

### Dubai's Mina Rashid to be developed in to luxury cruise destination

A new marina is set to open at Mina Rashid port, which will eventually be capable of harbouring 20,000 yachts, its operator said on Monday. It is expected to be a new tourist maritime and entertainment attraction, stretching over 13 square kilometres, featuring a number of facilities, including an integrated entertainment city, called Marina Cube. On Monday, Shaikh Mansour Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum inaugurated the new Mina Rashid Marina project, simply named Marinas. The project, owned by P&O, is currently being developed. P&O is now a part of DP World, alongside third parties who specialise and "have experience in selling these kinds of products," said Mohammad Al Mannaei, CEO of P&O Marinas. "All kinds of entertainment will be available, all the kinds of requirements of boat users will be available inside the marina," Al Mannaei said. According to Al Mannaei, the residential area for boat crews will also be located within the marina. Shaikh Mansour toured the location accompanied by Sultan Bin Sulayem, DP World Group Chairman & CEO, and Chairman of the Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation (PCFC).

### DP World presents Suez Canal Economic Zone to investors

Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, group chairman and CEO, DP World and Admiral Mohab Mamish, chairman of the Suez Canal Authority and chairman of the Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZone) have presented details of the recent agreement to develop an integrated industrial and residential zone at Sokhna in Egypt to investors and businesses in Dubai. The opportunities to invest and launch operations in the project were outlined to company representatives, many of whom already have existing outlets in Dubai's Jebel Ali Freezone (Jafza). Sokhna World Zone will create a sustainable industrial area to attract foreign investment and will feature a range of investment incentives and encourage innovation using best international practice in the management of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), free zones, ports, and logistic hubs based on DP World's global experience. The project will also promote the development of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), create job opportunities and provide training for young Egyptians adding value to the economy and is due to start in the first quarter of 2018. A joint venture will be created between SCZone (51%) and DP World (49%) with DP World managing the zone.

### Nepal, China working on cross-border rail, dry port

Nepal and China are working on several key areas including cross-border railway connectivity, highways and construction of a dry port, China's envoy in Kathmandu Yu Hong said on Saturday. Hong's statement comes within days of Nepal cancelling a \$2.5 billion hydropower project that was to be built by a Chinese state-owned firm. "China has taken the request of the Nepal government for constructing cross-border railway line seriously," Hong said, adding a team has already begun preliminary feasibility study for the project. Similarly, the expansion of Rasuwagadhi-Syafubeshi road link, resumption of Araniko Highway and construction of dry ports in Tatopani, Rasuwa and Yaritoo are also on Beijing's priority list, the Chinese envoy pointed out during a press meet organised on the 19th Congress of the Communist Party of China and Sino-Nepal relations by the Embassy of China in Kathmandu. "Nepal could benefit from China's prosperity in various sectors including trade, investment and connectivity as Kathmandu has already joined the China-proposed One Belt and One Road (OBOR) initiative," she said.

### Saudi Arabia eases blockade reopens Yemen's Hudaydah port

The Saudi Arabian government has allowed humanitarian aid to enter the strategic Yemeni port of Hudaydah in addition to resuming UN flights to Sana'a airport after announcing it will ease the military blockade on Yemen. Saudi Arabia levied an air, land and sea blockade on the country in early November after the Iranian-backed Houthi group fired a ballistic missile into the Saudi Arabian city of Riyadh. The Hudaydah region is controlled by the Houthi armed group, which the Saudi-led coalition was invited to neutralise by President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi in March 2015. "We're monitoring these developments," UN spokesman Farhan Haq said in New York on news that Saudi will ease the blockade. "If that were to happen that would be a very welcome and critically important development." It has been reported that US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson pressured Saudi Arabia to ease its blockade of Yemen in order to allow vital aid and special UN flights to the capital, Sana'a. The Houthi armed group took over Sana'a in late 2014, alongside former President Ali Abdullah Saleh's loyalists. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) warned earlier this week that 2.5 million Yemenis are without access to clean water.

### Abu Dhabi Ports links system with nine ports in China

Maqta Gateway, a wholly owned subsidiary of Abu Dhabi Ports, has signed in China a cooperation agreement with LOGINK, the national logistics platform operated by the Chinese Ministry of Transport. The move marks a deepening of the ties between Abu Dhabi Ports and China, coming just days after COSCO announced that it is building a container freight terminal at Port Khalifa. The agreement was signed on the side lines of the Workshop on international Port Logistics Information Sharing and the Northeast Asia Logistics Information Service Network (NEAL-Net) meeting. NEAL-Net is a non-profit cooperative mechanism for logistics information exchange, and sharing technological cooperation. Under the agreement, signed by Dr. Noura Al Dhaheri, General Manager of Maqta Gateway and Guo Jianbiao, Director General, LOGINK, logistics information will be shared between Maqta PCS, and LOGINK System, which in turn will provide visibility of nine ports in China. Commenting on the signing, Captain Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi, CEO of Abu Dhabi Ports said, "The cooperation agreement is another milestone to add to Abu Dhabi Port's growing trade portfolio of collaborations with Chinese companies in the logistics, maritime and trade sphere.

### Construction of \$149m ship repair facility starts in India

Cochin Shipyard (CSL) has begun the construction of a new ship repair facility at Cochin Port Trust in Kerala, India, with an investment of Rs9.7bn (\$149m). The new site will be known as the International Ship Repair Facility (ISRF) and is set to be built on a 40-acre plot of land at the Cochin Port Trust, which has been leased by CSL for the project. ISRF will feature a 130m by 25m ship lift system with a total lift capacity of 6,000t, as well as six work stations. The facility will also be designed to repair up to 85 vessels and expects to double its ship repairing capacity every year. It will primarily be used to serve a major portion of the small and medium sized vessels currently in operation in India. ISRF is also expected to boost India's commercial ship repair market, which is estimated to generate about 6,000 direct and indirect jobs in the country. Furthermore, it will help expand a number of ancillary industries in the state of Kerala. In addition, the Government of India's Ministry of Shipping has announced it has begun the development of the Center of Excellence in Maritime and Shipbuilding (CEMS), which is slated to be a skill development facility for the maritime and shipbuilding sector.

### Local partner sought to kickstart Chabahar port development

Indian authorities handling the upgrade of the Chabahar port in Iran plan to team up with a local company as the selection of a private partner under a fresh tender issued in July drags on. Sources at the Ministry of Shipping told that stakeholders at a recent meeting in New Delhi authorized India Ports Global Ltd., which is tasked with the Chabahar redevelopment, to hire an Iranian agency to facilitate the launch of interim operations at the port. Four Indian organizations have reportedly prequalified to bid on a contract to operate and maintain marine facilities at Chabahar, and they will be allowed to proceed to the next round of the process, subject to security clearance. Sources said the ministry would soon process security clearance for the shortlisted bidders and that finalization of the deal is expected to wrap up by March 31, 2018. However, any changes to the new tender could threaten that deadline. To address those concerns, authorities appear inclined to relent on bidder requirements covering minimum throughput guarantees and upfront fees in the initial period of operation.

### Container stowage plans vulnerable to hacking

A blogger at security company Pen Test Partners has warned that container ship stowage plans can be hacked. The issue stems from the absence of security in a messaging system used to create ship loading and container stowage plans from the electronic messages exchanged between shipping lines, port authorities, terminals and ships. Instead of taking 24 to 48 hours to load and unload, it could take weeks to manually re-inventory the ship, says a company blog. "Even more sinister is the threat to the ship itself. Load planning software is used to place heavier containers towards the bottom of container stacks and to prevent a stack from being overweight. This keeps the center of gravity low and maintains stability. "How about if a hacker manipulated the load plan to deliberately put a ship out of balance? Disguise the data, so that the loading cranes unintentionally put the heavy containers at the top and on one side? Whilst some balancing actions are automatic, the transfer pumps may not be able to cope with a rapidly advancing, unanticipated out of balance situation. "It really wouldn't take much. You jeopardize lives and potentially block a tight shipping lane in to port with a shipwreck."

### Govt to rationalise port charges for cruise vessels

In a significant move, the Union shipping ministry has decided to rationalise the port charges of cruise vessels calling on Indian ports from this month. The rates have been made uniform across Indian ports taking into account the recommendations of a committee constituted by the Indian Ports Association. The tariff for cruise vessels in Indian ports ranged from USD 0.6 in Mumbai to USD1.6 per GRT in Kochi for 12 hours stay. According to sources, the decision to rationalise the port charges of cruise ships that visit the Indian ports has been made in accordance with the action plan drawn by the government and also the ministries of shipping and tourism to develop and promote India as a cruising hub. The new uniform rates for cruise vessels will be effective for a period of three years. The composite port charges for cruise ships calling on Indian ports have been fixed at USD 0.35 per Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) for first 12 hours stay across all ports in India. Ports will not charge any other rate like berth hire, port dues, pilotage and passenger fee, over and above the port charges, as per the department's communique.

### Carriers more reliable in October 2017

Carriers' overall on-time schedule reliability increased by 3.3%, from 64.3% in September 2017 to 67.6% in October 2017, latest data from intelligence provider CargoSmart shows. Regarding schedule reliability by trade, 10 of the 12 trades increased from September 2017 to October 2017. The Asia-Africa trade experienced the largest improvement in reliability, increasing by 11.5% to 45.9% in October 2017. The Europe-Middle East trade experienced the largest decrement in reliability, dropping by 14.9% to 63.3% in October 2017, while the North America-Oceania trade continued to have the highest reliability with 86.2% in September 2017. From the vessel discharging region perspective, the Africa region experienced the largest improvement in reliability, increasing by 12.9%, from 26.9% in September 2017 to 39.8% in October 2017. Although, it was the region with the lowest reliability in October. The South Asia region had the highest reliability, with 81.5% reliability in October 2017.