

## DAILY COLLECTION OF MARITIME PRESS CLIPPINGS 2009 – 226



Number 226 \*\*\* COLLECTION OF MARITIME PRESS CLIPPINGS \*\*\* Tuesday 18-08-2009  
News reports received from readers and Internet News articles copied from various news sites.

# DISA

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Ketelaarstraat 5c  
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Belgium  
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**Mammoet Salvage Singapore Pte Ltd's brought her Samson Mariner (ex SMIT Bison) from Malacca to Singapore for repairs and surveys. Tthe Samson Mariner was launched again and returned to the wreck site of mv California, where she will resume works.  
Photo : Fokko Ringersma (c)**

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## IN MEMORIAM

The editor received the sad news that recently passed away



## GERRIT VAN ANTWERPEN

At the age of 73 years

11-07-1936

08-08-2009



Gerrit is seen on the above photo made in 1956 as the third from the right

As can be seen at the photo above, **Gerrit** sailed in the fifties as Sailor/shiprider (runner) with SMIT on the tugs Roode zee, Humber, Thames, the steam powered Schelde and the Poolzee

On behalf of all readers of the newsclippings I am wishing Gerrit, Fizah, Gerrit Jr and all other family members and friends all the strength they need to cope with this loss

\*\*\*\*\* **GERRIT REST IN PEACE** \*\*\*\*\*

## EVENTS, INCIDENTS & OPERATIONS



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The **THOR OMEGA** seen last Sunday entering Flushing sloe haven  
Photo : [Wilko de Hoop](#) ©

## Nato forces thwart pirates besieging Turkish bulker

The Nato anti-piracy mission has thwarted an armed attack by pirates on a Turkish bulker in the Gulf of Aden. Turkish media reports say gunmen in two speedboats launched an assault on the 58,000 dwt vessel. Tipped off about the attack by a Turkish frigate, a German helicopter was sent to frustrate the pirates. The 19-man Turkish crew of the **Elgiznur Cebi** were said to be safe and unhurt.

The vessel, owned by Istanbul-based Kaptan Demir Celik, was on a voyage from Yuzhny, Ukraine to Damman in Saudi Arabia. Last month Somali pirates seized another Turkish bulker Horizon-1 with 23 crew on board. Ransom negotiations are ongoing. **Source : [seatradeasia-online](#)**

## EU doubts missing ship was victim of pirates

The European Commission expressed doubt on Friday over whether a merchant ship which has been missing for more than a week had fallen prey to pirates as the vessel's operator had suggested.

Its remarks added to the deepening mystery over the 4,000-tonne **Arctic Sea**, whose disappearance has baffled authorities across Europe and North Africa and prompted the Kremlin to send Russian warships to join the hunt.

"Radio calls were apparently received from the ship which had supposedly been under attack twice, the first time off the Swedish coast then off the Portuguese coast," a spokesman for the executive arm of the European Union told journalists. "From information currently available it would seem that these acts, such as they have been reported, have nothing in common with traditional acts of piracy or armed robbery at sea," Martin Selmayr said.

The Maltese-registered vessel, carrying a \$1.3-million cargo of timber and a Russian crew, was supposed to have docked on August 4 in the Algerian port of Bejaia. It never arrived and is thought to have last made contact from the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of France. A wave of piracy has hit shipping off Somalia, and an international naval force patrols its coast in an effort to protect merchant vessels. But a hijacking in European waters would be almost unprecedented in modern times.

Concerns over the safety of the 15-member Russian crew were raised after the Malta Maritime Authority said it received reports the ship had been boarded by armed men in masks posing as anti-drugs police in Swedish waters on July 24. Russia's navy denied a report on state television that the frigate **Ladny** was following a ship of a similar description in the Atlantic Ocean not far from Gibraltar.

Relatives of the crew appealed to Prime Minister Vladimir Putin in an open letter and demanded a criminal investigation into the vessel's disappearance, Russian media reported, but have now stopped speaking publicly about the case.

Source : [reuters.com](http://reuters.com)

## Russia, NATO have 'exhaustive' info on Arctic Sea

Russia and NATO have exhaustive information on the **Arctic Sea** cargo vessel, missing in the Atlantic since late July, the country's envoy to the alliance has said. "All the exhaustive information, which we do have and which is most likely objective, is instantly reported to the [Russian] naval headquarters," Dmitry Rogozin said late on Saturday, but declined to comment on the vessel's whereabouts.

The tracking device aboard the Russian-crewed **Arctic Sea**, carrying timber, was briefly reactivated earlier on Saturday showing the vessel to be located in the Atlantic's Bay of Biscay near France's La Rochelle port, according to Sovfrakht, a Russian maritime journal.

"As partners, we [Russia and NATO] are currently facing the sole task of sending to the right location and at the right time the forces dispatched by the Russian president," Rogozin said. Russia's Dmitry Medvedev ordered the country's Navy on Wednesday to launch the search for the **Arctic Sea**. The frigate **Ladny** was heading toward Cape Verde in the western Atlantic on Friday, according to the Russian ambassador in the former Portuguese colony.

The ship last made radio contact with British coastguards on July 28. According to Interpol the ship was briefly seized in Swedish waters of the Baltic Sea by masked men claiming to be police on July 24. Reports state that after 12 hours the men left the ship and the **Arctic Sea** resumed its voyage.

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Some media have speculated the ship could have been targeted because it was carrying an "unknown cargo" in addition to timber. The ship operator has called the reports "rubbish." In an interview with Russia's Vesti 24 television channel, Rogozin signaled earlier on Saturday that he was not authorized to disclose the details of the operation.

"The operation is sort of in full swing. It is being developed successfully, ...unfortunately, nothing more can be said now... This is too serious, concerning the life, safety and health of our citizens, that is why we will have to be satisfied with the information we have at our joint disposal for the time being," Rogozin said.

Reports came on Saturday that a ransom demand had been issued to the Finnish owners of the missing vessel.

Source : RIA Novosti



Bisso Marine's **JOSEPH BISSO** and **GUY C** seen moored in Lake Charles

Photo : Capt. Jan Plug – master Acergy Falcon ©



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## Cargo volume picking up

APL, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Singapore-based Neptune Orient Lines, has seen green shoots of cargo volume recovery in the shipping industry since last month. APL Malaysia managing director Abdul Aziz Toha said cargo volumes were picking up from the lows in January that was seen in Europe, Australia and the Middle East.

"But, year-on-year, the current volume is still lower and there is still not enough cargo to absorb the capacity of idling ships that are sitting around due to insufficient cargo," he told StarBiz after the commemoration ceremony of APL's new service, the Korea China Straits (KCS) service, to Northport last week with the vessel **APL Dallas**.

KCS is a dedicated East Asia service linking South Korea, China, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia and it is one of the industry's fastest transit times between North and South-East Asia.

According to Aziz, the volume recovery was also seen in **APL Dallas'** capacity which saw an oversubscription in in-bound shipment and fulfilled about 80% to 90% of the targeted outbound shipment. Northport general manager of

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container and engineering services Abi Sofian Abdul Hamid said APL Dallas calling at Northport was certainly a big boost to Northport, with the port remaining optimistic of achieving growth and productivity.

"This is because the year started off with a great caution to global traders as the world's economy weakened. It certainly has been a challenging year so far for ports and related businesses.

"However, we are pleased to note that the global economic outlook is heading towards a more positive environment as we enter the third quarter of the year," he said. Owing to the challenging business environment, Abi Sofian said Northport was focused on providing greater value for money to shipping lines, which were increasingly addressing cost structures to remain competitive and extending their market outreach.

"The challenges that we face are to continually strive for higher productivity and greater efficiency," he said.

Source : The Star



The **Ngol Zaire** underway from Cabinda Anchorage to her berthing bouys offshore Malongo (Angola)

Photo : Johan Trommel ©



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## Insurers warn pirates holding business to ransom

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Businesses will have to pay a rising "piracy tax" to maintain global trading networks, according to the Lloyd's of London insurance market. A report commissioned by Lloyd's found Somali pirates are beating the credit crunch, with rogue crews seizing more than 60 vessels and earning some US\$80 million (\$88.35 million) in ransoms.

Separate figures from the International Maritime Bureau showed a doubling of piracy attacks in the first six months of this year, with virtually all the increase due to Somali pirates.

Ransoms can be as high as US\$3 million, and other costs include delays in releasing ships and increased insurance premiums. Mainstream "hull and cargo" policies do not normally cover piracy, so captains have to purchase separate "kidnap and ransom" cover.

Costs also rise if shipping is rerouted to avoid hotspots such as the Gulf of Aden, which is on the direct route to the Suez Canal, where revenues are down more than 20 per cent, partly as a result of piracy. The Lloyd's report warns that piracy increased in Southeast Asia in the 1990s in wake of the Asian financial crisis and the same is likely to happen in east Africa.

Concern that piracy might have moved closer to home gained ground last week after fears grew that a missing Russian ship, the Arctic Sea, had been sailed through the Straits of Dover by pirates. It was later reported to have been sighted off the west African coast. **Source : NZHerald**



The **MERWEDIJK** seen in Hamburg - **Photo : Cornelia Klier (c)**

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## CASUALTY REPORTING



### Turkish navy ship hits reef off Greek coast

A Turkish navy ship ran into a reef Friday (August 14h) in the Mediterranean Sea not far from Greece, according to local TV station ERT. The **Bodrum** corvette was returning from northern Cyprus. The incident damaged the keel of the vessel. Divers with the Greek marines recovered part of the equipment that had sheared off and returned it to the Turkish crew. Greece and Turkey are NATO allies despite their disputes about sovereignty and related rights in the area of the Aegean Sea and the Cypriot issue. **Source : RIA Novosti**



The **ALPHONSE LETZER** seen departing from Rotterdam - **Photo : Wil Kik ©**

## NAVY NEWS

### Malaysia's Scorpene-class submarine to call at Kochi

The Royal Malaysian Navy's first submarine, the Scorpene-class KD **Tunku Abdul Rahman**, will make a port call in Kochi today (Tuesday) on its maiden voyage from Toulon in France to Sepangar in Malaysia.

Coming as it does at a time when India is building six Scorpene-class submarines, through technology transfer, at the Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai, the visit gains significance for the Indian Navy. Fruitful interaction between both Navies will take place during the vessel's stay.



**KD Tunku Abdul Rahman** is the first of the two Scorpene-class diesel-electric submarines ordered by the Malaysian Navy. Jointly built by French DCNS and Spanish Navantia, the submarine was formally handed over to it at a ceremony held at the French naval base in Toulon in late January. On July 9, it began its homeward journey and called at Jeddah and Djibouti. After a three-day stopover here, it will depart for Lamut and Port Klang in Malaysia before surfacing at Sepanggar in Sabah in early September to be home-ported at the naval base there.

The submarine, captained by Commander Zulhelmi Ithnain, has a full complement of 31-member crew. Malaysia signed the deal to acquire two Scorpene-class submarines in 2002, and **KD Tunku Abdul Rahman**, named after the country's first Prime Minister, was launched in October 2007. The year-long sea trials during which Black Shark heavyweight torpedoes and missiles were fired from it successfully ended in December last year.

The Royal Malaysian Navy will take delivery of its second submarine, **KD Tun Razak**, later this year. **Source : The Hindu**

## **Singapore participates in naval exercise against terrorism**

The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) is participating in the Southeast Asia Cooperation Against Terrorism (SEACAT) exercise, together with the United States Navy (USN) and navies from Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.

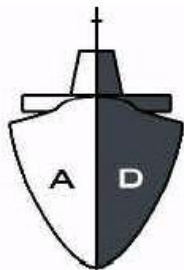
This series of annual exercises, which began in 2002, aims to enhance maritime information sharing and the coordination of maritime security responses in the region. Held from August 14 to 20, 2009, the exercise consists of a planning phase and a sea phase. This year's exercise will test the information-sharing linkages and coordination of maritime security responses between participating navies, as well as involve the tracking of ships transiting through Singapore waters.

Other drills include the boarding of US civil resource ships that simulate merchant vessels suspected of assisting terrorist activities.

Personnel from the RSN's Maritime Security Task Force, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore and the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority will be taking part in the exercise, with RSN patrol vessels, Accompanying Sea Security Teams (ASSETs), Police Coast Guard patrol boats, and maritime patrol aircraft from the Republic of Singapore Air Force. **Source : news.asiaone.com**

## **SHIPYARD NEWS**

### **ANGLO DUTCH SHIPBROKERS bvba**



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## **IBN BATTUTA LAUNCHED IN ULJANIK**



The first of a series of 4 self propelled cutterdredgers under construction at the Uljanik shipyard in Pula (Croatia) for Jan de Nul is named **IBN BUTTATA** was launched August 14<sup>th</sup>



Photo's : Crew IBN BATTUTA (c)

## Iran orders a dozen

The National Iranian Tanker Co (NITC) confirmed it will order 12 VLCCs in China on the strength of guarantees from China's export-import bank. Brokers reportedly claim that NITC will build six vessels at Shanghai Waigaoqiao Shipbuilding and six at a second yard that has not been identified, but is probably Dalian Shipbuilding Industry Co.

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It was reported earlier that aggressive marketing of Chinese shipping loans was encouraging foreign owners looking to place newbuilding orders. NITC has been in lengthy talks about the 320,000-dwt units and, while the exact size of the VLCCs is not known, brokers are saying they are priced at \$100m each, with financing from the Export-Import Bank of China a key component.

The earlier report said NITC would not order vessels directly but get a Chinese owner to do so and then charter the ships long term with purchase options. It was not clear from broker sources how this issue would develop.

Source : The Motorship

## China books more bulkers

Hantong Ship Heavy Industry (HSHI), located in Jiangsu Province, has become the latest Chinese shipbuilder to win a clutch of newbuilding contracts, with an order for seven bulk carriers worth around 2bn yuan (\$292m). Following the recent drought of orders, Chinese yards have seen a significant improvement in new business since the beginning of June. The country's shipbuilders received 41 newbuilding orders, totalling 4.7m dwt, in June, according to the China Association of the National Shipbuilding Industry. These orders included Grand China Logistics' contract for 30 bulkers, totalling 4.1m dwt, at Zhoushan Jinhaiwan Shipyard. More orders are expected to be confirmed in the near future imminently since Chinese banks are able to come up with some attractive finance schemes while Beijing is extremely keen at the moment to support shipbuilding. The HSHI order to build seven 57,000 dwt bulk carriers was placed by unnamed Southeast Asia shipping companies at a price of \$41.7m per vessel. According to Clarkson Research Services, Jiangsu Hantong has an order backlog of 45 vessels stretching through to early 2013 delivery and the total value of the yard's orderbook is thought to be Yuan4bn.

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## Hindustan Shipyard delivers new bulker

Chennai-based Good Earth Maritime has taken delivery of a 30,000DWT bulker, the 'Good Pilgrim', built by Hindustan Shipyard. The vessel was the 150th vessel built by Hindustan and the fourth of the series delivered to Good Earth. Source : Baird-online



The **PACIFIC TENACITY** seen operating offshore Qatar - Photo : Capt Christian Schmidt (c)

## Dockwise Secures USD 27 million in near-term contract awards

Dockwise Ltd. announces 8 new near-term contract wins awarded to its subsidiary, Dockwise Shipping, for the transportation of a jack up drilling rig and port & marine infrastructure.

Dockwise Shipping, in cooperation with industry partners, is to transport 1 jack up drilling rig to Egypt, a jack-up barge to Australia, cargoes with dredging equipment and various port and marine infrastructure to the USA, river tankers to Panama and 3 ferries in different journeys to Abu Dhabi. The contracts will be carried out in Q3 and Q4 2009. Total revenues for the contracts are approximately USD 27 million.

## Increase in Viking Line's passenger and cargo volume

The summer holiday period encouraged maritime travel in July. A total of 798,649 (+0.5 per cent) passengers travelled on Viking Line's vessels during that month, and the number of cars was 95,974 (+9.1 per cent).

Favourable figures in July

On the Helsinki (Finland) - Tallinn (Estonia) route, more than 195,000 passengers chose to travel on the Viking XPRS, thus breaking the record from July 2008 by more than 15,000 passengers. On the Helsinki - Stockholm (Sweden) route via the Åland Islands (Finland), the number of passengers in July was 123,783, i.e. the same level as one year earlier (123,899). On the Rosella, which sails between Mariehamn (Åland) and Kapellskär (Sweden), the number of passengers decreased by 4.7 per cent to 244,374 in July compared to a year earlier, primarily due to the capacity increase on the route. The Cinderella, which provides cruise service between Stockholm and Mariehamn and goes on summer cruises to Riga (Latvia), carried 101,334 passengers in July, a reduction of 5.2 per cent which was due to lower capacity in the number of berths as well as the expanded number of Riga cruises. The number of cargo units

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transported on Viking Line vessels rose by 5.9 per cent in July.

Increase during the first three quarters of fiscal 2008/2009 as well

During the first nine months of the 2008/2009 fiscal year, i.e. November 2008 - July 2009, total passenger volume on Viking Line rose by more than 124,0000 or 2.7 per cent to 4,744,686 (4,620,672). The number of cars on all routes increased by 13.2 per cent to 434,945 during this period, and the number of cargo units by 9 per cent to 76,420. The positive outcome for cargo volume is encouraging, since the general trend in the shipping industry is currently the opposite.



The **FAIRPLAY XVI** seen assisting the **LANTAU ACE** in Rotterdam

Photo : Herwin Jan Steehouwer (c)

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## New Mangalore Port celebrates Independence Day

The New Mangalore Port here celebrated the 63rd Independence Day on Saturday.

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Addressing the gathering, the chairman of NMPT P Tamilvanan said, "New Mangalore Port is one among the major ports in India that has done well during the last fiscal year. Major ports handled 530 MMT of cargo. New Mangalore Port too has achieved progress in various developmental activities and is continuing it".

Noting that India is facing security threat from terrorists, especially port sector being focal point, Tamilvanan urged everyone to be more alert. The chairman distributed cash rewards to children of port employees and RCHW workers, NMPT English and Kannada medium school and KV No 1, Panambur, who secured the highest marks in SSLC and 12<sup>th</sup>  
**Source : Times of India**



The **FAIRPLAY XII** seen between the breakwaters off Hoek van Holland  
**Photo : Dave van Spronsen (c)**

## New Cruise Incentives Bill Offers Opportunities For Bahamians

Bahamas Public Works and Transport Minister the Hon. Neko C. Grant urged Bahamians to take full advantage of "the many income generating opportunities" that new cruise incentives legislation offers.

"I encourage all concerned who are catering to cruise visitors to be creative and innovative," he said. "Take advantage of the many opportunities it is intended to create."

Mr. Grant was speaking in support of a Bill for an Act to amend the Cruise Ships (Overnighting Incentives) Act in the House of Assembly, June 29.

He highlighted some of the opportunities this Bill will provide for Bahamians. "It should encourage the return of Bahamian night clubs with native shows," he said.

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"I am saddened when I visit Bay Street in the evening when a number of cruise ships are docked," he said. "Bay Street is in darkness; shops are closed. There is nothing for our visitors to do. We must change that." Hours cruise ships spend in Freeport and Nassau harbors, with a larger amount of passengers, will allow taxi drivers, tour operators, straw vendors, shops and restaurant operators to earn additional income, said Mr. Grant.



The **MAJESTY OF THE SEAS** seen departing from Nassau (Bahamas) – **Photo : Ursa crew (c)**

The casino in Freeport will also benefit because cruise passengers would prefer to spend an enjoyable evening off the ship, he said. "However, we must make them want to disembark by providing a memorable experience," he added.

Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association research revealed that in this region a cruise passenger spends an average of \$100 at some visiting ports and \$150 at others, noted Mr. Grant. "In the Bahamas, the expenditure is less than \$70 per passenger. We are allowing each passenger to take back to the ship \$30 to \$35 that they could spend with us. "If we can increase the average passenger expenditure by \$30, we would be able to generate an additional \$45,000,000 in revenue by persons and businesses catering to our cruise passengers," he said. **Source : South Florida Caribbean News**



The **URSA** seen working in Nassau (Bahamas)  
**Photo : Capt Jan Plug – Master Acergy Falcon (c)**

## Boxes bright spot in gloomy yet profitable Sinotrans first half

Hong Kong-listed Sinotrans Shipping has announced a first half net profit of US\$64.06 million, down 66 percent year-on-year, based on revenues of US\$119.49 million, down 49 percent. Although the Shanghai-based company's foray into the ocean going container business was not important to its overall results, it was profitable with the first sailings of four new containerships that produced first half revenues of US\$10.8 million, up 48.6 percent year-on-year, said a company statement.

"The growth contributed an additional capacity of 3,388TEU and further enhanced our operational scale of the container shipping business," said a statement released by the company. "Our fleet contributed to an increase of the average daily charter hire rate for our container shipping business from US\$6,291 in 2008 to US\$6,730 in 2009."

But dry bulk is big business for Sinotrans, and here first half revenues fell 48.6 percent to US\$109 million. The decline was blamed on the "gloomy" state of the dry bulk market, augmented by "substantial" falls in demand for raw materials, particularly iron ore and coal in the first quarter, which dragged down charter rates. "Although China's imports of iron ore have increased since April, the recovery was unable to reverse the downturn of the first half. The average Baltic Dry Index (BDI) in the first half of 2009 was 2,128 points, dropping by 75 percent from an average 8,557 points in the same period last year," said the company statement.

"Although group performance was impacted by the economic environment and recorded a large setback in financial results, it managed to generate profit. This is mainly attributable to the group's flexible strategy combining both long-short-term time chartering," said Sinotrans Shipping Chairman Zhao Huxiang. "Looking forward into the second half, it is believed that the shipping market has weathered the worst period. Recovery is expected at the end of 2009 or in the first half of 2010 and demand is expected to step up. "Although the vast number of orders for newbuilding vessels will result in pressure of oversupply, the increasing scrapping and the cancellation or delay of deliveries can offset the new supply of capacity," said Mr Zhao. **Source : Baird-online**



The tankers "**Seanostrum**" and "**Theresa Pacific**" passing each other in Calandcanal Rotterdam  
**Photo : Marijn van Hoorn – Rotterdam Pilot (c)**



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## Rickmers Maritime 2Q Profit Drops

Impairment for possible early charter redelivery offsets revenue growth Rickmers Maritime Trust, the Singapore-based containership owner and charterer, said its profit for the second quarter ended June 30 dropped 43 percent to \$5.33 million from \$9.2 million in the same quarter last year, as the company took a precautionary impairment charge against the possible early redelivery of one of its charter vessels. The company, which is minority-owned by Rickmers-Linie of Germany, had second-quarter charter revenue of \$37.55 million, up 59 percent from \$23.68 in the prior-year quarter. Rickmers Maritime's CEO, Thomas Preben Hansen, said that although the global economic downturn has not yet affected the company's revenue, its immediate priority is to take delivery of its outstanding ship orders and finalize agreements with the lending banks on the waiver of the VTL covenants as well as the refinancing of its \$130 million Top-Up loan facility. The trust said its independent auditor, PricewaterhouseCoopers, had pointed out that the group's "ability to continue as a going concern" is dependent on the successful outcome of the refinancing of the Trust's \$130 million Top-Up facility which falls due on April 30, 2010; and on the Group's compliance with all loan covenants to

date. The trust said it has appointed a financial advisor and investment bankers to advise it on negotiations with lending banks.

Left : The **SANDY RICKMERS** seen passing Terneuzen  
 Photo : **Willem Kruit (c)**

The trust said the continuing economic downturn has resulted in a perceived drop in the value of container vessels, which "may cause the Group to breach minimum asset value to loan covenants". The company



said all of its 16 container vessels currently in operation are chartered out for periods of between seven and 10 years without any early termination option, except for the **Maersk Djibouti**, which could potentially be redelivered as early as February 2010. None of its other vessels is scheduled for redelivery until the end of 2013. While the charterer of Maersk Djibouti, A.P. Møller-Mærsk, has not given any notice of its intentions with regard to this vessel, Rickmers Maritime said it recognized the prevailing poor sentiment in the container shipping market by making further provision of \$7.5 million in the second quarter for the impairment of **Maersk Djibouti**. The impairment takes into consideration the potential early redelivery of the vessel and the likelihood of a reduced charter rate from this vessel in 2010. Together with the \$3.5 million impairment charge taken in the fourth quarter of 2008, it made a total of \$11 million in provisions for Maersk Djibouti. "While our net profit has been impacted by impairment charges, our business model is premised on cash flow generation and not accounting profits," said Quah Ban Huat, Rickmers Maritime's CFO.

Source : **The Journal of commerce**



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The **POSH VIRTUE** seen anchored at the Western Jurong anchorage in Singapore  
Photo : Capt Neil Johnston – Master Salvanguard ©

## Shipping lines decide to postpone increase

Major shipping lines have decided to postpone imposing an increase in congestion surcharges at Aqaba Port "until further notice", shipping sources said on Saturday. Last week, a consortium of major international shipping lines announced a \$250 increase in congestion surcharges for 20-foot containers and \$500 for 40-foot containers, which led to concerns that the move would result in the prices of essential commodities rising before Ramadan. However, following negotiations between the Transport Ministry and the concerned lines, Maersk and APL shipping lines issued separate statements announcing "postponement of the implementation of the congestion surcharge at Aqaba Port...". On Saturday, Evergreen Line followed suit and decided to postpone the measure, also "until further notice", according to a statement sent to The Jordan Times by its sole agent in the Kingdom, Naouri Group. President of the Shipping Agents Association Rudain Kawar noted that the Mediterranean Shipping Company and the Japanese shipping company, "K" Line, were not among the lines that decided to increase the congestion surcharges. "As soon as Maersk announced the postponement of the decision, most other lines followed accordingly," he told The Jordan Times in a phone interview yesterday.

But Kawar said Aqaba Container Terminal (ACT) must improve its performance by September 1 to prevent the shipping lines from going ahead with the increase, noting that they agreed to delay their decision after witnessing an improvement in the port's handling of consignments during the past two weeks.

"The issue is over for the time being," Kawar said, pointing out that the shipping agents will keep their eyes on the port in the next two weeks and decide whether to revoke the decision or reinstate it based on the terminal's actions with regard to delays. Meanwhile, ACT announced yesterday that it has invested \$45 million in developing the terminal, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported yesterday. In a statement released last week, ACT said it has suspended previous arrangements to deal with congestion in the port based on the "First-in-first-out (FIFO)" system, and will reinstate Berthing Window Agreements as of yesterday. According to Kawar, this measure will contribute to resolving the delay and end the congestion. **Source: The Jordan times**

## **Maersk would consider bargain takeovers**

Danish shipping and energy group A.P. Moller-Maersk would consider takeovers of insolvent competitors or of individual freighters as these are the cheapest options to expand during the economic crisis, its chief executive told a German magazine.



The conglomerate is also investing in special freighters for Africa and South America as it seeks to spend some 6.5 billion euros (\$9.28 billion) this year, Chief Executive Nils Andersen said, according to magazine WirtschaftsWoche. Part of the money is being spent on investing in new and existing harbors such as the container terminal in Nigeria, Andersen said, the weekly magazine reported. While it is considering selling its passenger and car ferry business, it will keep its Maersk Line division, Andersen said.

**Source: Reuters** Top : The **SINE MAERSK** seen assisted by the **FAIRPLAY 24** in Rotterdam-Europoort **Photo : Fred Vloo (c)**

## **Regional Container Lines reports H1 net loss of Baht1bn**

Regional Container Lines plunged into the red in the first half of the year, but expects some improvement in business the third quarter. The Thai-listed container line reported a first half net loss of Baht1bn compared to a profit of Baht1.2bn in the same quarter last year. In the first six months of the year RCL's volumes sank to 1.1m teu, down 21% on the same period a year earlier. Given the sharp fall off in volumes the company sought to reduce its fleet size and cut costs. RCL said it had returned three time-chartered vessels in the second quarter and successfully negotiated tariff reductions with a number of vendors. The company is though beginning to see an upturn in the container trades. The intra-Asia and feeder operator said the second quarter had seen improvement in volumes on Asian regional trades

on the back of government stimulus plans and improved consumer confidence. The company said there signs that the worst was over for the global economy and the economic environment would improve from the third quarter. RCL owns and operates a fleet of 42 vessels with capacity ranging between 500 teu and 2,732 teu.

Source: [lloydslist.com](http://lloydslist.com)

## **CMA CGM hikes India-Africa rates**

French carrier CMA CGM will implement a general rate increase for cargo moving on its services from India to destinations in West Africa, effective Sept. 1. The proposed increases are \$250 per 20-foot container and \$500 per 40-foot/high cube container. In a notice to the trade, the Marseilles-based company said the GRI will apply to all cargo and commodities, and is necessary to provide reliable service to customers.



The move follows similar rate increase announcements by Maersk Line and its subsidiary Safmarine, also effective Sept. 1.

Photo : [Fred Vloo](#) ©

In other news, carriers in the Asia-Australia Discussion Agreement announced plans to seek further rate increases on cargo shipped from China and Hong Kong to Australia. The planned increases will be \$300 per TEU and \$600 per FEU for dry and refrigerated containers as of Sept. 1. The 12-member group earlier implemented a similar rate restoration initiative, as of Aug. 1, followed by a

peak-season surcharge of \$250 per TEU and \$500 per FEU on the route, starting Aug. 15. The AADA includes ANL Singapore, China Shipping Container Lines, Cosco, Hamburg Sud, Hanjin Shipping, Hyundai Merchant Marine, "K" Line, Mediterranean Shipping Co., MOL, NYK Line, Orient Overseas Container Line, Gold Star Line (Hong Kong) and Zim Integrated Shipping Services. Source: [joc.com](http://joc.com)



The **CLIPPER KRYSTAL** seen arriving in Willemstad (Curacao)

Photo : [Kees Bustraan](#) ©

.... PHOTO OF THE DAY ....



The **CEC FUTURE** seen in the river Forth heading for Grangemouth.  
Photo : Jim Prentice – [www.Caledoniatranshipotos.blogspot.com](http://www.Caledoniatranshipotos.blogspot.com) ©

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**Sorry for this short bulletin – not much shippingnews on Monday**