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INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING LINES REVERSE PEAK SURCHARGE ON NIGERIAN CARGOES

by Godfrey Bivbere

There are indications that international shipping lines may have shelved plans to implement the 400 percent hike in peak season surcharges they slammed on Nigeria bound cargoes.

The shipping firms had concluded plans to raise the surcharge to \$1,000 per container, from \$200.

Following strong opposition by stakeholders in the maritime industry, led by the Nigerian Shippers Council, NSC, against the hike, the earliest success came yesterday when Maersk Line, world's leading shipping firm, ordered an immediate stoppage of the new charges. Vanguard learnt that other shipping lines would follow the Maersk lead.

The decision is contained in a letter signed by Lara Lana, Managing Director of Maersk Nigeria and addressed to the Executive Secretary/Chief Executive Officer of NSC, Hassan Bello. The NSC, in a statement signed by its Head of Public Relations, Rakiya Zubairu, read in part, "Maersk Line has instructed its commercial department to stop applying the peak season surcharge from 1st September 2020.

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CUSTOMS PUTS OFFICERS ON HIGH ALERT OVER PLANNED TERRORIST ATTACK

by Uche Usim

To avoid being caught off guard, the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) has put its officers and men on high alert as intelligence reports reveal that Boko Haram terrorist have flooded the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, and are planning to carry out coordinated attacks on five identified locations.

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CRUDE AFFREIGHTMENT: NIMASA REVIVES MOVE TO CHANGE TERMS OF TRADE

by Vanguard

The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), says it has revived efforts to change the Terms of Trade for the affreightment of Nigerian crude oil from Free on Board (FOB) to Cost Insurance and Freight (CIF).

The Director-General of NIMASA, Dr Bashir Jamoh, disclosed this in a statement signed by Mr Philip Kyanet, Head, Corporate Communications of the Agency in Lagos on Sunday.

Jamoh made this known when he received a delegation from the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), led by the newly appointed Group General Manager, Crude Oil Marketing Division, Mr Billy Okoye.

The D-G, who had recently paid a similar working visit to the Group Managing Director of the NNPC, Mele Kyari, expressed NIMASA's appreciation to the NNPC for accommodating the Agency's interests in transactions where the maritime regulator relied on data from the national oil company.

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SHIP WITH 43 CREW MEMBERS GOES MISSING OFF JAPAN

by Ships & Ports

The Japanese Coast Guard said it is searching for a livestock carrier with 43 crew members on board after a distress signal was sent from the vessel on Wednesday.

The ship, named Gulf Livestock 1, issued a distress signal at around 1:20 a.m. local time Wednesday while around 115 miles west of Amami Oshima Island in southwestern Japan.

The ship is reported to be carrying 43 crew members.

The search is being conducted in the general vicinity of Typhoon Maysak, which was last reported to be packing 130 mph winds, equivalent to a Category 4 hurricane.

The Gulf Livestock 1 was reportedly transporting cattle from Napier, New Zealand to Tangshan, China. The vessel was built in 2002 and registered in Panama. It is owned by Dubai-based Gulf Navigation.

In late July, the Philippine Navy rendered assistance to the Gulf Livestock 1 after it lost propulsion off Balut Island in Southern Philippines. Repairs were eventually completed without incident.

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COURT RESTRAINS NPA FROM TERMINATING INTELS' SERVICE BOAT OPERATION

by Oluwatoyin Amao

A Federal High Court sitting in Lagos has granted an interim injunction stopping the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) from terminating the role of INTELS Nigeria Limited as manning agent in the Pilotage Districts of Lagos, Warri, Bonny/Port Harcourt and Calabar.

The judge, Hon. Justice R.M. Aikawa, granted the interim injunction in the suit number FHC/L/CS/1058/2020 based on an application filed by INTELS Nigeria Limited and Deep Offshore Service Nigeria Limited against the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA).

INTELS and Deep Offshore had requested the court to restrain NPA from preventing them from performing their duties as managing agent, pending the determination of ongoing arbitration proceedings.

The court order, which was issued on Friday 28th August 2020, reads: "That an order is granted restraining the respondent, its servants, agents, and/or privies from giving effect for the purported notice of expiration issued it on 5th August 2020 or taking any other step to prevent the parties from performing their duties and obligations under the agreements between the 1st applicant and respondent dated 11th February 2011 and 24th August 2018, pending the determination of the originating motion dated 12th August 2020 seeking for interim measures of protection in support of the pending arbitration between the parties therein."

The court adjourned the matter to 15th September 2020 for the originating motion on notice.

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HAMBURG PORT WELCOMES WORLD'S LARGEST CONTAINERSHIP TODAY

by Ships & Ports

Another of HMM's series of 24,000 TEU mega containership is set to call at Germany's HHLA Container Terminal Burchardkai in Hamburg port today.

The HMM Hamburg, the so-called megamax-24 class, is one of HMM's 12 new giant boxships that are being delivered since April.

"We are extremely pleased to be able to welcome the HMM Hamburg to our port for the first time. All members of the HMM branch in Hamburg, which has been in existence for almost 30 years, are particularly proud of this first call. This naming manifests the special relationship between South Korea and the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg," said James Kim, managing director of HMM (Germany).

Port of Hamburg is connected to South Korea via eight liner services – three container services and five multi-purpose services. Last year, 255,000 TEU were transported between the Hanseatic city and the South Korean ports of Busan and Masan.

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