

DAILY COLLECTION OF MARITIME PRESS CLIPPINGS 2007 – 044



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**The JO EIK seen enroute Rotterdam
Photo : Frits Janse ©**

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EVENTS, INCIDENTS & OPERATIONS



The **KST 31**, **KST 34** and **KST 38** of Keppel Smit Towage, seen moored at the container terminal in Tanjung Pelapas, Malaysia.

Photo : Cor Fontaine ©

Eco Friendly Scuttling

Tasmania's newest artificial reef has begun settling into place off Maria Island on the state's east coast. A 590-tonne former cargo ship was scuttled last week to create the reef.

The scuttling was delayed slightly while a helicopter completed a last minute search of the site for any stray whales or other vulnerable marine life.

Then to cheers and applause from hundreds of spectators assembled on nearby boats, the **Troy D** was sunk.

A ball of flame shot-up from the vessel, but it was only for show. The real work was done by explosives carefully planted inside the **Troy D**, which imploded the ship.

The 55-metre vessel has now sunk to the seabed next to a marine berth off Maria Island. It is hoped it will become a world-class dive site.

Medewerkers Trafigura vrij

Drie medewerkers van het Nederlandse handelsbedrijf Trafigura zijn in Ivoorkust vrijgelaten na een akkoord tussen Trafigura en de Ivooriaanse autoriteiten over de affaire met het gifschip **Probo Koala**, zo meldt de Amstelveense onderneming.

De drie mannen, Claude Dauphin en Jean-Pierre Valentini uit Frankrijk en de Ivoriaan Nzi Kablan, zaten sinds september vast in het West-Afrikaanse land.

Ivoorkust bereikte dinsdag een akkoord met het handelsbedrijf Trafigura over de affaire met het gifschip **Probo Koala**. De tekst voorziet in het betalen van een schadevergoeding van 152 miljoen euro. Het internationale olie- en metaalhandelsbedrijf Trafigura, gevestigd in Amstelveen, vervoerde met de olietanker **Probo Koala** giftig materiaal naar Ivoorkust, nadat het eerder niet was gelukt dat in Amsterdam te lossen. Daar werd het in de zomer van 2006 illegaal gedumpt in woonwijken van de miljoenenstad Abidjan.

Schadelijke dampen kostten zeker tien mensen het leven en bezorgden tienduizenden anderen gezondheidsklachten.



Another delay for Napoli off-loading

Off-loading of containers from the wrecked container ship **MSC Napoli** was halted due to bad weather over the weekend.

The British meteorological office last Thursday forecasting storm conditions for the whole of this past weekend – and the Maritime and Coastguard Authority (MCA), in charge of the salvage operation, agreed with salvors Smit to stop container off-loading until the weather clears.

Havenslepers Smit willen staken voor een betere CAO

Werknemers van Smit Havensleepdiensten in Rotterdam willen staken voor een betere CAO. Dat hebben leden van de vakbonden FNV, CNV en De Unie tijdens verscheidene bijeenkomsten laten weten.

DAILY COLLECTION OF MARITIME PRESS CLIPPINGS 2007 – 044

De bonden stellen de directie van moederbedrijf Smit waarschijnlijk nog deze week een ultimatum.

Gisteren waren er twee ledenvergaderingen op Smit- schepen bij het hoofdkantoor in Schiedam en in de Scheurhaven in de Europoort. „Ik denk dat acties bijna onvermijdelijk zijn geworden, zegt bestuurder Cees Bos van FNV Bondgenoten.

Nog niet duidelijk is wanneer de eerste protesten te verwachten zijn.

Het CAO-conflict tussen de 240 werknemers van de havensleper en de top van het maritieme bedrijf gaat volgens de bonden onder meer over de lonen en de wens van de directie flexibeler te werken.

„Als we niet uitkijken, hebben de mensen straks bijna geen vrije tijd meer, stelt Bos.

Woordvoester Claudia van Andel van Smit beklemtoont dat er volgens de directie geen sprake is van een conflict. „We zijn met elkaar in overleg. Eigenlijk moeten de onderhandelingen nog beginnen.”

Ze heeft geen idee wanneer beide partijen weer met elkaar praten.



Spliethof's **EMMAGRACHT** seen at the river Tyne bound for OTP Walker.

Photo : John Killpatrick ©

Luxury cruise ship moors to Benoa Port in Bali

A 205-meter long luxury cruise ship **Albatross** moored to Benoa port in Indonesian island resort of Bali for the first time on Tuesday, local port official HB Harahap said overnight.

"Sailing under German flag with 596 tourists and 518 crews on board, **Albatross** is a huge, luxury cruise ship to moors to Benoa port for the first time," Harahap said, adding that the tourists were from Europe, Asia and the United States.

DAILY COLLECTION OF MARITIME PRESS CLIPPINGS 2007 – 044

He said that during the stop-over in Benoa, the tourists enjoyed cultural attractions and visited several tourist resorts such as Besakih, Kintamani and Celuk Gianyar.

Harahap added that the presence of such a luxury cruise ship in Bali had a positive impact on tourism in Bali.

Security at Benoa port was tightened during **Albatross** presence. The passengers' waiting room at the port was sterilized and surrounded with iron bars to prevent ordinary people from entering in.

According to him, **Albatross** berthed at Benoa at about 10 a.m. on Tuesday and moored off the island resort at 9 p.m. to continue her voyage to Timor Leste capital of Dili.

From Dili, the luxury cruise will then sail by Kisar Island in Southeast West Maluku to the Australian Northern Territorial city of Darwin.

CASUALTY REPORTING

S. Korean cargo ship missing

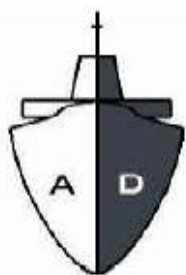
A South Korean cargo ship with 11 crew members on board disappeared in the sea off the Japanese coast Wednesday, local maritime officials said, citing a report from the Japanese Maritime Safety Agency.

The 2,000-ton ship with a cargo of iron ore was on its way to South Korea's southeastern port of Pohang when it disappeared 7 miles southwest of Daiosaki, Japan, officials said.

NAVY NEWS

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Navy Updates 30-year Fleet Plan

The updated U.S. 30-year fleet construction plan require more surface combatants and fewer expeditionary warfare ships, but preserves the goal of a 313-ship fleet, Defense News reported. The plan, approved Feb. 2 by Navy Secretary Donald Winter, is updated every year and sent to Congress along with the U.S. president's annual budget, according to the report. While the numbers required for individual types of ships such as submarines and aircraft carriers haven't been altered, the 2008 plan improves the building rate for surface combatants in the far- term period -- those years from 2021 to 2037. Instead of building two ships per year, the revised plan requires building three ships in every year beginning in 2025. Those ships will be the yet-to-be-designed DDG(X) destroyer, a follow-on to today's DDG 51 Arleigh Burke class of Aegis guided- missile destroyers.

Lekota to receive third new warship

Defence Minister Mosiuoa Lekota will receive the **SAS Spioenkop**, the third of four warships acquired as part of the strategic defence package, in Simon's Town on Friday.

The frigate will be officially handed over to the SA Navy at a commissioning ceremony at the naval base.

Cdr Jaco Theunissen said the frigate's crew would begin with operational duties, which would include training operations, peace support operations, escorts, diplomatic missions, operational exercises with African and other navies, and any other duty that they might be assigned to perform.



The French **L 9014 TONNERRE** seen leaving the port of Brest
Photo : Jacques Carney ©

HMCS Ottawa Visits Port Klang For Canada-M'sia 50th Anniversary

The Canadian naval frigate Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (**HMCS**) **Ottawa** made a call to South Point here for a visit as part of the 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Canada and Malaysia.

HMCS Ottawa's executive officer, Lieutenant Commander Brian A. Costello said the visit was aimed at strengthening bilateral defence and security relations between the two countries since the 50 years ago.

"It is important for Canada and Malaysia to work together continuously and share the experience together," he said at a press briefing during a tour onboard **HMCS Ottawa**, here Monday.

He said Malaysia was an important security and defence partner for Canada including in the fight against terrorism where both countries shared expertise, training and equipments.

With a crew of 240 including 35 officers, **HMCS Ottawa** had jointly participated in maritime exercises together with Royal Malaysian Navy and Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (APMM) during its visits here.

The Canadian frigate made a call at Port Klang last Thursday until Tuesday en route to Canada following a six month deployment in the Middle East.

Based in British Colombia, **HMCS Ottawa** was commissioned in July 1996 and was the latest ship of the Halifax Class and a highly capable ship designed to perform as a patrol frigate.

Eerste twee mijnenjagers weer ingezet

Na een lang ontwikkeltraject kan het vernieuwde sensor-, wapen- en commandosysteem (Sewaco) voor de mijnenjagers van de Alkmaar klasse en Flower klasse (België) operationeel worden ingezet. Op 31 januari heeft directeur DMO Lex Hendrichs Hr. Ms. **Urk** en Hr. Ms. **Maassluis** symbolisch overgedragen aan Commandant der Zee strijdkrachten vice-admiraal Jan Willem Kelder. Kelder ontving een bedienpaneel van het Seafox-systeem en lanceerde een projectiel. Het Seafox-systeem maakt onderdeel uit van het vernieuwde Sewaco-systeem. Met dit Sewaco- systeem kunnen grond- en verankerde mijnen worden opgespoord en onschadelijk gemaakt. Het is één van de vele aanpassingen aan de Nederlandse en Belgische mijnenjagers die voortvloeit uit het binationale Project Aanpassing Mijnenbestrijdingscapaciteit (PAM).



Boven : de Belgische mijnenjager **M 923 NARCIS** – Foto : **Rene Molijn** ©

Het vernieuwde Sewaco-systeem is noodzakelijk, omdat de Nederlandse en Belgische mijnenjagers uit de midden jaren tachtig stammen. Samen met onze zuiderburen is er een moderniseringsprogramma opgesteld. De schepen van de Alkmaar klasse en Flower klasse moeten immers nog tot 2020 mee. Ze worden daarom voorzien van nieuwe apparatuur.

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2 newbuildings at Ferus Smit shipyard



Foto : Jan Kees Dommisse ©

Both vessels are constructed by order from the Family Ter Stege from Zwartsluis. The **Ambassadeur** (yardnumber 368) was launched at January 19th and the **Gouverneur** (yardnumber 371) will be launched in her element during May.

This two vessels are respectively the tenth and eleventh in the row of a series 1A-Ice class multipurpose 6000 ton vessels which **Shipyard Ferus Smit** is building for Wagenborg Shipping B.V. and associated companies and captain owners .

The general details are as follows :

DAILY COLLECTION OF MARITIME PRESS CLIPPINGS 2007 – 044

Length over all is 110,78 meter, beam 14,00 meter, BRT 3990. and in the engineroom an 2640 kW MaK 8M25 is installed , this main engine is able to give the vessels a speed of 14 knots

The **AMBASSADEUR** will be delivered February 16th and the **GOUVERNEUR** is scheduled for delivery in June.

Yantai-Raffles inks \$300 million LOI

Yantai Raffles Shipyard Limited reports that it has signed a Letter of Intent with Consafe Invest AB, a wholly owned subsidiary of JCE Group AB, to build two semi-submersible heavy lifters worth a total of US \$300 million.

The two 30,000 metric tonnes displacement semi-submersible service and crane vessels are to be built according to the Norwegian Continental Shelf regulations and will be specially outfitted for maintenance work and lift operations in offshore fields worldwide.

Each vessel has a 90 m x 60 m metres free deck space and will be outfitted with two 1,100 metric tonnes revolving cranes over the port side.

The accommodations block for 350 persons, mounted cantilever over the starboard side, will be able to provide more free deck space.

The first vessel, **SSCB Safe Lifter**, will be delivered 18 months from the effective date of the contract. It will be outfitted with a conventional 10 point mooring system and prepared for a Dynamic Positioning (DP) system. The second unit, **SSCB Safe Carrier**, will be delivered within 28 months and will be fully outfitted with the DP system.

"We have developed this project together with Yantai Raffles for quite some time now, and YRSÖ delivery schedule is fast tracking them to be the most advanced offshore yard in the world. Their gantry crane with lifting capacity of 20,000 metric tonnes, ready this summer, will boost the production capacity at their shipyard enormously." says Hampus Ericsson, CEO of Consafe Invest.

Samsung books \$400 million FPSO order

Korea's Samsung Heavy Industries Co. has received an order worth US\$400 million order to build a floating production storage and off-loading ship for an undisclosed Norwegian owner.

Samsung says 58 percent of the deal (around 222 billion won or \$236 million) is denominated in Korean won, as part of efforts to cut currency losses. The won gained around 9 percent against the U.S. dollar last year.

The ship is set for January 2010 delivery.

Remøy Management orders again at Kleven

Myklebust Verft AS in Gursken, Norway, has signed a contract with Remøy Management in Fosnavåg, Norway, for construction of a third coast guard vessel with hybrid propulsion system based on gas and diesel fuel.

The VS 794 CGV design was developed in close cooperation between the yard, owner, and Vik-Sandvik.

Delivery will take place in March 2009.

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The **ERASMUSGRACHT** seen arriving in Tauranga (New Zealand)

Photo : Tim Lodder – Statendam ©

ESCAP trainees visit Port Qasim

A 13-member delegation of foreign trainees from ESCAP region - Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Malaysia, Myanmar, Indonesia, Iran and Egypt - visited the Port Qasim Authority on Tuesday. The trainees, accompanied by Pakistan Railway Academy officials, evinced keen interest in the Port and its operational activities, says a press release.

The delegation was given a briefing on the Port activities and its contribution to national economy. Port Qasim Authority Chairman Vice Admiral HI (M) Asad Qureshi stressed on effective mode of transportation in the shortest possible time, saying this was now a container world and there was going to be further increase in container traffic in the near future. He said Railway would be required to play an important role in the future to ease traffic congestion.

The PQA chairman informed the delegation of the vast potential of the Port and that Port Qasim was one of the largest contributors to national economy of Pakistan. It has an impressive growth in all facets of port operation.

The PQA is currently pursuing a large number of projects for capacity enhancement and industrialisation attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) and simultaneously undertaking major infrastructure development to enhance efficiency.

Handling capacity of port is currently 31 million tonnes per annum. As per future development plan, the number of terminals/berths will further be increased by nine with additional handling capacity of 50 million tonnes per annum.

New Line Traffic Connections from Oulu

TransAtlantic, a Swedish shipping company, has expanded its operation in Oulu considerably. On 6th January, new line traffic connections began from Oulu to Gothenburg and Lübeck with two brand-new and one older container/RoRo vessel, operating three times a week: on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.



The **ASTROSPRINTER** seen in Rotterdam, which will be renamed in **TRANSANUND**
Photo : Frank Noordsij ©

There are fast connections from Gothenburg to Antwerp and Zeebrügge in Belgium, as well as to Tilbury and Immingham in England. The transportation time to Gothenburg is about 36 hours, and to Lübeck about 48 hours. The ships mostly carry unit cargo, such as containers, trailers and other large-volume units, but also cars, machinery, appliances and other "rolling" cargo.

In addition, TransAtlantic is increasing its container feeder capacity from Oulu to Hamburg and Bremerhaven from the beginning of the year. Two new container ships with capacity exceeding 800 TEU will be taken into use, both of which are currently being constructed in the Netherlands (TEU=Twenty feet Equivalent Unit, or one 20' container).

Container traffic in Oulu increased significantly in 2006, reaching the limit of 30,000 TEU for the very first time. With the introduction of new, bigger ships our capacity will increase, enabling the growth of container traffic in the future as well. The new container vessels in question are M/V **TransAnund** (ex **Astrosprinter**) and M/V **TransJorund**, (ex **Astrorunner**) which will be completed in late January to early February.

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EITZEN BUYS MOSVOLD CHEMICAL

NORWEGIAN owner Eitzen Chemical is buying Mosvold Chemical KS for US\$12m. The Mosvold Chemical KS fleet comprises the four early nineties built, stainless steel chemical tanker vessels ranging in size from 5,400 dwt to 7,600 dwt. The vessels are on time charter to Italian owner Marnavi until June 2009. A statement says: "Total purchase price for the shares is US\$12m adjusted for working capital, of which 50% will be settled with Eitzen Chemical ASA shares based on Nkr 33 (US\$5.34) per share, and the remaining in cash. Final agreement is expected to be finalized during March 2007."

Meanwhile Eitzen Chemical has reported a Q4 operating result before depreciation (EBITDA) of US\$28.3m, down from US\$33.2m for proforma Q3 2006. (PQ3).

SPO vessels hit the spot market

Seabrokers reports that **Pacific Blade** and **Pacific Brigand** have recently joined the North Sea spot market and will be based in Aberdeen for the foreseeable future.



Photo : Piet Sinke ©

The two vessels owned and operated by Swire Pacific Offshore (SPO) are Norwegian built UT720 design AHTS with 12,240BHP generating a 150 tonne bollard pull.

The sister vessels have recently completed their long term charter to Saipem supporting the **Castoro Sei** pipelay barge.

Saipem's three year programme has seen the vessels work throughout the North Sea, the Mediterranean and the Middle East covering projects such as the Green Stream pipelay, Dolphin Gas pipeline and most recently the Tweedsmuir project.

Pacific Blade and **Pacific Brigand** have not worked in the spot market since the early 2000s.

De Beers Fits Out Big Vessel for Sea Gems

THE biggest mining vessel in the world will start sucking up diamonds off SA's west coast in August, using a 265-ton, remote-controlled crawler on the seabed.

DAILY COLLECTION OF MARITIME PRESS CLIPPINGS 2007 – 044

De Beers Consolidated Mines is on schedule to complete the refitting of the R1bn **Peace in Africa** by mid-July so that mining in a portion of De Beers' South African Sea Areas (Sasa) 8000km' concession, southwest of Alexander Bay, can begin by August. De Beers Group MD Gareth Penny said at the group's results presentation on Friday that the group was optimistic about the new vessel.

The new vessel gave De Beers "two strings to our bow" in being able to explore for diamonds off the west coast of SA as well as in the deep waters off the coast of Namibia.



Top : The **PEACE IN AFRICA** – Photo : Aad Noorland ©

The group's capital spending this year could include investing in another mining vessel for Namibia. On a visit to Cape Town harbour during last week's three-day Mining Indaba to see the work in progress, journalists were shown the vessel's refitting to house a "crawler", which will be lowered to the seabed to suck up 10000m' an hour of water, mud and, it is hoped, diamonds, in a layer between 300mm and 500mm thick on the ocean bed, about 130m deep.

After eliminating the water and most of the other extraneous material, a tin about the size of a can of beans will be filled each day, of which 20% to 30% will be diamonds. De Beers expects to produce about 240000 carats of diamonds a year from this site.

The diamonds on the seabed are alluvial gems about 60-million years old, which were eroded from the original diamond pipes or kimberlites formed by volcanic action.

The **Peace in Africa** will have two teams of 60 crew each working in 28-day shifts. The vessel will stay at sea for about two-and-a-half years at a time.

Fantaasia stays in the Mediterenean

SSG-TALLINN. AS Tallink group has signed a deal to charter out the **Fantaasia** to Algérie Ferries from May to October, with an option to extend the charter. During 2005 Algérie Ferries chartered the **Fantaasia** for nine months and used her for traffic between Algeria and France under Estonian flag and with Estonian crew. From May 2006 through March 2007 the **Fantaasia** has been chartered by Moroccan Comanav for traffic between S?te and Tanger, this charter has been extended through April.

HYDRA ARRIVED SAFELY IN HARLINGEN



Foto : Jan de Witte ©

WorldWise Marine Brokers heeft bemiddeld bij de sleep van een Tsjechisch casco, de **Hydra** voor Wagenborg vanuit Hamburg naar Harlingen. Zondag ochtend 4 Februari 2007 kwam het casco met een duwboot uit Praag in Hamburg aan de Kirchenpauer Kaj en Maandag lag het casco met de sleepboot **Corvin** van Hans Schramm 's morgens al voor Harlingen om te worden overgenomen door boten van A.Rijpkema. Warranty surveyor was Bureau Vogtschmidt. Agent in Hamburg was Ewald Muller en in Harlingen was Kuhlman agent.

KPT to build five-star resort

Pakistan Navy has given green signal to Karachi Port Trust (KPT) for the vacation of Manora Island and handing over the possession very soon. The KPT the body for the development of port and providing infrastructure in the port area has chalked out a plan to construct a five-star resort on the Island.

The plan was duly approved by Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz in October 2005. However, implementation of the scheme was delayed due to the installation of the Pakistan Navy on the Island. Due to the presence of Pakistan Navy on the Island, Manora is declared as high security sensitive area.

Now the Pakistan Navy has given its consent to vacate the area, Brig Syed Jamshed Zaidi, General Manager for Planning in KPT revealed this while talking to The News. The resort would be linked with Clifton, Sandspit and Hawksbay via a bridge. Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has given approval for the construction of a five-star resort at Manora in October 2005. Manora is a small island having area of around 2.5 square kilometers located just south of the Port of Karachi. The island is connected to the mainland by a 12 kilometre long causeway along with the Sandspit beach. Manora and neighbouring islands form a protective barrier between Karachi harbour to the north and the Arabian Sea to the south.

The island of Manora has served for more than 50 years as the main base of the Pakistan Navy, with berths for naval vessels located along the eastern edge of the island. The island has been governed as a military cantonment.

Before the opening of the new Jinnah Naval Base at Ormara, 250 kilometers away, Manora was the main base of Pakistan Navy. Now, Pakistan Navy has agreed to shift its entire installation from Manora to Cape Montz, Zaidi said. They (Pakistan Navy) have given their consent recently, he said and added that soon after getting the possession, the KPT will start the initial work on the project. According to an encyclopedia, parts of city of Karachi and the island of Manora at port of Karachi constituted the city of Debal.

The island was the site of a small fort constructed in the eighteenth century when the port of Karachi traded with Oman and Bahrain. The fort was stormed by the British in 1839 because of the strategic location of Karachi. Although

DAILY COLLECTION OF MARITIME PRESS CLIPPINGS 2007 – 044

the fort is now buried beneath the naval base, the lighthouse is a visible reminder of the British presence having been built in 1889 to assist vessels approaching Karachi harbour. It is the tallest lighthouse (28 m or 91 feet high) in Pakistan.

Manora is also a popular picnic spot because of the long sandy beaches along the southern edge of the island, which merge into the beaches of the Sandspit and then extend several kilometers to the beaches at Hawksbay.

The island lies approximately 15-20 minutes by boat ride from mainland Karachi but there are no good hotels available for an overnight stay. For this and other reasons, the Government of Pakistan planned to develop the island into a tourist destination, KPT general manager said. The island has been envisioned as an exotic location with natural landscapes such as the beaches and the mangrove forests, and secluded beauty with an upgrade for the lighthouse to add to the quaint feel of the island.

Ministry for Ports and Shipping has also signed Memorandum of Understanding in 2006 with Dubai World Port and Emaar Properties for the redevelopment of Manora Island. The KPT has estimated the cost for the development and construction of resort to the tune of Rs5 billion.

Beside the resorts, the KPT will also build a cruise terminal at the jetty of the Manora Island to facilitate the tourists and encourage the sea-tourism, he said. Now, KPT is ready to kick-off the project with the first step of the appointment of the consultant, he added. Estimated period for the completion of the project is around 4 years.

Beside the 400 acres land occupied by the Pakistan Navy, the KPT has owned around 200 acres land in the island. And this 600 acre land is enough for the erection of a new tourist hub in the island, Zaidi said. The KPT will not touch the old residents of the island who are enjoying ownership rights there, he clarified while replying a question.

MOVEMENTS

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Norferries **KJELL SVERRE** seen moored in Caracas Bay (Curacao)
Photo : Els Kroon ©

Het chique zeilcruiseschip **Club Med II** bezoekt volgende week maandag voor het eerst Curaçao. Tijdens het bezoek meert de vijfmaster af aan de Matheywerf.

Maximaal neemt de **Club Med II** 400 passagiers mee. Het in 1992 gebouwde en vier jaar later volledig gerenoveerde schip is van wereldwijde luxe resortketen **Club Méditerranée**. Ook aan boord staat service voorop. De gasten worden verzorgd door 200 man personeel. De voertaal is zowel Frans als Engels. Hoewel het om een tall ship gaat, vergt het zeilen geen zware inspanning. Alle zeven grote zeilen werken volledig computergestuurd.

De **Club Med II** komt maandagochtend om zeven uur aan en vertrekt weer om vijf uur. Dit najaar keert het schip nog een keer terug naar Willemstad. Dit bezoek staat gepland op 29 november. De agent die de afhandeling verzorgt is Admiral Shipping.



The **CHIQUITA DEUTSCHLAND** seen enroute Antwerp
Photo : Frank de Paauw ©

From Sunday 18th @ 1300hrs - Thursday 22nd the US Navy Oliver Hazard Perry Class Frigate **USS TAYLOR FFG 50** is visiting Valletta.

AIRCRAFT / AIRPORT NEWS

Tegenvallende vrachtcijfers Air France-KLM

De vrachtomzet bij Air France-KLM daalde over het derde kwartaal van het lopende boekjaar met 3 procent tot 789 miljoen euro. Het resultaat van het bedrijfsonderdeel kromp zelfs met eenderde van 98 miljoen naar 62 miljoen euro vergeleken met jaar eerder.



Boven : De Boeing 747-400 **PH-CKB** in de start op Schiphol – Foto : Joop & Vera Looije ©

Volgens het bedrijf had het vrachtvervoer te lijden onder de scherpe concurrentie op de Aziatische routes.

De totale winst van de luchtvaartmaatschappij steeg daarentegen van 77 miljoen naar 229 miljoen euro. De omzet van de luchtvaartgroep groeide met 6 procent tot 5,75 miljard euro.

Two Fatalities Confirmed in Helicopter Crash Offshore Louisiana

Officials at Era Helicopters LLC and the United States Coast Guard report the recovery of two persons killed in a helicopter accident Monday morning approximately 65-miles south of Intracoastal City, Louisiana. The bodies of the pilot, Denver, Colorado resident John Lancaster, age 46, and his passenger, David Thibodeaux, age 33, of Abbeville, were recovered along with the helicopter wreckage at approximately 10:30 p.m. Monday following an extensive search of the accident area. Mr. Lancaster was employed by Era since July 2006. Mr. Thibodeaux was employed as a production operator by Wood Group Production Services, Inc., of Houma, Louisiana.

The accident occurred at approximately 8:15 a.m. Monday as the helicopter, a Eurocopter EC120, was attempting a landing on an oil and gas production platform located in Vermilion block 200. There were no other passengers on board and no apparent witnesses to the accident. "All of us at Era Helicopters are deeply saddened by the loss of our friend and co-worker and his passenger. This is a terrible tragedy for both these men and their families and we continue to hold the families of these victims in our thoughts and prayers. Over the next several days we will work in cooperation with the National Transportation Safety Board, Federal Aviation Administration, and other agencies to determine what happened and why, and to ensure the safety of all our flight operations," said Neill Osborne, President of Lake Charles, Louisiana-based Era Helicopters.

"We are grateful for the cooperation of the United States Coast Guard, FAA and other responding agencies who assisted in the rescue and recovery operations and extend our thanks to them," Osborne said.

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The bodies and the aircraft wreckage were recovered in approximately 100 feet of water near the platform. Early indications are that the helicopter may have come in inadvertent contact with the platform while seeking to make a routine landing. No cause for the accident has yet been determined.

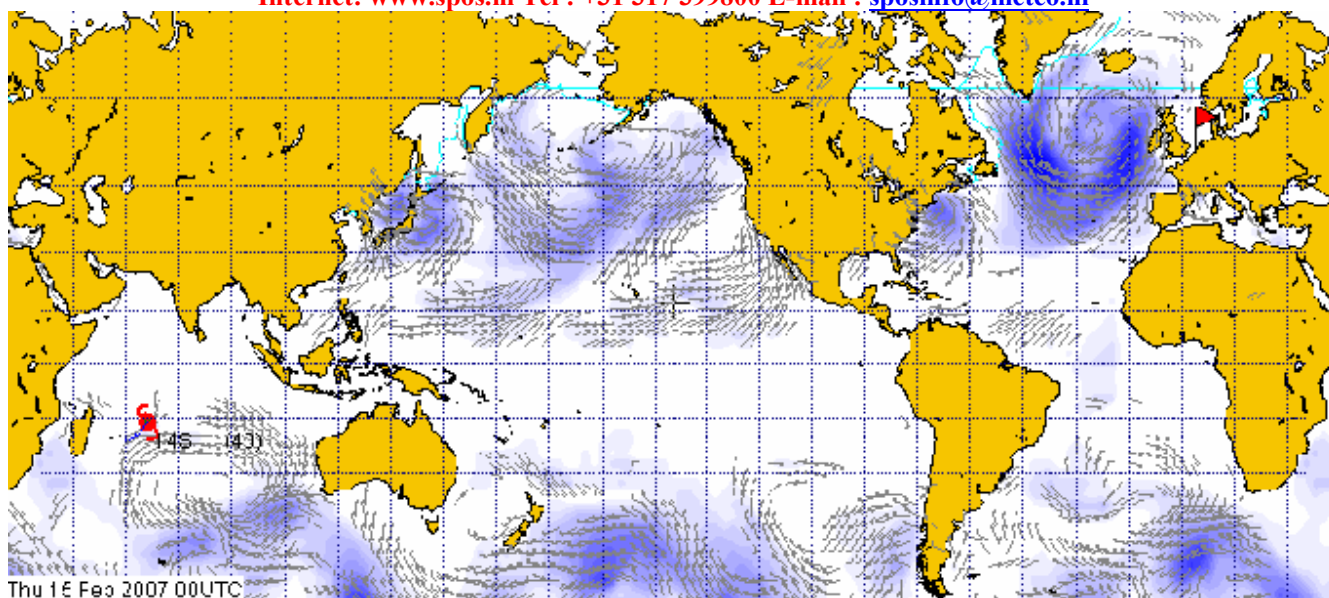
Era Helicopters is based in Lake Charles, Louisiana and is owned by Fort Lauderdale, Florida based SEACOR Holdings Inc. a leading provider of transportation services for the offshore oil and gas industry.

MARINE WEATHER

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.... PHOTO OF THE DAY



The **PRINS JOHAN WILLEM FRISO** of Anthony Veder seen at the Westerscheldt River, note the flag change from Dutch to Liberian flag and homeported now Monrovia, the Dutch crew onboard is replaced by Russian nationals and the ratings onboard are from Indonesia. - **Photo : Henk de Winde ©**

.....WHO IS WHO.....

In this section the contributors to the **SHIPPINGNEWS CLIPPINGS** will be introduced to the readers

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Marcelo Vieira, the shipping news clippings contributor from Rio Grande (Brazil) seen in front of the **INSIGNA**.

Marcelo thanks for sending the pictures, it is appreciated by all readers !!

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