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Hamad Port container terminal 2 to be operational by year-end

The 403,500 sqm container terminal 2 (CT2) at the Hamad Port is slated to be operationalised by the end of fourth quarter (Q4) of this year. "On track for start of operations in late Q4 2020," said a tweet from the QTerminals, a terminal operating company jointly established by Mwani Qatar (51%) and Milaha (49%). The works on CT-2 had begun in December last year as part of Qatar's expansion strategy in its maritime sector. The CT2, with berth length of 1,200m and a 17m draft alongside, will have annual capacity of 2mn TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units). The CT-2 development at Hamad Port is located immediately to the north of the existing Container Terminal – 1. QTerminals provides container, general cargo, RORO, livestock and offshore supply services in Phase 1 of Hamad Port. The Phase I of Hamad Port consists of CT1, the general cargo terminal, the multi-user terminal, which handles Ro-Ro for vehicles, machinery, and live animals, and the offshore supply services terminal. Amidst disruptions caused by pandemic Covid-19, Qatar will be the only economy in the Middle East and North Africa including Pakistan (MENAP) region to show fiscal surplus this year and in 2021, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

King Abdullah Port welcomes world's largest container ships

Marking their first voyage to Saudi Arabia, mega container ships MSC Gulsun, MSC Mia and MSC Sixin recently docked at King Abdullah Port in the same week. The maiden calls from the three vessels, among the world's largest container ships, were received and handled efficiently utilizing the Port's mega infrastructure and most modern highest capacity equipment. The ultra-large container ships are classified among the largest class of container vessels in the world, with MSC Gulsun and MSC Mia having an operating capacity of 23,756 TEU and a draft of 16.5 meters, while MSC Sixin has a capacity of 23,656 TEU and a draft of 16.5 meters. The three vessels have been designed following strict environmental criteria, leading to a significant reduction in CO2 for each container transported with respect to the average of the container ships currently in service. The arrival of such large vessels in one week is a testimony to King Abdullah Port's capability to serve giant container ships. With its 18-meter deep water berths, the Port is classified among the world's deepest ports and also is the deepest on the Red Sea.

Saudi Government, DP World launch first UAE-Saudi-Egypt service

The Saudi Ports Authority (MAWANI), the Saudi Ministry of Transport and global terminal operator DP World are launching the first direct shipping line between Jebel Ali in Dubai, Sokhna Port in Egypt and Jeddah Islamic Port on Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast. It is the fourth service launched by Mawani in 2020. The shipping line is part of a broader government plan to link Saudi Arabia with its neighbors in the Middle East, Africa and Europe. "The direct shipping line will connect Jeddah Islamic Port with more ports in the East and the West, making it a central regional and global gateway, and establishing the Kingdom as a leading logistics center. The line will also help facilitate trade across all the global supply chains, increase transhipment volumes and gain an upgraded share of the ships on the Red Sea Coast," said Mawani's president, His Excellency Eng. Saad Alkhale. "The launch of the first dedicated shipping service connecting Jebel Ali, Jeddah and Sokhna will be a game changer in promoting the much-needed intra-regional trade," said Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, DP World Group Chairman and CEO.

TCS deploys digital solution remotely to help Adani Ports transform Mundra operations

IT services major Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Tuesday said it has deployed its terminal operating system 'TCS DynaPORT' at the Mundra CT4 terminal for Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), India's largest private port operator and end-to-end logistics provider. A statement said that the deployment was completed remotely, while under a lockdown, leveraging TCS' Secure Borderless Workspaces (SBWS) model. APSEZ operates 11 ports and terminals that represent 24 per cent of India's port capacity. As part of the company's growth and transformation journey, it chose TCS to deploy the DynaPORT solution at the Mundra terminal, a multipurpose port that serves as a major economic gateway. DynaPORT, which currently powers more than 80 terminals globally, is a one-stop solution for order-to-invoice processes and supports multimodal (vessel, rail, truck and barge) and multipurpose (container, break-bulk, liquid bulk, dry bulk and ro-ro) requirements by leveraging digital platforms to address key challenges.

CONCOR signs agreement with Russian Logistics Company to export tea to CIS countries

Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) has signed an agreement with a Russian Logistics Company which can facilitate export of tea to the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries. CONCOR held an online workshop with the tea producers, exporters, CHAs, importers and shipping lines. Customs officers posted at ICD-Amingaon were also invited as participants. Chairman cum Managing Director (CMD) CONCOR V. Kalyana Rama presided over the meet. He was accompanied by Director International Marketing and Operations and EXIM team of CONCOR. The Eastern Region of CONCOR and the terminal manager of Amingaon were also present. In the meeting a number of issues were discussed ranging from the possibility of connecting the ICD to the ports on the west coast and reduction in freight and other costs. CMD CONCOR, V. Kalyan Rama, announced huge volume discounts which was a historic announcement as far as CONCOR's outreach to the customers is concerned.

Railway freight express puts China-EU cooperation amid pandemic on fast track

Departing from Nanchang, the capital of China's Jiangxi Province, a cargo train loaded with medical materials against COVID-19 arrived in Paris Tuesday morning, vividly reflecting the sustained pragmatic anti-pandemic cooperation between China and Europe. Among many China-Europe express operations for transport of much-needed medical supplies since the COVID-19 outbreak, this train had run over 11,920 km through seven countries before delivering some 20 million surgical masks and gloves, water-soluble bags, contactless gel dispensers and other resources, which marked the first dedicated rail transport of protective materials directly from China to France amid the pandemic. In the meantime, two additional China-Europe freight trains carrying anti-coronavirus supplies are on their way to Duisburg, Germany, and Madrid, Spain respectively, expected to arrive on Saturday and Monday.



Ship owners worldwide invited to flag their ships in India to take advantage of Make in India policy

The Shipping Ministry has invited ship owners worldwide to flag their ships in India to take advantage of the Make in India policy. Government has recently revised its Make in India Policy for public procurement, among others, of all services. Under the revised policy, no global tender enquiry shall be issued, except with the approval of the Competent Authority, for procurement of all services with estimated value of purchases less than 200 crore rupees. Shipping Minister Mansukh Mandaviya reviewed the readiness of Indian shipping Industry for implementation of the Government's Cargo Transportation Policy. It is estimated that the Make in India policy will provide opportunity to at least double the number of Indian flag vessels in the immediate term – from the present approximately 450 to at least 900 and more over a period of 3 years.

DP World Southampton welcomes its largest vessel ever

The HMM Oslo, the biggest vessel ever to call at DP World Southampton, arrived at the U.K. port early Friday morning. The Oslo has a capacity of 23,820 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs). At 399.9 meters long, the Oslo is longer than The Shard skyscraper in London is tall. Last week, the Oslo's sister ship, the HMM Algeciras, docked at DP World's London Gateway in Essex. Both vessels are part of HMM's order of 12 megaships. Samsung Heavy Industries built the HMM Oslo. "The HMM Oslo joins around 200 other container ships that have called at DP World Southampton during the lockdown since March, keeping essential food, fuel and medicines flowing to sustain the country," said Ernst Schulze, the U.K. chief executive officer for DP World. "Our ongoing investment and innovation mean that we are well-placed to support an economic recovery which is not just strong but also green and sustainable."