

India needs more cargo than ports: DP World Chief

What India needs now is more cargo than more port facilities, says the group chairman of DP World, the UAE-based port operator that recently joined hands with National Infrastructure Investment Fund to create a fund to invest up to \$3 billion. "There are more ports in India right now, than cargo; which is not good," Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem told. "You should have more production facilities, more logistic and infrastructure facilities rather than (just) ports," he said. Sulayem is in India to attend the 'Magnetic Maharashtra' investors summit in Mumbai. He said the success of Make in India initiative will determine how much port capacity the country needs. Sulayem also said DP World's investment platform in partnership with National Infrastructure Investment Fund (NIIF), a sort of sovereign fund, will look to streamline the supply chain after cargo leaves the port. "Our terminal in India is really modern but our problem is, once the cargo leaves the gate it is not in our hands and that is what is costing India a lot of money," he said. DP World, which is majority owned by the Dubai government, has six port concessions in India, including two in Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT).

Abu Dhabi Ship Building reports sparkling 2017 results

Abu Dhabi Ship Building PJSC (ADSB) has reported net profit up by 70% to AED104.8m for the 2017 financial year ending in December, representing its second-best performance ever. Gross profit for the year rose from AED256.1m (\$69.7m) in 2016 to AED 277.1m. The latest financials demonstrate the yard's continuing success story as the company diversifies its traditional naval construction and repair business into new sectors including commercial shipping and offshore. The figures are notable, however, because the shipbuilding and repair sectors are under pressure as a result of the offshore downturn and the expansion of shipyard capacity across the region. The results were driven by cost efficiencies in new construction, expansion in the oil and gas sector, and the increased scope of the three-year Marine Support Services contract with the UAE Navy which runs until 2020. A key element in the ADSB diversification strategy has been the acquisition of a floating dock and an adjacent repair quay with back-up facilities in Mina Zayed, about 35kms from the company's main site at Mussafah. The dock, with a lifting capacity of 10,000 tonnes, and the quay with a water depth of 14m alongside, do not have the same size constraints as the main shipyard and are therefore capable of repairing larger ships.

AD Ports, Autoterminal form JV to manage Ro-Ro/Car terminal at Khalifa Port

Abu Dhabi Ports and Autoterminal, part of Noatum Maritime Group, revealed plans to jointly manage the Ro-Ro/car terminal at Khalifa Port. The duo is to create a joint venture company called Autoterminal Khalifa Port to manage the terminal under a 15-year concession. The 300,000-square-meter car terminal, with more than 550 meters of dedicated quay, will provide a geostrategic location for import traffic which will benefit from the Khalifa Port Free Trade Zone, the two companies said in a statement. In addition, the new terminal will offer services to all its car terminal users for PDI inspections, vehicle customization and other technical services. "The main short-term objectives of the agreement are to provide the same level of quality that Autoterminal offers its clients in the Port of Barcelona, and to position Khalifa Port as the regional hub for all commercial trade routes in the Gulf, East Africa and the Red Sea," according to Abu Dhabi Ports and Autoterminal. Abu Dhabi Ports develops ports and industrial zones in the emirate of Abu Dhabi. Autoterminal is a multimodal car terminal in the Mediterranean, located in the Port of Barcelona.

India, Iran sign short-term lease for part of Chabahar Port

India has signed a short-term lease contract with Iran for a part of Chabahar Port. Under the contract between Port and Maritime Organization (PMO), Iran and India Ports Global Limited (IPGL), India would operate Shahid Beheshti Port, Phase 1 of Chabahar Port, for a term of one and a half year. Signed during Iranian president Hassan Rouhani's recent visit to the country, the short-term lease would see India utilize Iranian equipment to conduct operations at the part of the port. As part of the deal, the country would launch operations at the 360-meter-long Shahid Beheshti Port by the end of May 2018, Hindustan Times cited sources close to the matter. "The successful inauguration of the Phase-1 of Chabahar Port in early December 2017; the ratification of the Trilateral Agreement between India, Iran and Afghanistan on Establishment of International Transport and Transit Corridor by all sides; and the successful shipment of wheat assistance from India to Afghanistan through Chabahar Port have opened a new gateway to and from Afghanistan, Central Asia and beyond," Government of India writes. According to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), agreed between the countries in May 2016, India is to develop the Chabahar Port, which is located outside the Persian Gulf.

PIL, PSA, IBM Conclude Blockchain Trial from Chongqing to Singapore

Shipping company Pacific International Lines (PIL), port group PSA International (PSA) and technology company IBM Singapore (IBM) have completed a blockchain-based supply chain platform trial. As informed, the companies worked on a proof of concept (POC) exercise, built on IBM Blockchain Platform, applying and then testing the platform to track and trace cargo movement from Chongqing to Singapore via the Southern Transport Corridor. The exercise follows a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed in August 2017 with an aim to collaborate on blockchain-based supply chain business network innovations. The partners believe that there is now sufficient evidence to show that the concept can be taken to the next stage. The scope of the POC will be widened and the partners are eager to engage more participants from the different nodes of the distribution network that form the supply chain logistics ecosystem, PIL said in a statement. "We are highly committed to this idea because we as a company believe the wider application of blockchain across the global logistics and shipping businesses will lead to much greater operating efficiencies, security and transparency. It is the future for our industry," Teo Siong Seng, Managing Director of PIL, commented.

New intra-Asia calls put APM Terminals Pipavav back on growth track

APM Terminals Pipavav appears to be back on the road to steady growth, after a prolonged volume struggle in the wake of lackluster global demand and growing overcapacity issues in India's west coast region. The private minor operator, has gained two weekly, intra-Asia calls this year - Maersk Line's Far East-Indian Subcontinent Service (FI3) and a five-vessel joint operation between Cosco Container Lines and Wan Hai Lines, known as the CI1. These additions reportedly bring the number of weekly calls to 10 at Pipavav. The FI3 began calling Pipavav with a Jan. 15 arrival of the 9,662 TEU Maersk Salina, whereas the CI1 debuted there Feb. 13 with a call from the 4,051 TEU Xin Nan Tong, APM Terminals Pipavav. The Xin Nan Tong loaded and discharged 249 TEU, involving 193 crane moves. The CI1, operated with four vessels from Cosco and one from Wan Hai, rotates Shanghai, Ningbo, Shekou, and Nansha, China; Singapore; Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) and Pipavav, India; Penang, Malaysia; and back to Shanghai. The FI3 previously had its weekly calls at Mundra, Pipavav's closest rival and India's biggest non-government cargo hub, and the port of call change was viewed as another attempt by Maersk to generate synergies between its various group transportation units.

Manila's ICTSI steps up Basra port investment to US\$250 million

The second phase of Manila's International Container Terminal Services' (ICTSI) investment in its Iraqi Basra Gateway Terminal has increased its stake in the Port of Umm Qasr to US\$250 million. 'We continue to receive strong and most encouraging assistance from the General Company for Ports in Iraq and other government bodies,' said ICTSI vice president Hans-Ole Madsen. 'We are confident that we can continue to build on this productive partnership to the benefit of port users and the country as a whole,' said Mr Madsen. Global terminal operator ICTSI has confirmed that investment in new container terminal infrastructure is now underway at the terminal that opened last year. Current investment will focus on building a new berth and supporting container yard area, as well as acquiring additional container handling equipment, reported Dubai's Maritime Standard. The BGT expansion project, scheduled to be completed in phases by the third quarter of 2019, will deliver 400 metres of new quay with a draft of 14 metres alongside, as well as a new 30-hectare yard and a 15-hectare secure parking area for trucks. Three post-panamax ship-to-shore cranes will also be installed along the quay, and seven new RTGs will be brought in to undertake container stacking and handling in the yard.

Colombo Port Reaches 6.2 Mn Container Mark

In December 2017, Sri Lanka's Port of Colombo reached 6.2 million containers for the first time in the port's history. The port recorded a 16.4% year-over-year increase in its total container throughput as it handled 564,155 TEUs in January 2018, compared to 484,866 TEUs seen in the corresponding month a year earlier. In addition, container volumes at the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) controlled terminals rose by 24.8% to 194,688 TEUs in January 2018. Transshipment operations at the Port of Colombo also showed a 20.4% YOY increase. Together with the Jaya Container Terminal (JCT), South Asia Gateway Terminal (SAGT) and the Colombo International Container Terminal (CICT), the Port of Colombo recorded 436,303 transshipment TEU operations in January this year, against 362,451 TEUs reported in the same month of 2017. The number of containerships, conventional cargo vessels, other cargo vessels and ships for repairs and bunkering also increased to 388 vessels in January 2018 from 339 in the same period of 2017. The port's January figures show that a total of 332 contained vessels called at the Port of Colombo, against 304 boxships a year earlier.

India: JNPT's terminal bests rivals in dwell time reduction

After trailing its peers on productivity rates for a long time, port-owned Jawaharlal Nehru Container Terminal (JNCT) appears to be putting things in order, as competition in India's busiest container gateway intensifies with PSA International opening a new facility there. The latest productivity analysis released by radio-frequency identification services provider DMICDC Logistics Data Services (DLDS) shows JNCT led cargo dwell time improvements at the public harbor in January, aided by much faster export handling, as a result of new yard cranes. The state-owned terminal shortened its overall, average dwell time to 46.5 hours in January from 65.5 hours in the previous month, representing a 29 percent improvement. In contrast, dwell times lengthened at all the other three private terminals last month, month to month, although APM Terminals-operated Gateway Terminals India (GTI) continued to be on top of the chart. Individually, those figures were as follows: GTI, at 45.8 hours, up from 44.6 hours in December; DP World-operated Nhava Sheva (India) Gateway Terminal (NSIGT), at 49 hours, up from 48.3 hours; and DP World's flagship Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal (NSICT), at 57.8 hours, up from 56.3 hours, the analysis shows.

India Govt notifies Krishnapatnam port as authorised immigration check post

The centre has designated Krishnapatnam port in Andhra Pradesh as an authorised immigration check post for entry into and exit from India, according to a home ministry notification. Krishnapatnam is a privately built all-weather, deep-water port in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh. The notification said international travellers henceforth can use the port for entry into and exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers. The notification was issued as per the Passport (Entry into India) Rules, 1950. The move is expected to boost cruise ships travelling to Andhra Pradesh, a home ministry official said. Krishnapatnam is also expected to become the largest automated port for exports and imports in South Asia. It rates high on all the parameters of operations, including optimum cost, reliability, time and the best available service to customers, the official said.