



Grain storage and processing plants at Khalifa Port

The Abu Dhabi Ports (ADP) has inked a 50-year land lease agreement with Anchorage Investment for the development of grain storage and processing plants at Khalifa Port, to be managed by National Feed, one of the largest Agro commodity processors in Abu Dhabi. Set to be developed on a 100,000-sqm plot, and with an initial design capacity of 300,000 metric tonnes, the facility will introduce grain storage and processing capabilities to the multi-purpose port for the production of key food and animal feed ingredients. Providing Abu Dhabi Ports' customers with direct access to competitive food ingredients, the facility will utilise grain resources to convert wheat into flour for baked goods, corn into starch and glucose, barley, corn, and wheat by-products into animal feed. Saif Al Mazrouei, Head of Ports Cluster, Abu Dhabi Ports, said, "It is a great honour and privilege that Khalifa Port has been selected to serve as the future home for National Feed's grain storage and processing facilities. "Furthering the capabilities of our multi-purpose port and bolstering our ongoing activities within the region's food supply chain, the operation will introduce several key advantages for the benefit of new and existing manufacturing customers."

India seeks regular transit through Bangladesh ports

India has sought permission to start using the two Bangladesh seaports at Chittagong and Mongla for regular transit of cargoes destined for its north-eastern states, officials say. The neighbouring country is seeking the facility almost six months after holding a trial-run of its cargo using the Chittagong port. Four containers carrying iron and pulse were transported to Tripura and Assam through the Akhaura-Agartala land port in the trial run. The trial run was done on July 16 last year under the bilateral deal namely— agreement on the use of Chattogong and Mongla port for the movement of goods to and from India. The agreement was signed back in October 2018. "The Indian authorities concerned have requested the regular operationalisation of this agreement. (Issuing) permanent order by the National Board of Revenue, Bangladesh for regular movement of India (n) transit cargo," a letter of the Indian High Commission in Dhaka said. The letter, sent last week to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Shipping and the National Board of Revenue (NBR) in Dhaka, it also sought considering electronic filing of the Import General Manifest (IGM) instead of the manual IGM available at present for the transit cargo.

Mawani launches new shipping route from Jeddah port

Saudi Ports Authority (Mawani) has announced the launch of a new shipping service from Jeddah Islamic Port, complementing its strategic partnerships with some of the largest shipping companies in the world, such as Hapag Lloyd, CMA CGM, COSCO and ONE. The introduction of the new service reflects the confidence of global shipping lines in Mawani's capabilities and the prominent position of Jeddah Islamic Port in global trade through the Red Sea, connecting the Middle East to Europe and North Africa, the Mediterranean and the Indian subcontinent, and covering key ports like Port Tanger in Morocco and Algeciras in Spain. The new shipping line is a major step forward by Mawani, taken as part of its initiatives launched under the National Industrial Development and Logistics Program (NIDLP), building on its achievements during the past year with the support of the Saudi logistics sector and the guidance of Saudi Minister of Transport Saleh Al-Jasser. The effort has been to enhance the international connectivity of ports and attract major shipping companies in line with the strategic objectives of Vision 2030 to enhance the Kingdom's position in the investment and logistics arena.

The Alliance launches Trans-Pacific Asia service for US Gulf Coast ports

The Alliance has launched a direct Trans-Pacific Asia service called The East Coast Loop 6, or EC6, via Panama that calls on the U.S. Gulf Coast. In its service network announcement for 2021, member carriers of The Alliance, which include Ocean Network Express (ONE), Hapag-Lloyd, Hyundai Merchant Marine (HMM) and Yang Ming Line, say they are launching "the first service within The Alliance network to directly and seamlessly connect the U.S. Gulf with important ports in Asia," according to a news release from Port Houston. The EC6 service will call on the ports of Kaohsiung in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Yantian and Ningbo in China, Shanghai, Pusan in Korea, Panama City and Houston on a weekly basis before making stops in New Orleans and in Mobile, Alabama, and returning to Panama and onward to Kaohsiung. "The new EC6 service will provide a new premium solution to our customers in Texas, Louisiana, Alabama and the southern United States," says Uffe Ostergaard, president of Hapag-Lloyd, North America. The new service launched by The Alliance is part of an adjustment of its overall network. The Alliance says it has made changes to offer customers more capacity in trade lanes with the greatest demand.

DP World signs 20-year concession deal with Angola for MPT operation

DP World, a leading global provider of smart logistics solutions, has signed a 20-year concession agreement with the Government of Angola to operate the Multipurpose Terminal (MPT) at the Port of Luanda. The agreement was signed in Luanda on Monday by António Bengue, Chairman of Porto de Luanda and Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and CEO of DP World. The signing of the agreement follows an international tender process in which DP World was selected by an evaluation committee set up by the Angolan Ministry of Transport as the preferred bidder to enter into discussions with the Government for the concession. The MPT will be the first seaport terminal located on the western coast of Southern Africa to be operated and managed by DP World, and will further extend the company's footprint in Africa. Under the agreement, DP World will invest \$190 million over the 20-year period of the concession, with plans to rehabilitate the existing infrastructure and acquire new equipment to bring operations in line with global standards and improve the efficiency of the MPT, as part of the broader aim of increasing the terminal's annual throughput to approximately 700,000 TEUs per year. This will be supported by a modern port management system, as well as further training and development of Angolan staff employed at the terminal.



Maersk CEO Søren Skou expects to make first CarbonNeutral ship order in 2023

Logistics giant AP Moller-Maersk, the owner of the largest shipping company in the world, expects to order its first carbon-neutral ship as soon as 2023. The company is likely to order smaller container ships at first while it gets accustomed to the new fuels, CEO Søren Skou said on a Global Optimism podcast released this week. "Three years from now, we expect to buy the first order ... the first series of maybe small container ships that we can operate in a defined geographical area," Skou said. "Then we can go out and make supply contracts with people that can provide, whether it's ammonia or alcohol, methanol and ethanol. "We can fuel the ships that way, get the experience of what works operationally, or help make sure the safety works. "Then we can be ready to start ordering large ships towards the end of this decade. "A ship has a life expectancy of between 20 and 25 years, so we need to start replacing ships by 2030 in order to be ready at 2050."

Dubai group to set up smart industrial city in Kerala

Dubai's Brixton Group will set up a futuristic and state-of-the-art industrial smart city in the Indian state of Kerala. It is estimated that the project will cost Rs12 billion and will be set up near Kalamssery, Kochi, over 30 acres of land. Slated to be completed by 2023, the project will have five business verticals, namely smart mall, business centre, convention centre, smart warehouse and an international academy. "The UAE and India have been enjoying a close traditional relationship ever since the age of barter system. Today, our flourished relations share political, economic and cultural link. A large expatriate community from Kerala played a significant role in UAE's evolution as a frontrunner in one of the world's stable economy. As a trade partner with India and a promising investor in futuristic projects, we have chosen 'God's Own Country' to launch our innovative and futuristic project 'Industrial Smart City'," said Sheikh Juma Al Maktoum, chairman of Brixton Group. Siraj MP, chairman of Brixton Industrial Smart City, said the project has the potential to transform Kerala's face by boosting its economy.