

M.V OEL JUMEIRAH makes her maiden call to Jebel Ali, DP World hosts Plaque presentation ceremony

On 29th August 2017, Transworld Group's new member of the fleet, M.V.OEL JUMEIRAH made her maiden call to Jebel Ali port. DP World, UAE welcomed the vessel and Team Transworld hosted a function onboard the vessel. Jebel Ali port Plaque was presented to Mr. Ritesh S Ramakrishnan, the Joint Managing Director of Transworld Group by Mr. Shahab Al Jassmi, Deputy Director of Commercial Dept, UAE Region on behalf of DP World. Earlier during the dawn hours of UAE, the traditional Puja was performed on board vessel in the gracious presence of Mr Ramesh S Ramakrishnan and Mrs Geeta Ramakrishnan. It was a proud moment for all staff of Transworld Group. M.V.OEL Jumeirah is the latest addition to the fleet and by far the largest tonnage vessel with 4253 TEUs Capacity. The vessel has been named after one of the most popular places in Dubai, 'JUMEIRAH', relating it strongly to innovation.

Sri Lanka allays Indian concerns on Hambantota port

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has ruled out the possibility of the strategic Hambantota port being used as a "military base" by any foreign country, allaying India's concerns over the Chinese Navy's growing presence in Sri Lanka. Sri Lankan government on July 29 signed a \$1.1 billion deal to sell a 70-per cent stake of the Hambantota port to China, amid concerns over the massive debt the island nation incurred in building the port. Under the 99-year lease agreement, China's state-run conglomerate China Merchant Port Holdings (CMPort) is to invest up to \$1.1 billion in the port. The deal had been delayed by several months over concerns that the deep-sea port could be used by the Chinese navy. Cash-rich China has invested millions of dollars in Sri Lanka's infrastructure since the end of a brutal civil war in 2009. Prime Minister Wickremesinghe used the presence of external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj to allay India's concern over Chinese involvement in developing the Hambantota port. Swaraj, in her speech at the conference yesterday, said India was ready to face security challenges in the Indian Ocean.

Gulf ports play growing role in auto trade

Hurricane Harvey's disruption to finished-vehicle distribution in Texas and surrounding states illustrates the growing importance of Gulf ports for getting autos to market. In the past two years, the ports of Houston, Galveston and Freeport have added new capacity to provide shipping service for automakers. Port officials say manufacturers and ocean transportation providers are inquiring about using their facilities as import/export gateways. Historically, imported vehicles bound for the middle of the country came through East and West Coast ports. Automakers now realize they can save on logistics by using ocean shipping to reach customers in the lower Midwest with foreign-made vehicles, or to export vehicles built in the Southeast's assembly plants. "Bringing the product closer to market lowers the overall inland cost for these guys," said Anthony Urban, vice president of operations for Horizon Terminal Services LLC, a subsidiary of Norwegian shipper Höegh Autoliner that operates a facility at Port Freeport. Rail and truck transport are substantially more expensive per unit than ocean shipping because of economies of scale, fuel efficiency and less need for labor, transportation experts say.

DP World completes expansion of prince Rupert Fairview container terminal in Canada

DP World on Wednesday announced the completion of its Prince Rupert Fairview container terminal in Canada, which increases the port's container-handling capacity to 1.35 million TEUs annually. DP World acquired the Fairview container terminal, with an original capacity of 750,000 TEUs, in August 2015 and shortly thereafter launched the Phase 2 North expansion project. A second berth has been added with the extension of the existing berth by 440 meters to a total berth length of 800 meters. The terminal is now capable of servicing the largest container vessels in the world using the three new "big ship ready" Malacca-max cranes, DP World said. "The expanded container terminal is an economic engine for the city of Prince Rupert and is directly responsible for hundreds of jobs with many others in the local community and beyond benefitting from its operations. This is all part of our plans to provide capacity to meet Canada's Pacific container terminal capacity requirements for decades to come in a cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner," Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, DP World Group Chairman and CEO, said in a statement.

China Merchants Port expands to Latin America with acquisition of TCP

China Merchants Port Holdings has inked a deal to purchase a controlling stake in Brazil's TCP, marking the Chinese group's business expansion to the Latin America region. CM SPV, wholly-owned by China Merchants Port, has entered into a share purchase agreement with TCP to acquire 90% of the issued share capital of TCP at an agreed price of BRL2.89bn (\$929.14m). The remaining 10% stake in TCP will be held by Brazilian investment holding firms Soifer, Pattac and Tuc Par. "The acquisition of TCP will allow the group to expand its business to the Latin America region and further consolidate its position globally," said China Merchants Port. "Furthermore, the investment will provide the group the opportunity to make use of the marine transportation hub of TCP to develop its logistics network, export/import and industrial zone and potential residential projects and related financial service platforms, allowing for greater commercial synergies within the group," it explained. TCP is principally engaged in operating the container terminal concession in the port of Paranaguá.

UK ports handled record container traffic in 2016

UK ports handled a record 10.2m teu of container traffic in 2016, 4% higher than 2015, according to official statistics released today by the Department for Transport (DfT). Total throughput declined 3% to 484m tonnes, however, mainly as a result of reduced coal imports due to the closure of coal-fuelled power stations. Port Felixstowe was the country's principal box gateway, handling 4m teu (-0.7%), followed by Southampton with 2m teu (+4%), London with 1.5m teu (+26%), Liverpool with 700,000 teu (+7%), and Tees & Hartlepool with 400,000 teu (+6%). Ro-ro cargo also rose 3% over 2015 to 18.2m units, as part of a total throughput of 24.1m units (+2%), the UK's fourth consecutive year of increased unitized cargo. "The DfT's figures highlight the significance of unitized traffic to the UK economy and particularly ro-ro HGV vehicle trade with Europe," commented British Ports Association chief. "This underlines the importance of agreeing a post Brexit deal with the EU that preserves as many of the advantages of Customs Union membership and avoids the need for border interventions, congestion and delays at ro-ro ports, whilst also enabling UK ports to take advantage of new global trade deals."

Government notifies e-way bill, exempts vegetables, fruits out of its ambit

The government has notified the e-way bill keeping some items of mass consumption such as vegetables, fruits, food grains, meat, bread, curd, books and jewellery out of its ambit. These will provide the framework for the transport of goods under the goods and services tax (GST) regime. An e-way bill is required to transport any item worth more than Rs 50,000 within the country. It is proposed as a permit of sorts in electronic format that will have details of the goods being transported. E-way bill can be generated by registered supplier or recipient or the transporter. Generation and cancellation of e-way bill may be permitted through SMS as well. Contraceptives, judicial and non-judicial stamp paper, newspapers, khadi, raw silk, Indian flag, human hair, kajal, earthen pots, cheques, municipal waste, puja samagri, LPG, kerosene, heating aids and currency will also be outside the ambit of the e-way bill. The date from which the e-way bill would come into effect would be notified separately. If goods are transferred from one vehicle to another then transporter would be required to generate a new e-way.

Indian shipping sector safeguards itself against cyber attacks

India's shipping sector is taking positive steps to safeguard it against cyber-attacks directed at new emerging technologies. The Indian Register of Shipping (IRClass) has developed class rules based on guidelines set by the IMO, as well as appropriate standards such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology – US Department of Commerce (NIST). "Cyber-attacks on ship's control systems, IT, navigational and other critical systems can result in damage or even losing course of the ship – which can drastically affect the safety of the ship, port facilities and marine property," said Arun Sharma, executive chairman, IRClass. "As the industry continues to introduce new technologies, IRClass as a classification society, plays a significant role in ensuring that the safety of a vessel and its crew are not compromised by such attacks," he added. The implementation of these new rules will help IRClass to identify the cyber risk issues from as early as the design stage of the vessel. A final verification then takes place once the vessel is built, and periodically during annual surveys.

Use Indo-Bangla waterways more to carry cargoes: analysts

Businesses should use waterways more to move cargoes between Bangladesh and India to reduce congestion at land ports and take pressure off heavily congested roads, said. They urged the businesspersons to opt for coastal waterways to transport cargoes cheaper and at a lesser time. Their comments came at a seminar on "India-Bangladesh Bilateral Trade and Commercial Relations: Special Focus on Waterways Connectivity and Coastal Shipping" at the Bangabandhu Conference Hall of the World Trade Centre in the port city. The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) and the High Commission of India jointly organised the event. Though the coastal shipping agreement between the two countries allows use of the Chittagong port, most of the imports from India are coming through Petrapole and Benapole land ports, said Abdul Matlub Ahmad, former president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry. "It took us more than five years to convince India to allow us to use the coastal shipping. Now we have got it, but only one or two companies came forward," he said.

M3 Marine in remote inspection venture

Singapore's M3 Marine Group is moving into remote controlled inspection in a venture with PT ROV Inspeksi of Indonesia. The new company M3 Marine Remote Inspection offers remote aerial, underwater and confined space survey and inspection services for both onshore and offshore marine projects and assets using drones and mini-ROVs. Remote controlled inspection is seen as a much more cost effective and safer way of surveying difficult and dangerous areas to reach on vessels and offshore structures. Remote inspections can be used for areas such as flare booms, double bottoms, storage tanks and underdeck areas. "It is important that in times like this that we keep our minds open to opportunities for further cost savings and safer practices. Partnering with ROV Inspeksi who have a credible track record in the sector makes sound business sense for both of us," said Mike Meade ceo of M3 Marine.