



## Saudi Ports to develop massive grain terminal in Yanbu

The Saudi Ports Authority (Mawani) is set to develop the Kingdom's biggest grain terminal in Yanbu. Mawani signed an agreement with the Saudi Agricultural and Livestock Investment Company (SALIC), a Public Investment Fund-owned company, to lease land in Yanbu Commercial Port to be used to develop the project. The value of the project was not disclosed. The terminal, which will be sited on 313,000 square meters of land, will be used for importing, processing and exporting grain. It will be built in two phases with total capacity of 5 million tons annually. Gulf states are investing heavily in food security as a combination of political and climate factors encourage countries to ensure they have enough essential food supplies in case of an emergency. The Yanbu project will become the first regional center for importing, processing and re-exporting grains, according to Saleh bin Nasser Al-Jasser, Saudi transport minister and chairman of Mawani. The project represents the latest move by the ports authority to develop its infrastructure and better position Saudi Arabia as an international trade hub linking Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

## DP World hails US decision to make hyperloop a reality

DP World has lauded a decision by the US House of Representatives to pass legislation requesting a regulatory framework for the safe deployment of hyperloop systems. In a statement, the terminal operator said the Non-Traditional and Emerging Transportation Technology Council in the US is expected to issue guidance within the next 6 months to help set out a clear regulatory framework for the industry. DP World launched 'DP World Cargospeed' in 2018, the first initiative of its kind, it is meant to represent a vision for the future of cargo transportation. The new venture was created through a partnership between DP World and Virgin Hyperloop to provide hyperloop-enabled cargo systems that will facilitate the fast, sustainable and efficient delivery of palletised cargo around the world. Sultan Bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO of DP World, said: "We are excited to see this revolutionary vision becoming part of the future of transportation, as much as we are confident that Virgin Hyperloop will take a leap forward and deliver on a 21st century transportation solution."

## Afghanistan sends 1st transit consignment to China via Chabahar Port

Afghanistan's first transit goods to China via Iran's southeastern Chabahar Port was shipped, the director-general of Ports and Maritime Department of Sistan-Baluchestan Province, where Chabahar lies, announced recently. Behrouz Aghaei said the shipment was carried out through Shahid Beheshti Port in Chabahar, IRNA reported. The official further said that while the world is affected by the coronavirus pandemic, Shahid Beheshti Port in Chabahar has taken a big step to facilitate trade between Central Asian countries and Afghanistan with the countries of South and Southeast Asia and the Far East by establishing regular container transportation services. Stating that Afghanistan's first transit shipment of dried fruit was sent to Tianjin Port in China, he said that the cargo was sent to the Indian port of Mundra via Chabahar, which was unloaded at this port and loaded on another ship to its final destination. During the past month, Afghanistan sent three transit consignments to India via Shahid Beheshti port in Chabahar.

## India; Cochin Port Trust eyes India's transshipment cargo from Colombo

The Cochin Port Trust is chalking out strategies to attract India's transshipment cargoes currently being shipped from the neighbouring Colombo Port. Around 1.8 million tonnes of cargo from the country is being moved from Colombo, which needs to be brought back, said M Beena, Chairperson, Cochin Port Trust. Transshipment has been envisaged as a key attraction of Kochi port, and the government has also been taking necessary steps to market the port as a transshipment hub, she said at a webinar organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the topic Cochin Port Trust – Strategies Post Covid Era. The government has invested INR 1,700 crore for setting up the transshipment terminal at Vallarpadam and INR 1,100 crore has been invested by DP World for the same, she added. Beena's remarks assume greater significance in light of the Minister of State for Shipping Mansukh Mandaviya asking officials to actualise the vision of a transshipment hub in India. The deepening of the channel is an important requirement as the current draught is 14.5 metres that was achieved in 2010. Over the past 10 years, the Colombo Port has increased its draught at 18 metres, she said.

## Bangladesh starts work on Matarbari deep sea port

Bangladesh's cabinet committee on Wednesday appointed Japanese firm— Nippon Koei Company— to provide consultancy services for the construction of a deep seaport to handle its growing external trade in a deal worth \$28m. The firm will work on detail design, tender assistance, and construction supervision of the JICA-funded proposed deep seaport at Matarbari area in south-eastern Bangladesh. The deep seaport will have a 16-metre water draft and will be able to accommodate 8,000 TEU post-Panamax vessels, lessening Bangladesh's dependence on the feeder vessels to ferry export-import goods from the hub ports in Singapore, Colombo and Port Klang. In mid-March Bangladesh's top decision-making body ECNEC, led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, approved construction of the seaport to accommodate deep-draft vessels. Presently, the country's two seaports— Chittagong and Mongla - have up to 9.5-metre draft where vessels holding up to 2,000 teu containers can anchor.

## ICTSI Pakistan welcomes UIG Pendulum service

Pakistan International Container Terminal Services (PICT) has welcomed the newly launched UAE-Indian subcontinent-Gulf feeder service (UIG) with an inaugural call at the Port of Karachi. The feeder service is a joint initiative between Abu Dhabi Ports' Safeen Feeders and Singapore-based Bengal Tiger Line which covers two loops from the UAE to the Indian subcontinent and the upper Gulf region. UIG's launch was marked by the maiden call of the 2,762 teu BELLATRIX I at PICT, which is a subsidiary of International Container Services, Inc (ICTSI). Khurram Khan, PICT chief executive officer, said: "We appreciate this new partnership and look forward to adding value to their product by offering quality services leading to enhanced future growth." The service is operated by three 2,800 nominal vessels and connects nine region ports across the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Pakistan and West India. UIG's rotation is as follows: Kandla, Mundra, Nhava Sheva, Khalifa, Bahrain, Dammam, Jubail, Khalifa, Karachi and Kandla.



## PSA and GIP get go-ahead to restructure terminal businesses in Genoa

Italy's Genoa Port Authority has approved of a proposed restructuring of the terminal businesses in Genoa by PSA Investments (PSA) and Gruppo Investimenti Portuali (GIP). The restructuring will result in PSA, wholly-owned subsidiary of PSA International, becoming a majority shareholder in and obtaining management control of both PSA Genova Pra' and SECH. Container terminals PSA Genova Pra' and SECH are both located in the North Tyrrhenian region in Genoa port. PSA and GIP have been operating and investing in the port for over 25 years contributing to its development. In 2008 PSA and GIP became partners while the management teams of PSA Genova Pra' and SECH remained independent.

## India's first port-based JNPT SEZ starts operation

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is now operational, becoming the first of its kind operational port-based multi-product SEZ in India. Two units in JNPT SEZ, namely OWS LLP and Krish Food Industry (India), have completed their first phase of operational activity and are declared operational units by the Indian Development Commissioner, SEEPZ, SEZ. Apart from the first two companies, three more companies are likely to commence their construction activities soon. "JNPT is confident of attracting leading global companies for making India a manufacturing hub as the infrastructure development underway in JNPT SEZ is as per the international benchmark," said Sanjay Sethi, IAS, chairman, JNPT. The multi-product port based SEZ aims to boost exports by enabling port-led industrialisation under the Sagarmala initiative of the Ministry of Shipping. The foundation stone of the project was laid by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in August 2014. The SEZ once fully occupied is expected to create 57,000 jobs. JNPT is the biggest container handling port in India accounting for around 52% of the total containerised cargo volume, across the major ports of India.