARD NEWS

Seyang hits profit trail

SEYANG Shipping of South Korea has turned in a net profit of W868M (\$724,000) for the first quarter of 2003 against a loss of W1.4Bn for the same period in 2002. Turnover rose by 76 per cent to W26Bn. Seyang had reported a net profit of W13Bn for the full year, achieved mainly because of being freed of

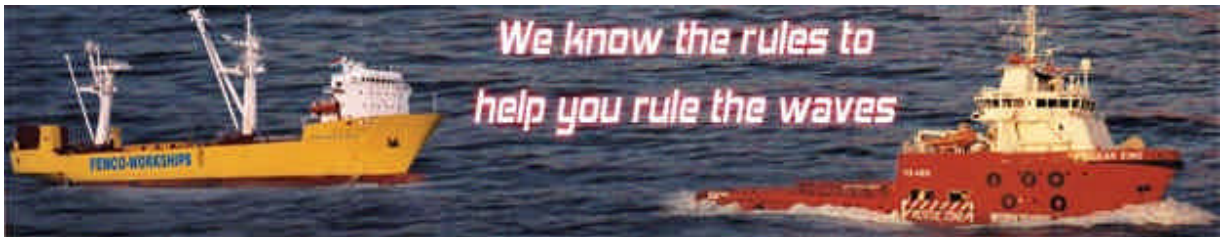
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debts amounting to W16.6Bn. The bulk operator has clinched a W12Bn iron ore carriage contract with Luen Hing Shing Resources of Hong Kong to transport 930,000 tonnes from September 1 this year to August 2005. Seyang also has the option to carry a further 460,000 tonnes for W6Bn.

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ESCO sells Ro-Ro activities to Scandlines Group

Scandlines Deutschland GmbH and the Estonian Shipping Company Ltd (ESCO) entered yesterday into an agreement whereby Scandlines Deutschland GmbH acquires the daughter company of ESCO, the T&E ESCO RORO Line AS.



The T&E ESCO RORO Line AS operates two Ro-Ro lines between Rostock (Germany)-Helsinki (Finland) and Helsinki-Muuga (Estonia). As a part of the agreement the T&E ESCO RORO Line AS will continue the operation with the Ro-Ro vessels "**LEMBITU**" and "**LEHOLA**".

Mr Søren Andersen, Managing Director of ESCO, stated: "We decided on a new strategy for our company, shifting focus away from operating Ro-Ro lines and we are therefore very glad that an agreement has been reached with such a well known and strong ferry and Ro-Ro operator as

Scandlines about the future of these two lines. We are confident that they will develop these services so that they will continue to be attractive transport solutions for our many loyal customers whom we wish to thank for their solid support throughout the years."

"The acquisition of T&E ESCO RORO Line AS is a consistent continuation of the strategy of the Scandlines group of developing and expanding the companies activities to northern and eastern Europe," stated Axel Bertram, CFO of the Scandlines AG. "The T&E ESCO RORO Line AS and their two RoRo services are a strong and well-run business, which will enrich the existing network of ferry

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services offered by Scandlines to our freight customers in the Baltic sea."

The acquisition is conditional upon final approval by the relevant competition boards. In the meantime ESCO will continue to operate the services with no changes.

Marseilles builds for cruise growth

MARSEILLES opens what it claims to be the largest cruise terminal in the Mediterranean tomorrow. The Marseilles Provence Cruise Centre has been built to handle the rapid expansion in demand anticipated by the French port. Marseilles handled 152,000 passengers in 1998 and expects 300,000 this year. The inauguration will be attended by French secretary of state for transport Dominique Bussereau together



with representatives from the port's main cruise customers, including Festival, Costa, MSC Crociere Italiana, Royal Olympia Cruises, Royal Caribbean and Celebrity. Festival's 2,000 passenger **European Stars** and Costa's 2,200 passenger **Costa Victoria (photo left - Piet Sinke ©)** will be alongside during the

ceremony. Funding for the €11M (\$12.6M) was provided by the port of Marseilles and local authorities.

Box scan leads to major drug seizure

A RECORD 223 kg illegal consignment of methamphetamine seized yesterday by Australian Customs and police has an estimated street value of A\$112M (\$72.1M), Australian authorities have revealed. Significantly, the drug was found through the use of Customs' new full-container x-ray facility at Sydney's Port Botany, after intelligence analysts selected the box for scrutiny. The 'ice' shipment was found in a container carrying rice sticks from China that arrived at Port Botany on May 2 on the 2,078-TEU Magnavia, operated by Regional Container Lines, a government source confirmed today. The quantity of the drug found was a record for Australia, and customs minister Chris Ellison praised the efforts of Customs and police in detecting it. The container was placed under surveillance after arriving at the port. Its subsequent delivery to a warehouse in Sydney's Ultimo district resulted in the arrest of two people and the discovery of another 5 kg of the drug at another location.

Lines hit by box shortage

CONTAINER shipping lines operating from India are suffering a shortage of 20-ft containers, following a drop in imports into India. "The container trade is hitting the peak season as volumes pick up from May to August, particularly in Northern India. Unfortunately, shipping lines do not have the containers to service the trade," a senior official at Contship Container Lines said. "The huge deficiency in 20-ft boxes has led to a situation where we are refusing bookings." He said container lines anticipate that the shortage could last until the third quarter of the year, as equipment tied up overseas will not be back in the system for the next three to four months. "Opportunities for leasing containers in India is also very limited," he added.

Busan strike settled

THE strike by hauliers in Busan, South Korea, was settled after the Korea Cargo Transport Workers' Union and government negotiators reached agreement early today, and the truckers are back at work. At the conclusion of four-hour overnight talks, the two sides agreed on an 11-point agreement that

paves the way to ending the escalating industrial action completely. The government's full compensation of forthcoming diesel price increases is also included in the agreement. Busan Regional Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Office said earlier this week that Korean exporters had suffered losses of \$220M as a result of the strike, which began on May 2

P&O boosts Dover-Calais service

THE first half of a £50M (\$80.5M) investment to boost P&O Ferries' capacity on the Dover-Calais service has been initiated with the entry of the **Pride of Canterbury**. The ship previously operated as a freight-only ferry on the Dover-Zeebrugge service, which was closed last December. Converted By Lloydswerft in Bremerhaven, the ship left the yard as a passenger/freight ferry able to accommodate 2,000 passengers and 650 cars. The **Pride of Canterbury** and its sister, the **Pride of Kent**, offer passengers an enhanced range of restaurants based on known brands such as Langan's Brasserie, Silverstones Sports Bar, and the International Food Court. To compete with the stores in Calais, the on-board shopping facilities include a bulk buying point with purchases being delivered to the car deck via a dedicated lift. When delivered in about a month, the **Pride of Kent** will be fitted with an eco-friendly exhaust scrubber fitted to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions. Its sister will have the equipment fitted at a later date.

Summer cruises on in Singapore



STAR Cruises, which had suspended major cruises from Singapore following the SARS scare, has announced a new itinerary for **SuperStar Aries** departing from Singapore for May and June. Aries had commenced cruises to neighbouring Malaysia since April after a month of drydock at Sembawang Shipyard. The new itinerary includes voyages to Malaysian destinations of Malacca, Kuantan, Kuala Lumpur, Pulau Tioman and Penang. This programme fills the void created by **SuperStar Virgo's** extended deployment in Australia until mid-July, Chief Operating officer Chong Chee Tut said. The Virgo was pulled out of Singapore

after two suspected cases of SARS on board during a cruise. Both persons were subsequently pronounced as not being infected. Singapore has been successful in containing the spread of the pneumonia-type viral fever, with no cases reported for over two weeks.

Dover Strait gets control upgrade

A £1M (\$1.6M) upgrade to the Channel Navigation Information System (CNIS) overseeing shipping movements through the Dover Strait has been completed. The work involved a complete upgrade of the Dover Station including new workstations in the CNIS operations centre, new radar scanners, a training simulator and a new emergency incident room. The new system, supplied by Norcontrol IT, is based on Norcontrol's VTMS5060 equipment and uses three radar stations to cover more than 110 miles of the Dover Strait Traffic Separation Scheme. "This is probably the most state-of-the-art SAR and traffic management centre in the world at present," said the UK's Maritime & Coastguard Agency southern region inspector Derek Smith.

NAVY NEWS



The **A 802 Snellius**, one the two newbuilding Survey vessels for the Dutch navy under construction

Photo : via Bram Plokker / Ineke de Kok

MOVEMENTS

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OOCL vessel stops in Hong Kong on maiden voyage

THE **OOCL Shenzhen**, the largest vessel in the OOCL container fleet at 8,063 TEU, sailed into Modern Terminals at Kwai Chung, Hong Kong earlier this month on her maiden voyage to Europe. The ship is the first SX Class vessel delivered to the Hong Kong-based firm. A total of eight SX Class newbuildings have been ordered from Samsung Heavy Industries. Two are scheduled for delivery in 2003, four during 2004 and a further two in 2005, the company said.

The OOCL Shenzhen is also the largest container vessel registered in Hong Kong, and was christened in Korea on April 30 by the wife of T R Chang, CEO of the line. The vessel commenced her maiden voyage by calling at Shanghai, Xiamen and then Shenzhen under OOCL's China Europe Express Loop of the Asia Europe Service of the Grand Alliance. The newbuilding will next call at Singapore, before traveling to Europe through the Suez Canal.



The **Zeearend** which was at the Damen yard in Gorinchem for a service docking, received a new layer of paint and returned again at her base in Hoek van Holland
Upon completion of the **Zeearend** the **Visarend** which is based in Den Helder went on the slip for her service docking.

Photo : Capt Hans Koster – master Zeearend

.... PHOTO OF THE DAY

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The harbour tugs in Hamburg dancing the "Sirtaki" all together during the Hafengeburtstag 2003

Photo : Henk de Winde ©

OUDER DAN HET KONINKRIJK

Goedkoop Havensleepdiensten

17 MEI 2003

26 OKTOBER 2003



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