

### MoU finalised with Dubai Ports group for inland logistics hubs in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday finalised a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Dubai Ports group to set up two inland logistics hubs in the state. A delegation of the group led by its Chairman and CEO Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem arrived here during the day to discuss the modalities for setting up the hubs in Jammu and Kashmir Valley. "Sulayem and his team held separate meetings with Finance Minister Haseeb Drabu and Industries Minister Chander Parkash Ganga followed by delegation-level parleys with Ministers and government officials concerned. "The MoU for setting up inland logistic hubs in Jammu and Srinagar, as a joint venture between Dubai Ports and the Jammu and Kashmir government, was finalised at the delegation-level talks between group's team and government team led by Sulayem and Drabu respectively", an official statement said here. The MoU is to be subsequently signed by the government of India with its UAE counterpart to facilitate the hubs in Jammu and Kashmir. To begin with, 100 acres of land would be offered by the state government near the Samba railway station as equity in the joint venture with Dubai Ports for the logistic hub in Jammu region.

### Bangladesh to 'fast-track' Bay terminal project

Bangladesh's government has agreed to designate the Bay Container Terminal (BCT) a 'fast-track' project in order to facilitate growing external trade and ease congestion at the country's prime seaport, Chittagong. The country's shipping minister, Shajahan Khan, said steps will be taken to include the project as a fast-track project, an initiative being overseen by Bangladesh's prime minister-led committee. Once the initiative is approved, the prime minister's office will closely monitor its progress, help remove bottlenecks, and provide input to expedite its construction. "We are hopeful of making operational at least one terminal of the project by 2021," said an official with the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA). The project consists of one multi-purpose terminal and two container terminals. For the multi-purpose facility, the Indian government has allocated about \$450 million from the third line of credit offered to Bangladesh. The CPA is now looking for an additional \$300 million required for terminal construction. In a feasibility study, Hamburg Port Consulting estimated that the project will require about \$2.4 billion to be completed. CPA chairman Commodore Zulfiqur Aziz said a detailed design for the project is being prepared, even as land acquisition is under way.

### DP World reports 10.1% growth in container throughput in 2017 to hit 70.1m teu

DP World's worldwide container volumes grew 10.1% to 70.1m teu in 2017 outstripping forecast market growth as a whole. The growth in gross reported volumes of 10.1% to 70.1m teu was considerably higher than Drewry Maritime's global container growth forecast of 6%. On a like-for-like basis growth was 9.9% in 2017. "Benefitting from the improved trading environment and market share gains, our global portfolio once again delivered ahead-of-market growth in 2017 and has seen strong performance across all three regions," commented Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, group Chairman and CEO DP World. The fastest growing region was also the smallest in volume terms with Americas and Australia reporting 13.8% growth to hit 8.8 teu last year. DP World's home volumes in the UAE, which are included in the Europe, Middle East and Africa region, were up 4% at 15.4m teu. "We are also pleased to see stable performance in the UAE as volumes continue to grow in the fourth quarter of 2017 amidst uncertainty in the region and tougher year-over-year comparable. The performance across our other terminals in the Middle East & Africa remains strong in addition to Europe and the Americas," Bin Sulayem said.

### ICTSI kicks off 2nd phase expansion at Basra terminal

Barely a year after completing the first phase of its terminal greenfield project at its Basra Gateway Terminal (BGT) at the Port of Umm Qasr in Iraq, International Container Terminal Services, Inc (ICTSI) is forging ahead with investment in the second phase of new container terminal infrastructure. The port operator said in a press release that its phase two expansion to be completed in stages by the third quarter of 2019, was driven by strong demand. The expansion will add 400m of new quay with a draft of 14m, alongside a new 30-hectare yard area and a 15-hectare secure parking area, three post-Panamax ship-to-shore cranes and seven rubber tired gantries (RTG), showing the high service levels and modern facilities offered by BGT to shipping lines and cargo owners. The overall design provides for handling container vessels of up to 9,000 teu capacity. When the second phase is completed, ICTSI would have invested over \$250m for a new berth, yard construction, and state-of-the-art handling equipment pushing BGT to an annual handling capacity of over 1m teu. "We are listening to our customers and are proactively meeting their needs," said Phillip Marsham, BGT executive officer.

### Revealing the full scale of Saudi mega-yard IMI

The sheer scale of the new joint venture shipyard complex now under construction in Ras Al Khair on Saudi Arabia's Gulf coast was revealed to Seatrade Maritime News this week during interviews in Dammam. Partners in the joint venture are all leaders in their field: Saudi Aramco (51.1%) is the world's largest energy company. Bahri, with 19.9% controls the largest VLCC fleet. Lamprell (20%) is the region's leading rig builder and Hyundai Heavy Industries (10%) builds more ships than any other shipyard group. The newly established International Marine Industries (IMI) will operate the shipyard complex. The new facility, due to come on stream in phases between 2019 and 2021, will have four zones for activities covering the maintenance, repair and overhaul of rigs and ships; the construction of offshore support vessels OSVs; the building of merchant vessels; and the fabrication of jack-up rigs. It will have a range of docks for rigs and ships, the largest rig repair dock measuring 490m by 90m and the longest shipbuilding dock with a length of 550m. A two-crane combination over this dock will provide a lifting capacity of 2,150 tonnes. The first of the four zones to come on stream in 2019 will be the rig-building facility, with capacity to build four jack-up rigs each year.

### AAL, HMM in MPV tie-up for Far East, Middle East trades

Specialist multipurpose carriers AAL and Hyundai Merchant Marine (HMM), are tying up to expand their trade route coverage, sailings frequency, and multipurpose vessel (MPV) fleet capacity on Far East and Middle-East trades. The carriers said in a press release that the cooperation will create a joint Far East-Middle East MPV Liner Service, served by five MPV vessels and a scheduled bi-monthly rotation. It will also see the expansion of HMM's services portfolio with global tramp solutions, and semi-liner services provided by AAL. Both carriers will remain independent and promote these expanded services under their own respective brands. The new service is expected to provide regular and scheduled sailings for breakbulk, project heavy-lift and general cargo shippers with five highly flexible MPV vessels (four 30,100dwt 640-Class from HMM and one 31,000dwt A-Class from AAL) on a 15 and 30-day sailing rotation. The service will connect the Asian markets of China, Korea, Japan, Indonesia and Singapore with the Middle East via the Persian Gulf and Red Sea routes. Capacity and port coverage will be jointly coordinated, but each carrier will issue separate schedules to their customers.

### India's major ports see more volumes in first nine months

Major ports in India handled 560.9 million tonnes of cargo during the period April 2017 to January, 2018. The number represents a growth of 4.6% compared to 536.41 million tonnes handled during the corresponding period of previous year. For the period from April 2017 to January 2018, eight ports, including Kolkata, Paradip, Visakhapatnam, Chennai, Cochin, New Mangalore, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust and Deendayal, registered positive growth in traffic. The highest growth was registered by Cochin Port at 18.4%, followed by Paradip with 16%, Kolkata including Haldia with 13.5%, New Mangalore with 7.4% and JNPT with 5.9%. Cochin Port growth was mainly due to an increase of 24.5% in traffic of POL, containers increased by 11.4% and other cargo was up by 1.02%. In Kolkata Port, overall growth was 13.5%. Government of India said that the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the incorporation of the Official Amendments to the Major Port Authorities Bill 2016, which is pending in the Parliament. Among other changes is the number of independent members in the Port Authority Board, which would be minimum two to maximum four.

### IMO and EBRD sign new partnership with European Bank to support sustainable shipping

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has signed a new partnership agreement with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The agreement will help promote sustainable shipping through a range of safety- and environment-focused capacity-building activities in the maritime and port sectors in selected countries. It brings together IMO, the United Nations maritime agency which sets global standards for safe, secure, efficient and environment-friendly international shipping, and the multilateral development bank EBRD, which has experience in supporting comprehensive transport related development activities and practices in the maritime and port sectors. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Thursday (8 February) by IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim and the First Vice President of the EBRD, Phil Bennett. "This strategic partnership, combining IMO's global mandate and outreach and EBRD's experience and expertise on investment and finance, is expected to contribute a great deal to sustainable maritime transport and the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals," said Secretary-General Lim.

### DP World Intermodal adds block train solution to its business portfolio

The DP World-operated Container Rail Road Service (CRRS) flagged off its maiden export block train from Ludhiana, Punjab to Mundra, Gujarat recently. The fully loaded train with AR Shipping's export containers was flagged off by Mr H. K. Khatana, Deputy Commissioner of Customs, from ICD Dhandari Kalan, Ludhiana. Through CRRS, DP World continuously works towards providing supply chain solutions that enhance reliability within the trade community and work as a catalyst towards increasing rail volumes. It provides value-added services 'beyond the terminal gates' into customers' logistics supply chain across India's vast hinterland and enables seamless connectivity with faster connections, highlighted a release. Mr Rizwan Soomar, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, DP World Subcontinent, said, "At DP World, it is our constant endeavour to offer tailor-made solutions to our customers to solve their supply chain challenges and support their strategic growth ambitions. CRRS is a testimony to our commitment to offer trade solutions beyond the terminal gates and facilitate ease of doing business. We are diligently working towards strengthening this service further, thus enabling trade and helping customers expand their business."

### APM Terminals adds Maersk FM3 service

The 9662 TEU capacity Maersk Salina arrived at APM Terminals Pipavav in Gujarat on January 15, representing the first call of Maersk Line's FM3 Service to APM Terminals Pipavav, which will connect Indian customers with key global markets. The service links India to key markets through port calls in Tanjung Pelepas, Malaysia; Colombo, Sri Lanka; Nhava Sheva, India; Singapore and the Chinese ports of Dalian, Xingang, Qingdao, Busan, Gwangyang and Ningbo. The Maersk Salina loaded seafood, polymers, chemicals, dyes, tyres etc. for export. Imports handled included home appliances, auto parts, machinery, plastic items, electrical/electronic goods and furniture, said Keld Pederson, Managing Director, APM Terminals Pipavav, in a statement here on Thursday. "We are persistent in our endeavour to offer best services to our customers by quick turnaround of cargos at the berth, at the yard and at the gate. The new addition by Maersk takes us one step closer in providing easy access to our customers located in north and west hinterland in India with key markets across the globe," he added. APM Terminals Pipavav is India's gateway port for containers, general cargo, bulk, liquid and Ro/Ro cargoes serving customers in Gujarat with road and rail networks to India's hinterland and northwest.