



Transworld Group buys its newest boxship "OEL Badrinath"

Transworld Group has bought its largest boxship with 4,944 TEU. The Group, which also controls brands such as Orient Express Lines (OEL) and Shreyas. The Daewoo Shipbuilding built ship renamed OEL Badrinath and is set for new employment this month with CMA CGM subsidiary, ANL. The current largest ships belonging to Transworld are the 4,944 TEU sister ships OEL Jumeirah and SSL Brahmputra, both acquired three years ago. The Transworld fleet now stands at 19 Container vessels, with a total fleet of 22 Vessels and capacities ranging from 676 to 4,944 TEU.

Saudi Arabia suspends shipping services with 50 countries

The General Authority of Ports suspended shipping services, excluding cargo, between the Kingdom and several countries as part of the precautionary measures to stem the spread of coronavirus. The authority also imposed a number of preventive measures binding on ships coming to the Kingdom. According to a circular issued by the authority, sea trips between Saudi Arabia and 50 countries, including 27 EU states, have been suspended temporarily. The other countries are the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, South Korea, China, European Union states, Switzerland, India, Pakistan, Turkey, Eritrea, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Djibouti, Somalia, Southern Sudan, and the Philippines. However, there will be no ban for services of evacuation, cargo and trade trips.

DP World-run terminal gets nod for rate hike

DP World has got approval from the rate regulator for India's state-owned ports to raise tariffs by 64-93 per cent at its Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal (NSICT) at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) near Mumbai, infusing life into the commercially struggling terminal. The rates for laden containers unloaded from ship to yard and delivered by rail/road will rise 64 per cent, while storage charges for containers have been hiked by 93 per cent. On the other hand, the Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP) has ordered a 6 per cent cut in the overall rates levied by Gateway Terminals India (GTI), which also operates at JNPT, and is 74 per cent owned by APM Terminals Management, the container terminal operating unit of Danish shipping group AP Moller-Maersk. This is the first tariff revision carried out by TAMP for NSICT and GTI after the Centre framed new rate-setting norms last year for PPP (public-private partnership) operators which were earlier governed by the 2005 norms.

Indian Railways zone operates its 1st double stack dwarf container train

The Western Railway zone of the national transporter recently operated its first double stack dwarf container train between Jamnagar and Sanjaan near the city of Mumbai. The national transporter started the double stack dwarf container or the DSDC as a new delivery model in order to attract new traffic on the network and also to increase the loadability. According to Western Railway, Mumbai, Ludhiana, Secunderabad as well as Ahmedabad are already on the DSDC routes. However, the recent double stack dwarf container van carried between Jamnagar and Sanjaan is the first such freight operation for the Western Railway zone. A detailed study to open Chennai, Delhi, Jaipur, Varanasi, Ahmedabad, Pune and Bengaluru routes are already in progress, which are being taken up by the Central Railways, Northern Railways, South Western Railways and few other railway zones. It is expected that the proposals for opening the routes will be submitted by the railway zones to the Railway Board very soon.

Unifeeder launches new direct container ship service from Grangemouth to Thames

A new east coast container feeder shipping service has been launched at Grangemouth with maritime logistics firm Unifeeder. The cargo vessel Anna G provides the first direct service between the Firth of Forth and the Thames, as part of a weekly rotation calling at Grangemouth, London Gateway, Dunkirk, Antwerp and Teesport. The Port of Grangemouth handles more than 155,000 containers a year, amounting to £6 billion of goods including steel plate, timber, paper and equipment for the oil and gas industry. Container services already run daily to Rotterdam, Antwerp, Felixstowe and Hamburg. Grangemouth port manager Derek Knox said: "It's great to see this new service from Grangemouth to London Gateway launched by Unifeeder. This new connection to London increases the shipping options offered to our customers within the UK and beyond from Scotland's container terminal." The service demonstrates Unifeeder's confidence and commitment to both the Port and Scottish Market by offering a new alternative to existing supply chain solutions.

Maqta offers industrial zone services via Single Window

Maqta Gateway, developer and operator of the first port community system in the UAE and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Abu Dhabi Ports, today announced the launch of Industrial Zone Services through its pioneering Single Window platform, in partnership with ZonesCorp, the UAE's largest operator of purpose-built Economic zones. The development comes in continuation of Maqta Gateway's achievements throughout the past five years, in providing services to leading companies including Kizad, Abu Dhabi Terminals, CSP Abu Dhabi Port Container Terminal (COSCO), Autoterminal Khalifa Port and Safeen - Abu Dhabi Marine Services, in addition to partnering with the General Administration of Customs in Abu Dhabi to provide digital customs services across sea ports. The new partnership aims to eliminate the need for customers to visit ZonesCorp Service Centres in Abu Dhabi and Al Ain to conduct processes and transactions, eliminating more than 150,000 physical trips annually. Through the Single Window platform, customers will now be able to process multiple services and requests digitally, including: inquiries on contracts and investments, information on worker residential cities, work permits and residency services, it said.



WACT receives Maersk Line's first direct service ship

Nigeria's leading container terminal, the West Africa Container Terminal (WACT), has received Maersk's first direct service containership from Far East to the Onne Port in Rivers State. The gearless ship named KYPARISSIA with a capacity of 4,800 TEUs and brought to Onne Port by Maersk under its FEW3 service, is the first Maersk vessel to visit Onne Port without first calling at any port in Lagos. The Commercial Manager of WACT, Noah Sheriff, said, "The long awaited FEW3 service, which is a direct service from Far East into East Nigeria has started, and we are here to witness the first call. "With our Mobile Harbour Cranes operations, we are positioned to handle such gearless vessels calling our facility. The Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) initiative to bring larger vessels into other ports is aligned with our Phase 2 terminal upgrade project, which will see our number of Mobile Harbour Cranes and other container handling equipment increased by third quarter of this year.

Bangladesh approves construction of 'essential' first deepwater port

Bangladesh's top decision-making body, ECNEC, led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, on Tuesday approved construction of country's first deepsea port, in Matarbari, near Cox's Bazar. The port, with 16-metres of water depth, will be able to accommodate 8,000 teu vessels, cutting Bangladesh's dependence on feeder vessels that link with the transshipment hubs of Singapore, Colombo and Port Klang. Currently, its ports of Chittagong and Mongla have a maximum 9.5 metre draught and can accommodate 2,000 teu vessels. The new port will cost over \$2bn, which will be funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the government of Bangladesh and the Chittagong port authority. Construction is expected to be completed by December 2026.