

DAILY SHIPPING NEWSLETTER 2003 – 191



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The tug **SEA LEOPARD** operating in Singapore – **photo : Jaap van Heeren ©**

EVENTS, INCIDENTS & OPERATIONS

New twist in Sea Elegance fire saga

A NEW twist has been added to the mystery of the fire on the container ship Sea Elegance outside Durban on Saturday, during which a Sri Lankan seafarer lost his life. South Africa's environmental affairs and tourism minister Mahommed Valli Moosa last night threatened "the strongest possible action from my department" for what he alleges was a non-declaration of hazardous chemicals carried on the ship. "This is completely unacceptable as this non-declaration could seriously impact on the safety of our people and of our marine environment," he said. According to his department, the ship was carrying a container of undeclared highly flammable calcium hypochlorite, which is usually found in diluted form in household bleach. Reports suggested that the explosion on the vessel was caused by the reaction of calcium hypochlorite and herbicide atrazine, which was carried in two containers nearby. A spokesman for the ship's agent in Durban maintained last night that the cause of the fire remained unknown and was the subject of an investigation by a forensic fire inspector retained by the vessels owners. However, Fairplay was told that the minister was reacting to preliminary findings from the SA Maritime Safety Authority. Sources told Fairplay the container of calcium hypochlorite had been loaded when the vessel was in China.

Norway claims to be heard in Manila

A MIAMI judge ruled yesterday that the families of 10 Filipino seafarers killed on Norwegian Cruise Line's Norway in Miami must pursue their claims before an arbitrator in the Philippines rather than sue in a US court. The ruling by US District Judge Patricia Seitz was a victory for NCL, which had argued that the 3,000 Filipino employees on its cruise ships are bound by contract to submit any injury claims to arbitration in the Philippines. Seitz said those contracts, which the employees sign before they begin work, are valid because of a US-Philippines treaty which requires each country to follow their respective arbitration laws. Eight men died and 18 were injured in a boiler explosion on 25 May. Attorneys for the workers said the contracts they signed were in English and not fully explained. They plan to appeal the ruling

Prestige test results this week

THE results of tests involving the collection of oil from the wreck of the tanker Prestige are to be announced later today or tomorrow, Martin Villa, the Spanish government minister responsible for the project, told parliament in Madrid yesterday. Holes of 70cm diameter have been cut into the hull and a valve system fitted. The oil extracted will be collected in huge bags that would extend, when full, to 27m long and 6.3m wide. There was concern that the initial extraction operation would be hindered by bad weather. About 14,000 tonnes of oil remain within the wreck of the tanker, which sank off the North-west coast of Spain on 19 November last year. Villa told members of parliament that the cost of the incident to Spain would be more than €700M (\$818M), while the government of the Basque region has sent a clean-up bill to the Madrid government of €45.7M covering the clean-up cost for the period to 31 August.

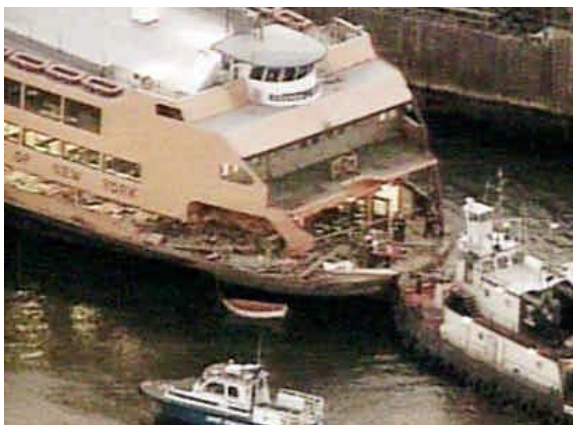
Hesperus certificate 'suspicious'

DESPITE the Norwegian tanker Hesperus being successfully beached at Alang, Greenpeace has stepped up efforts to deny it a breaking permission. The 1973-built LPG tanker was cleared for beaching yesterday amid allegations that it contains hazardous materials. Greenpeace has now approached the environment ministry again with the copy of the certificate the vessel obtained from deputy controller of explosives Ashendra Singh for 'gas-free for hot work', which a spokesman describes as "suspicious". Greenpeace maintains that the certificate was not meant for ship-breaking and dismantling activities and "clearly" states that pipelines on board are not covered. The Gujarat Pollution Control Board is meanwhile collecting ship samples for testing, which it must do before the

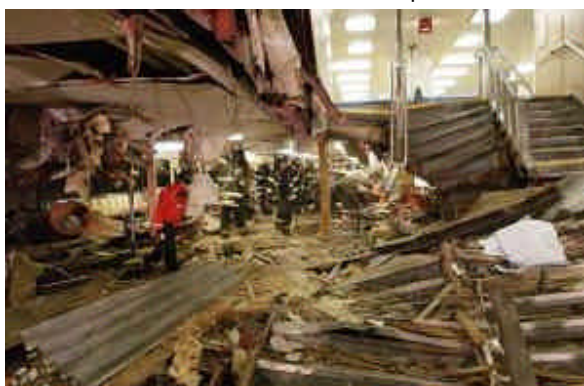
Gujarat Maritime Board can give the vessel permission for breaking. On 7 September the Supreme Court ordered the government to issue a notification under section 11 of the Customs Act, to ban export/import of 29 banned materials, and look at other materials listed under the Basel Convention for banning. The Greenpeace spokesman quoted from the inventory issued by Sigma Surveyors which lists mercury, asbestos waste and PCBs among the banned materials aboard the vessel.

CASUALTY REPORTING

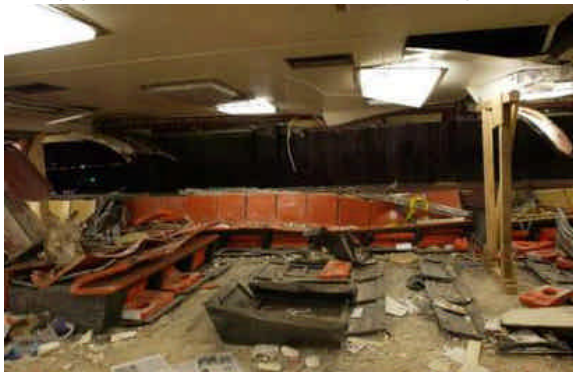
Staten Island New York Ferry Boat Crashes



Some 20 injured people, some in critical condition, had been moved to hospitals near the



No cause was given for the accident, which left a long gash in the side of the boat, though winds



A Staten Island New York ferry boat crashed into the St. George Ferry Terminal on Wednesday afternoon, causing numerous injuries and sending police, fire department and emergency workers rushing to the scene.



Staten Island terminal, said a New York fire department spokesman, who would not confirm local media reports that at least two people had died in the crash.



gusting to 45 miles per hour had led to a wind advisory in New York.

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Service was suspended from both directions on the ferry line, a municipal service covering a 5.2-mile distance from South Ferry Terminal in Manhattan to St. George in Staten Island, one of New York City's five boroughs.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg was heading to the scene, his spokesman said. An estimated 65,000 people take the 25-minute trip daily.

TRICOLOR (NIS)

Following received from Combinatie Berging Tricolor, dated Oct 13: At 0815 hrs, today, the salvage team resumed work on the eighth and final cut of vehicle Tricolor. Due to unfavourable weather conditions the salvage operation has been halted for more than a week. Last week, several vessels participating in the salvage operation were called back to port. Swells up to more than five metres made the operation too dangerous to continue. The eighth cut was halted at the moment the cutting wire was halfway through the sections eight and nine. Yesterday, divers succeeded in reconnecting the wire to the jack up rigs **Buzzard** and **Vagant** and this morning cutting resumed. In the meantime, floating crane **Rambiz** is also at the salvage site to clean up the remainders of the third, fourth and fifth sections. As soon as the cutting operation has been completed, Rambiz will start lifting the remaining sections. Presently, five out of the nine sections have been lifted and transported to Zeebrugge

OCEANBREEZE (ST. VINCENT & GRENADINES)

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) said that efforts are continuing to salvage passenger **Oceanbreeze**, imported by a local shipbreaking firm for scrapping. The pumping out of seawater has been going on in full swing and it may take a few more days. The vessel arrived in the Chittagong Port a few days back and anchored at the Outer Anchorage of the Port. On Oct 4, the bottom of the 50-year old vessel developed a crack. Following the leakage seawater had been entering into the vessel. As a result, the vessel slanted at 20 degrees. Then the captain of the vessel informed the radio control of the Chittagong Port and sought necessary co-operation to salvage it including the 23 crew on board. The CPA sent tugboats Kandari-10 and Kandari-1 to provide necessary assistance to the vessel. The water pump started to pump out the seawater from the deck of the vessel. —



SHIPYARD NEWS

Two possible bids for Appledore

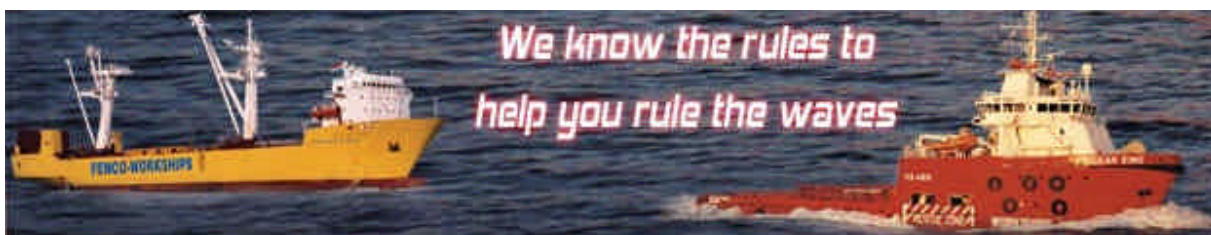
ONE or two bids are expected to be made for the UK shipbuilder Appledore by the 17.00 deadline today. The company went into receivership about two weeks ago with the loss of 550 jobs. One bid will be definitely be lodged from a local consortium brought together by Tim Jones, chairman of the Devon & Cornwall Business Council. "We will made a bid that includes an order for two ocean going tuna fishing vessels immediately and up to another four within a month," Jones told Fairplay. "Each vessel is worth about £2M (\$3.34M) and our expectation is that we would be able to re-engage about 200 workers with the total creeping up in the following 10-week period. The Administrators have checked out our finances and we have also had talks with the unions." The second possible bid is understood to be from "a locally-based shipyard in Devon". The most obvious of these is DML, the Plymouth company that runs the Devonport Dockyard. A DML spokesman told Fairplay: "we have

expressed an interest" but he declined to say whether that equated to making a bid. Appldeore's last contract was a large yacht built under subcontract from DML and delivered just a week before it went into receivership.

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Vietnam plans huge fleet expansion

VIETNAM is to invest \$18Bn expanding the national fleet. The newbuilding plan unveiled by the government includes acquiring 18 container ships of 2,500 TEU each and eight tankers of 80,000-100,000dwt. Its port modernisation plan will involve developing Haiphong to take in ships of 150,000dwt and large container ships. The port has targeted an annual throughput of 2.4M TEU by 2010. Vietnam's ports together handled 100M tonnes of cargo in 2002, an increase of 11% over the amount moved in 2001.

SITC orders vessels from Japanese yard

SITC Maritime (Group) Co. has inked an agreement for two 831 TEU container vessels with Kyokuyo Shipyard Corp. The new vessels will be equipped with 120 reefer plugs and be able to accommodate open side containers. The ships are to also possess a sailing speed of 18.5 knots, and will be used on the line's Far East/Southeast Asia service in the second half of 2004. SITC will have a fleet of 10 ships, eight of which are the same, once the newbuildings start service.

Minoan

Ferry operator Minoan Lines is looking into selling its Hellas Flying Dolphins (HFD) subsidiary to raise cash and retire debt but is also weighing other options, a senior official said yesterday. «We're presently evaluating four scenarios, either selling our 31.6 percent stake in HFD, absorbing the company, merging it with another operator or continuing its independent operation,» Minoan's Chief Financial Officer George Vassiloconstantakis said. He confirmed Minoan, with a current market capitalization of 104 million euros, had received expressions of interest for HFD but dismissed press reports it was close to clinching a deal. «It's too early to say, there is nothing firm,» he said. Press reports said yesterday Minoan had been approached by foreign shipping firms, including US-based Sea Containers Ltd, and was one step from selling HFD

NAVY NEWS



The Argentine navy tanker **B 13 INGENIERO JULIO KRAUSE** photographed during bunkering operations at Santos inner anchorage October 14th , She is loaded with full cargo of Naphta and are already more than 45 days at Santos Roads waiting cargo clearance in order to discharge.

Photo : Marcelo Lopes ©

Submarine's severing of cable under investigation by Navy

The Navy is investigating the severing of a tow cable by the San Diego-based submarine **Topeka** off the coast of Washington state, a Navy spokeswoman said Monday.

On Saturday at about 2 p.m., the **Topeka** apparently snagged and parted a cable stretched between the tug **Ernest Campbell** and an empty oil barge, said Lt. Kim Marks, spokeswoman for Submarine Squadron 11 here.



Left : file picture of the **SSN 754 TOPEKA** –photo : Coll. Piet Sinke ©

The routine investigation could be completed within a few months, she said. The **Topeka**, which was submerged at the time, suffered only a scrape to a bow plane and no crew injuries, said a Navy official who spoke on condition of anonymity. No one was injured, and no damage was reported on the Ernest Campbell.

The barge drifted northward in high winds and seas off Cape Flattery for three hours until a tug was able to recover the towline and reattach it. The barge was towed into Port Angeles in the Strait of Juan

de Fuca, the entrance to Puget Sound. The submarine was conducting routine training exercises off Washington and was headed to the Bangor Submarine Base when the incident occurred.

Navy relieved as torpedo hits target



MISSION

ACCOMPLISHED: After suffering setbacks in the Hankuang No. 19 exercise last month, the Taiwanese navy redeemed itself after the second of two torpedoes fired yesterday hit its intended target

The navy regained its self-confidence yesterday after a successful torpedo test. The success came after the navy failed to hit a target in the Sept. 4 Hankuang No. 19

exercise.

The first of two torpedoes fired yesterday developed similar problems as the one in the Hankuang, or Han Glory, exercise and failed to hit its target. But a second try yesterday worked, marking the first success the navy has had in two decades in firing a live torpedo from a submarine. The torpedo tests were held at a beach in Chialutang, Pingtung County. The result cheered up navy commander-in-chief Admiral Miao Yung-ching who looked downcast after the first torpedo test of the day ended in failure. "It has helped us regain self-confidence," Miao said in a brief speech after the torpedo tests. "It will also make the public have confidence in us again."

"Despite the success, we will seek to find out what caused the other tests to fail to ensure that no mistakes of the same kind are made again," Miao said. Yesterday's tests were intended to make up for the navy's failures in the Hankuang exercise, which included a live submarine-launched torpedo and a land-based Chaparral air defense missile. The Chaparral is used by the marine corps.

It was President Chen Shui-bian's idea that the navy and other armed services launch more tests of weapons systems that developed problems in the Hankuang exercise until they were able to hit the target without fault.

Torpedoes were not the only weapons put to the test in yesterday's live-fire drills.

The Mica air-to-air missile and the Chaparral missile were also tested. Both hit their targets.

The Mica was not launched during the Hankuang exercise because its intended target was mistakenly shot down by a Standard SM-1 missile fired from a **Chengkung-class** frigate. The Chaparral was off the mark in the Hankuang exercise. After the Mica and Chaparral passed the tests, the navy's heavyweight SUT torpedo became the center of attention. The navy had been preparing for the SUT test for several weeks. The navy had fired another live torpedo in a rehearsal on Oct. 8. The test was successful, but could not be officially counted. The training drills were supposed to have been completed by noon, but were extended after the first SUT torpedo went out of control.

Initial probes by the navy showed that the wire guiding the torpedo broke during the homing process, a situation similar to what happened in the Hankuang exercise.

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The navy said the torpedo sank to the bottom of the sea about 53 minutes after it lost contact with the submarine. The sea where the torpedo test was held was up to 1,571m deep, the navy said.

"After its batteries run out, the torpedo will sink to the seabed," it said.

A second torpedo test took place at 2:20pm. Six minutes later, the torpedo hit a decommissioned **Yang-class** destroyer, about 60 nautical miles off the coast.

KITTY HAWK COMMENCED TRAILS



The aircraft carrier **USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63)** gets underway after completing a successful five-month overhaul by Ship's Repair Force, Yokosuka, Japan. Kitty Hawk will now undergo sea-trials

MOVEMENTS

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The **BOA KING** off Stavanger – photo : Terje Moen ©



The **WOODY** seen here in the Port of Oshawa (Lake Ontario) – photo : Jim Gallagher ©

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The dredger **KRANKELON** working at the Schelde near Antwerp – photo : Peter Andriessen ©



The **THALASOPOROS** is the former **ALEXANDRIA 3** of Maritime & Commercial Co Argonaftis S.A. in Pireus seen here in Limassol (Cyprus) - Photo : Jack van der Valk ©

AIRCRAFT / AIRPORT NEWS

China grants Martinair further traffic rights



Martinair's **Mc Donnell Douglas MD-11(F)** PH-MCU Banking extremely just a few feet above the runway at Amsterdam - Schiphol Airport - **photo : Wietse de Graaf ©**

THE recently concluded bilateral aviation agreement between China and The Netherlands has given Martinair Cargo new traffic rights. The carrier said in a statement that it will be able to operate 14 freighter flights per week from Holland to Nanjing, Kunming, Tianjin and Shenzhen with a maximum of seven flights per destination.

In addition, Martinair has been granted co-terminalisation between The Netherlands and these cities with permits to carry fifth freedom cargo from China to any two intermediate points enroute.

Martinair currently offers fifth freedom capacity on the Bangkok/Nanjing, and the return sector. With the new agreement, the airline will immediately open up cargo capacity on its Sydney/Nanjing service.

RIJNMOND WEATHER

Vooruitzichten van vrijdag t/m maandag:

LATER MEER BEWOLKING!

Het blijft nog even zonnig en droog. In de loop van zondag komt er meer bewolking en maandag bestaat er kans op een bui. Koude nachten met plaatselijk vorst aan de grond.

© Ed Aldus 2003	VR-17	ZA-18	ZO-19	MA-20
Maximumtemperatuur:	12	12	11	10
Minimumtemperatuur:	3	2	2	5
Zonnekans in %:	90	80	60	30
Neerslagkans in %:	5	5	10	30
Windrichting kracht:	O-3-5	O-3-5	NO-3-4	NO-3-4

.... PHOTO OF THE DAY



Artist impression of the **MUNCHEN** which was lost, most probably by a freak wave, during 1978
Artist impression : BBC ©

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