



भारतीय नौसेना

Press Release (New Delhi) - 15 Aug 11

ANTI PIRACY OPERATIONS

INDIAN NAVY APPREHENDS HIJACKED VESSEL 290 NM NORTH WEST OF MUMBAI



Photo - Naval Sea King Helicopter hovering over MV Nafis-1

In a swift action in the Arabian Sea on 14 Aug 11, the Indian Navy apprehended a hijacked cargo vessel MV Nafis-1, approximately 170 nm north west of Mumbai. Nine crew members have been detained and automatic weapons/arms have been recovered.

The 500 Ton general cargo vessel was detected, on 12 Aug 11 at a distance of about 250 nm (480 km), by an Indian Naval Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft, IL 38 SD, whilst on a surveillance mission in the East Arabian sea. The vessel was thereafter kept under continuous surveillance by *IN* aircraft. INS Mysore, a guided missile destroyer was tasked to intercept the vessel. INS Mysore arrived in the vicinity of MV Nafis-I by 13 Aug 11. Notwithstanding the adverse weather conditions and rough seas, with wave heights of the order of 12-15 feet, INS Mysore swiftly launched two helicopters with marine commandoes (MARCOS) to embark the vessel.

Overwhelmed by the swift action, the crew did not pose any resistance and were apprehended and moved to INS Mysore. Subsequent search of the vessel revealed automatic weapons. Further investigations are in progress even as Nafis-1 is being towed to Porbandar, where the crew and ship will be handed over to the local police and other investigating agencies.

MV Nafis-1 was reportedly drifting for over 20 days after a machinery breakdown at sea. The vessel may have been hijacked and was suspected to be employed for smuggling contraband. The crew comprised five Yemenis, two Tanzanians, one Kenyan and one Somalian.