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The BOHUS disappeared under the water surface Photo: Swedish Coast ©

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EVENTS, INCIDENTS & OPERATIONS



The ROSS MAR seen approaching Cape Town - Photo: Aad Noorland ©

Veel cocaïnesmokkel via luchtvracht en zeevaart

De douane heeft vorig jaar ruim 9000 kilo cocaïne in beslag genomen. Circa 1200 kilo daarvan zat in luchtvracht of pakketpost. Dat blijkt uit cijfers die minister Hirsch Ballin (Justitie) openbaar heeft gemaakt. Volgens de minister tonen de cijfers aan dat er geen reden is te stoppen met de strenge drugscontroles van passagiers, bagage en vracht van vluchten uit Suriname, de Nederlandse Antillen, Aruba en Venezuela. In de zeevaart wist de douane ruim 4500 kilo cocaïne te onderscheppen, waarvan 2000 bij één actie.





The ongoing operation with discharging containers from the MSC Napoli

Lynx helikopter voert medische evacuatie uit

Een Lynx helikopter van het Marinevliegkamp De Kooy heeft zondagmiddag 18 maart 2007 om 14.00 uur een medische evacuatie uitgevoerd vanaf een olieplatform 60 kilometer ten noordwesten van Den Helder.

Het betrof een mannelijke medewerker met een gecompliceerde beenbreuk. De man is per Lynx helikopter naar de parkeerplaats van het DSB stadion in Alkmaar vervoerd en vandaar met een ambulance naar het ziekenhuis in Alkmaar gebracht.

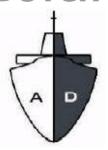


MS Noordam, seen from the **MS Zuiderdam** bow outbound from St. Thomas. **Photo : Gielis Stuart** ©

NAVY NEWS

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Iraq navy to acquire 21 new vessels

The Iraqi navy plans to acquire 21 new vessels, including four new patrol ships from Italy costing 100 million dollars, US and British naval officers said Sunday. Its manpower will also swell from a current 1,200 personnel to between 2,000 and 2,500 by 2010, US navy Captain Michael Zamesnik told reporters.

The modernisation programme will also see the Iraqi navy buying three Malaysian-manufactured patrol boats, he added. 'The Iraqi navy has taken great strides in rebuilding itself from the ravaged effects of war,' said Zamesnik, who is part of the transition team working with the fledgling force.

He said the navy was being developed with the aim of ensuring 'the security and protection of Iraqi territorial waters, key infrastructure and to counter terrorism, smuggling and illegal activity at sea.'

Captain T. Radakin of Britain's Royal Navy said the Iraqi navy had already made significant progress in the past three years. 'There has been significant reduction in piracy activities, smuggling oil oil,' he said. Roughly half of the navy's current personnel are former members of Saddam Hussein's armed forces, the two officers said.

'In the officers cadre, about 75 to 80 percent are from the previous regime,' Zamesnik added.



Fast attack submarine **USS Bremerton (SSN 698)** returns to the operational side of the Pacific Submarine Force as she returns to Pearl Harbor Naval Station. Bremerton completed her first set of sea trials after concluding a three-year engineering refuel and overhaul

SHIPYARD NEWS

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The **SCHULPENGAT** seen in her new colours at the Damen shipyard **Photo : John van der Linden** ©

Star Reefers in bullish newbuild deal at Shikoku

Oslo-listed Star Reefers has made yet another bullish move in reefer newbuildings by signing a 10-year charter contract with an unnamed Japanese owner for four 615,000-cbf ships at Shikoku Dockyard in Japan.

Delivery dates have been set for 2008 and 2010, with prices estimated at around a firm \$45m each. Star is paying around \$0.80 per cbf or \$16,400 per day for each ship. TradeWinds reported Star was in the process of signing for a second series of four reefers in October. The new order is a boost to the small reefer orderbook, which now stands at around 18 units including four deep-freezer units ordered in the Ukraine.

The deal is the second of its kind for Star, which has already fixed in four 615,000-cbf newbuildings from Nissen Kaiun of Japan. Japanese trading house Mitsui facilitated the latest deal and likely acted as an intermediary in the new series given its close links with Shikoku.

The charter rate for the first quartet, also built at Shikoku, is reported at \$0.75 per cbf or \$15,400 per day per ship. All four vessels have been chartered out to UK fruit giant Fyffes at a reported \$0.90 per cbf or \$18,600 per day each for three years.

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Independence Hub riser installation with the **Balder** on the background and the Hub on a 6 degrees tilt. The tilt was neccesary to create clearance between the structure and the crane cables.

Photo: John Ravenshorst ©

New Ships for PRISCO

The building of ships for Primorsk Shipping Corp., JSC is going on, reports the press-service of the company.

Mitsui Engineering and Shipbuilding is assembling the hull of the gas tanker. 45 blocks of the ship has been already set. At the same time they are assembling different sections of the tankers, painting them and testing at every stage of building. Hydraulic test of the machine section tubing has just finished.

It is scheduled to put the ship into operation in April of 2008. PRISCO is building the ship with the Japanese companies, Mitsui O.S.K. Lines and Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha, to export liquid natural gas from Prigorodnoe under a long-term time-charter agreement with Sakhalin Energy, Sakhalin-2 project operator.

Works at the yard of Hyundai Heavy Industries (South Korea) are also carried out in accordance with the schedule. The 2 largest tankers for Primorsk Shipping Cpr[., JSC are being built there.

Both tankers - "PRISCO Mizar" and "PRISCO Alcor" - will be delivered this year.





The BALOE seen approaching Ijmuiden locks – Photo: Joop Marechal ©

India's Shipping Corp to buy 60 vessels

Shipping Corp of India Ltd, the nation's biggest shipping company, plans to buy 60 vessels for as much as US\$3 billion to meet rising demand for transporting goods in the world's second-fastest growing major economy.

The new vessel acquisition plan is in addition to the 12 ships already ordered by the state-run company for US\$1 billion, Sabyasachi Hajara, chairman and managing director of Shipping Corp, said in a phone interview from Mumbai on Wednesday.

Indian companies are buying more vessels as economic expansion increases the need to import commodities such as crude oil and coal, and to ship cars and textiles to overseas markets. About 90 per cent of India's trade is done by sea.

'Global trade is increasing and India's trade is increasing more than global trade,' Mr Hajara said. 'Either you expand or you perish.' India's economy will probably grow 9.2 per cent in the year ending March 31, the fastest pace on record. India has averaged 8.6 per cent growth in the past four years, the quickest expansion since the country's independence in 1947.

Shipping Corp will buy 16 vessels in the next four years for more than US\$3 billion, the Financial Express reported on Wednesday, citing Mr Hajara. Mumbai-based Shipping Corp will borrow about US\$750 million to buy the 12 vessels, Mr Hajara said. But he did not elaborate on how the money will be raised.

The 12 vessels will have combined capacity of 1.3 million deadweight tons. Shipping Corp borrowed US\$206 million in April from two banks to buy two vessels for carrying crude oil.

'We should be ordering the 60 new vessels over the next four years and delivery will happen over the next six years,' Mr Hajara said. Shipping Corp has 80 vessels with a capacity of almost five million deadweight tons, accounting for about 35 per cent of India's total shipping capacity, he said



The FEDERAL MARGAREE seen in Santos (Brazil) - Bruno Pricoli ©

Sietas lands SAL order for heavylifters

Schiffahrtskontor Altes Land (SAL) of Germany has increased the tally of high-capacity, heavylift ships it has on order at JJ Sietas to six and more are in the pipeline.

SAL is paying around EUR 120m (\$157.7m) for the two approximately 12,500-dwt ships. They will each have twin cranes well in excess of the 700-tonne/1,400-tonne combined-lift of ships already booked. SAL has still to disclose the exact figure. It will make them among the largest in the world. Many other owners have gone for twin cranes of 250-tonne/500-tonne safe-working-lift, although Jumbo of the Netherlands has set the industry benchmark with its 1,800-tonne combined-lift vessels at Damen.

SAL's latest newbuildings are for delivery in the fourth quarter of 2009. The company, which has received more than 40 ships from JJ Sietas, mainly heavylifters, already has four 12,000-dwt vessels, each with two 700-tonne and one 350-tonne-capacity cranes on order at the yard for delivery in January, March, September and November 2008.

The latest orders involved the exercising of options, although the final price, estimated by sources at close to EUR 60m each, will depend on the equipment. Cranes will be supplied by NMF, whose factory is next to JJ Sietas.

"When you decide to build in Germany it is more expensive but the quality of the ships is A1. You get what you pay for," said a source close to SAL, a privately owned company controlled by the Heinrich and Rolner families.

A feature of the latest 160-metre vessels will be their high service speed of 20 knots for this type of ship, a feature of the SAL fleet. MAN B&W engines have been specified.

It is understood that SAL has outstanding options at Sietas to build two more heavylift ships of a similar dwt but greater crane capacity. SAL is also increasing the clear-deck space for large loads. Those for delivery in 2008 will have areas measuring 130 metres by 24 metres but those in 2009 some 130 metres by 27.5 metres. Such heavylift units are typically designed for handling components for refineries as well as being classified for offshore operations and subsea lifts.

SAL's six newbuildings at Sietas will increase its fleet from 15 vessels to 21. No disposals are planned. The company works with the major oil companies and leading power-generation and engineering outfits.

Ten of its ships have a lift capacity of more than 550 tonnes.



The **WESTERKADE** seen in Bridgetown (Barbados) **Photo: Stuart Warmink** ©

MOVEMENTS

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The **DORSET** seen approaching Willemstad (Curacao) **Photo: Kees Bustraan** ©



GEEST LINE's SANTA CATHARINA - Photo: Thijs van Steensel ©



The UNION RUBY seen operating in the port of Antwerp

Photo: Willem Kruit ©

AIRCRAFT / AIRPORT NEWS Rusland dreigt met sluiten luchtruim voor EU

Rusland dreigt zeker vijf luchtvaartmaatschappijen afkomstig uit de Europese Unie te weren uit zijn luchtruim omdat die herhaaldelijk regels zouden hebben overtreden. De Russische luchtvaartautoriteiten hebben verscheidene Europese luchtvaartinstanties op de hoogte gesteld van de overtredingen en gevraagd de zaak zo snel mogelijk op te lossen, meldden Russische media.

Het is nog onbekend om welke luchtvaartmaatschappijen het gaat. De Inspectie Verkeer en Waterstaat, die in Nederland toezicht houdt op het luchtverkeer, liet weten dat er geen Nederlandse luchtvaartmaatschappijen bij betrokken zijn. Ook KLM zei van niets te weten.

Een woordvoerder van Europees Commissaris van Transport Jacques Barrot heeft volgens het Russische radiostation Echo Moskvy laten weten dat de Europese Commissie zich niet met de zaak gaat bezighouden. Rusland moet de zaak opnemen met de betreffende landen, aldus de woordvoerder.

Alleen al tussen juni en februari werden er in het luchtruim rond de hoofdstad Moskou achttien onregelmatigheden geconstateerd, aldus Rosaeronavigatsia. Het ging daarbij voornamelijk om het negeren van de aangegeven vlieghoogte. Ook gingen vliegtuigen vijf maal een verboden gebied in, aldus het Russische persbureau Interfax. Volgens Rosaeronavigatsia zijn veel piloten van de betreffende maatschappijen van een ontoereikend opleidingsniveau.

Vooralsnog willen de Russen de namen van de maatschappijen niet openbaar maken, voordat er een reactie komt van de Europese luchtvaartautoriteiten.

MARINE WEATHER

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.... PHOTO OF THE DAY



The **CARNIVAL DESTINY** seen moored in Dominica **Photo: Els Kroon** ©

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