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German shipowner Kniffka dies

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Daily News

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GERMAN shipowner Harro Kniffka, founder of Bremen-based shipping companies Hanseatic Lloyd and Hansa Mare, died last Monday following a short but severe illness, it emerged today. Kniffka, chairman of Hanseatic Lloyd Group, passed away only days after his fifty-third birthday. He leaves wife, two underage and two grown-up children. 38 container ship and tanker projects with an overall investment of €1.5Bn (\$2.04Bn) have been launched during Kniffka's time at Hansa Mare and Hanseatic Lloyd since 1992. Starting his career as a shipping clerk apprentice in Bremen in the 1970s, Kniffka then took up a job as a ship broker in New York where he spent several years. Back in Germany he joined Hamburg broker Ernst Russ and later shipowner Leonhard & Blumberg. Kniffka moved his domicile and the headquarters of Hanseatic Lloyd Group, formed in 2001, to Uttwil, Switzerland, a few years ago. He will also be remembered for his charitable activities for underprivileged children and single mothers. The annual 'Hanseatic Lloyd Dragon Grand Prix' regatta, he launched in 2005, has become a major donor for the World Childhood Foundation under the patronage of Queen Silvia of Sweden.

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