

## KIZAD to offer 75 Pct of services free of charge

Abu Dhabi Ports has waived charges for over 75% of services offered by its subsidiary Khalifa Industrial Zone Abu Dhabi (KIZAD). As explained, the move is in line with the Abu Dhabi Government directive to encourage further investment into the emirate. Specifically, three quarters of services will be offered free of charge, while fees for a significant number of the remaining services will also be reduced and streamlined to a simpler tariff structure. "We continue to support the government initiatives to build an investor-friendly environment by providing our partners and customers with the incentives they need for their businesses to thrive and grow. We are committed to Abu Dhabi's drive to become a global gateway for businesses from all parts of the world," Captain Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi, CEO of Abu Dhabi Ports, commented. "The cost of setting up and maintaining a successful business at KIZAD is more achievable now than ever before. It is an ideal opportunity for companies of all sizes to benefit from such incentives for either growing their business or entering new markets." The exemptions are said to be aligned with Ghadan 21, the three-year, AED 50 billion (USD 13.6 billion) Development Accelerator Programme for the emirate.

## Port of Salalah container terminal reaches new milestone in productivity

The Port of Salalah, set another record in productivity with a delivering 412.97 Port Moves per Hour (PMPH) on vessel Cap San Tainaro handling 3,820 moves in a port stay of 9.25 hours. This is the highest productivity delivered by any port in the region till date. Mr. Mark Hardiman, Chief Executive Officer of the Port of Salalah stated "We are delighted to have reached this new record in productivity. This milestone could not have been achieved without the close coordination and outstanding teamwork between the teams in Maersk Regional Operations Cluster in Dubai, the Global Stowage Center and Port of Salalah. The customer centric approach and commitment of SPS employees has been the key to our continued success. We continue to place a very high emphasis on safety and focus on continuously improving our processes to deliver world class productivity. In the competitive environment of transshipment business, delivering these levels of performance enhances the overall value proposition of Salalah to the shipping line in terms of network cost savings and reliability." In the meanwhile the port continues to roll out its Capacity augmentation and Asset Replacement program and has committed to capex of about OMR 12 Million (USD 31 Million) in the last one year alone.

## UK to join US-led effort to protect Gulf shipping

Under new Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab the UK Government has announced that its existing naval vessels deployed in the Gulf – including Type 45 destroyer HMS Duncan and Type 23 frigate HMS Montrose – will join the US-led maritime security mission designed to protect merchant shipping in the region. The move is a shift from the policy of Raab's predecessor Jeremy Hunt, who called for a European-led mission in the region, not wishing to align the UK with the US position of having withdrawn from the International Iran nuclear deal. The US has deployed two warships to protect merchant shipping passing through the Strait of Hormuz, as well as aerial surveillance, and invited other countries to join the effort, the UK becoming one of the first countries to openly take up the offer. Raab insisted that the UK's changed position was driven by expediency and did not signal any shift in policy on the nuclear deal – which the UK like other European countries continues to support. "Our aim is to build the broadest international support to uphold freedom of navigation in the region, as protected under international law," he said, not ruling out the idea of an eventual transition to a European-led force.

## Adani Ports keen on building port at Nagarjuna Refinery site in Cuddalore

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) has put in an expression of interest (EoI) to develop a port at Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu at the site of the Nagarjuna Oil Refinery that is undergoing liquidation. The planned six-million tonnes (mt) refinery includes a captive port and a power plant. "We have put in an expression of interest for developing a port at Nagarjuna oil refinery which is undergoing liquidation. It has a port licence/concession along with the refinery, but they have not developed anything. Captive ports in Tamil Nadu are allowed to handle commercial cargo as well," Karan Adani, Chief Executive Officer and Whole Time Director of APSEZ, said during a quarterly earnings call on recently. APSEZ, according to Karan, is qualified for one of the bids in Chittagong port in Bangladesh. It is up to the government as to when to privatise it, he added. Karan said that APSEZ has put on hold plans to set up a mega container port on Carey Island in Selangor State, Malaysia. "We are re-evaluating it, whether to make it or not," he said. In 2017, APSEZ had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Malaysia's MMC Port Holdings Sdn Bhd to begin feasibility study on building a mega container port on Carey Island.

## India pushes coastal shipping, inland waterways solution

Betting on an unrestricted, liberalized cabotage regime enacted a year ago to spur competition with the entry of foreign-flagged tonnage, the Indian government is taking a close look at how untapped coastal and inland shipping opportunities can be used to lower logistics costs and improve supply chain efficiency. The Ministry of Shipping will hold a brainstorming session with logistics stakeholders next week in New Delhi to identify ways to bolster coastal transportation — an alternative logistics solution to the traditional trucking mode fraught with long delays due to inadequate road infrastructure in the country. The push comes as India looks to double the share of its domestic water transport trade from 6 percent to 12 percent by 2025. The move is seen as a broader effort by India to develop more coastal and inland waterway routes as viable freight corridors after seeing some success encouraging a modal shift — from land to sea — with previous measures. A July 30 sailing of the MV Bhavya with 52 containers from Haldia to Patna in Bihar State — a 955-kilometer (593 miles) stretch via the Ganges River — marked what officials said was the largest inland waterway containerized shipment in the country since that corridor was refurbished and opened to freight transportation in August 2016.

## India; Shipping Ministry floats new plan to settle past surplus of PPP cargo terminals

The shipping ministry has floated a proposal to sort out the past surplus, worth over 2,500 crore, earned by some of the earliest private cargo handling terminals at major port trusts whose mandatory rate revisions of every three years have been delayed by more than seven years. This was due to court cases filed against tariff cuts ordered by the port regulator. The move comes after the ministry issued new rate setting guidelines in March this year for terminals governed by the 2005 rate norms, rectifying many of the contentious issues that were at the centre of a confrontation between them, the ministry and the Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP). The new rules, though, would be applied for future rate revisions of 14 older terminals such as the Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal (NSICT), Gateway Terminals India (GTI), Chennai International Terminals (CITPL), Chennai Container Terminal (CCTL), among others. These terminals have filed writ petitions seeking a stay on the steep rate cuts ordered by TAMP in 2012 and the courts in their respective jurisdictions have allowed them to continue charging the rates prevailing prior to the regulator's orders till the cases are decided.

## Shanghai ports tops in connectivity

The Shanghai port has topped UNCTAD's 2019 ranking of the world's best-connected ports, released yesterday (7 August). The Chinese port garnered a connectivity score of 134 points, followed by the ports of Singapore (124.63 points), Pusan (114.45 points) in Korea and Ningbo (114.35 points), also in China. The index is set at 100 for the best-connected port in 2006, which was Hong Kong, China. Besides the Asian ports, the other ports on the top 10 list are those of Antwerp (94 points) in Belgium and Rotterdam (93 points) in the Netherlands. None of the ports in the top 20 list are from Africa, Latin America, North America or Australasia. "A container port's performance is a critical factor that can determine transport costs and, by extension, trade competitiveness," said UNCTAD's director of technology and logistics, Shamika N. Sirimanne. Efficient and well-connected container ports enabled by frequent and direct shipping services are key to minimizing trade costs and fostering sustainable development, Ms. Sirimanne said. UNCTAD's port Liner Shipping Connectivity Index (port LSCI) dataset enables businesses and governments to determine maritime transport trends and their ports' positions compared to others.

## New shipping route connects Bintulu with main China terminals

Bintulu International Container Terminal (BICT) enhances its global shipping connectivity by receiving the maiden voyage of SITC KOBE CPX & Service to Shanghai, Ningbo and Xiamen in China. This comes as MV SITC KOBE, the container vessel of SITC Container Lines Co Ltd (SITC), made its maiden voyage call at BICT of Bintulu Port on Wednesday. The vessel arrived in Bintulu via a direct call from Shanghai, Ningbo, Xiamen and berthed alongside BICT at 10am. It departed for Kota Kinabalu at 11pm. Bintulu Port Holdings Bhd (BPHB) in a statement yesterday said the maiden call earmark the launching of another direct shipping service by SITC known as China Philippine Express Service 7 (CPX7) that connect BICT to several major ports within the Intra Asia Trade Route. "This shipping service will be the second service call by SITC at BICT and will complement the existing service call of China Malaysia Indonesia Service (CMI)," the group said in a statement yesterday. To note, the routing for CPX7 Service is Bintulu – Kota Kinabalu – Cagayan – Xiamen – Shanghai – Ningbo – Cebu – Bintulu. MV SITC DANANG and MV Bright Laem Chabang will call BICT on a weekly basis with allocated windows on Wednesday every week.

## Dubai welcomes five cruise ships in one day

Dubai's Mina Rashid Port recently welcomed five cruise ships in one day, bolstering its position as a leading cruise ship destination. The 2018/19 cruise season ended with a record increase of over 51 per cent in cruise tourist footfall. There was also a 38 per cent increase in cruise ship dockings season-on-season, according to a statement. A total of 846,176 cruise visitors came via 152 ships this season compared to 558,781 on-board 110 last season. An additional 211 ship calls are now confirmed for the upcoming 2019/2020 season, which starts on October 19 with Mein Schiff homeporting in Dubai with over 6,000 passengers. This growth reflects the committed joint efforts to boost the cruise sector by the Dubai Cruise Committee made up of leading industry partners; Dubai's Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (Dubai Tourism), the operator of Port Mina Rashid - DP World UAE Region, Emirates Airline, the General Director of Residency and Foreigners Affairs in Dubai, and Dubai Customs. The 2018/19 season witnessed 14 maiden calls and welcomed leading international cruise liners, all of whom are expected to return in the upcoming season. The season concluded with the departure of the 'Karnika', India's first premium cruise ship from Jalesh Cruises, which has recently homeported in Dubai.

## Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Group could set up a global logistics hub in Madhya Pradesh

The Reliance Group headed by Mukesh Ambani is planning to set up a global logistics hub in Madhya Pradesh to help the state governments efforts to exploit the state's industrial development potential. Chief Minister Kamal Nath and Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani met in Mumbai on Wednesday where the Madhya Pradesh CM invited Ambani to invest in new technologies in the state. "This will boost trade and employment opportunities in the state," Kamal Nath said, adding that the venture would benefit both the state and the investor. According to a government official, Ambani said that Jio data is used in Madhya Pradesh more than it's used in South Korea or the UK, and the network could be further channelled in fields such as crimes against women, crime investigation and control. Like Amazon and Walmart, the Reliance Group could also set up a logistics hub in Madhya Pradesh, the official quoted the Reliance Chairman as saying. The group has already established similar facility in Mumbai and Bengaluru. "Reliance is willing to invest in battery manufacturing for the energy storage sector and MP is on top priority for this," Ambani said.

## Port of Sohar seeking to lease Terminal 2D

SOHAR Port and Freezone in Oman is looking to expansion with a plan to lease out of Terminal 2D. The area originally earmarked as a container terminal in 2009 has now been dedicated to businesses in the metals and logistics sectors and has 100 hectares of land with easy access to cool water and surrounding industrial clusters. Mark Geilenkirchen, ceo of SOHAR Port and Freezone says: "With several regional ports currently running out of space, SOHAR still has the capacity to further expand and attract prospective investments. Clustering is an innovative form of business. Therefore, the close proximity to our petrochemical, logistics and food clusters will also support the creation of upstream and downstream opportunities for further business developments." Moreover, as the Port and Freezone are both managed under a single entity, this allows for a seamless connection between the two, while also enhancing efficiency for feedstock imports and product exports," he added.

## Hutchison Ports to build new container terminal Egypt

Hutchinson Ports has penned a memorandum of understanding with Egypt on the building of a new container terminal in Egypt's port of Abu Qir. The new container terminal will be able to handle up to one million containers annually upon completion. The MOU signing was witnessed by Egyptian president Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi. The Egyptian president met with Eric Ip, managing director of Hutchison Ports Group, and Clemence Cheng, executive director of Hutchison, in Egypt's capital Cairo on Tuesday. Ip said that Hutchison Ports will be training more than 1,500 Egyptian engineers and workers for various jobs on construction of the terminal. Ip added that the company's investment in Abu Qir port is an opportunity grabbed from the improved investment climate and infrastructure development efforts by the Egyptian government. Hutchison Ports currently operate two ports in Egypt – Alexandria and El Dekheila, both located on the Mediterranean Sea.