

### DP World and Tesla mull benefits of new technologies for ports and shipping

The CEOs of DP World and Tesla met recently to discuss how Tesla's technology can improve DP World's global operations. DP World group chairman and CEO, Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, and Tesla CEO, Elon Musk, spoke about potential uses of Tesla technology in a meeting at the World Government Summit in Dubai. Topics revolved around the use of Tesla battery solutions for renewable energy storage in the global trade enabler's ports and terminals in the fast growing markets of Africa, India and Latin America. DP World's Rotterdam World Gateway is already employing driverless cars at its terminal, while several other DP World operations are in the process of implementing the new technology.

### Bahri to provide shipping, transportation and custom services for Saudi Rail Company

Saudi logistics firm Bahri has signed a contract with Saudi Rail Company (SAR) to provide transportation and shipping services as well as customs clearance support. Bahri Logistics will provide SAR with transportation and shipping services for cargo and an electronic system to track all shipments from the country of origin to the final destination in warehouses or worksites of the company. The company will also make necessary arrangements with the concerned export/import port through Bahri's vast network of offices and agents, and also offer consultancy services.

### Coastal Shipping with India: Pangaon receives first cargo vessel

The first container ship, MV Nou Kollan-1, arrived from Kolkata at Pangaon Inland Container Terminal in Keraniganj a few days ago with 65 containers. The vessel berthed at the terminal under the Coastal Shipping Agreement between Bangladesh and India. The deal, signed during the visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Bangladesh in 2015, allows direct movement of ships between the two countries. It has helped improving the connectivity between the two neighbours by reducing shipping time from 30-40 days to 4-10 days.

### Sheikh Mohammed names new Dubai World board

UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai has issued a decree naming a new board for ports and free zone holding company Dubai World for what appeared to be the first time in seven years. Under Decree No. 3 of 2017 HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum was named chairman of the board.. The other board members are Mohammad Ibrahim Al Shaibani, director general of Dubai Ruler's Court, Abdul Rahman Saleh Al Saleh, director general of the Dubai Finance Department, Hamad Mubarak Bu Amim, director general of Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sa'adi Abdul Rahim Hassan Al Rais, group managing director of Rais Hassan Saadi Group and Soon Young Chang, senior advisor to Investment Corporation of Dubai.

### Sohar port container traffic up 15pc

Oman's Sohar Port and Freezone has reported that container traffic at the port was up 15 per cent in 2016 compared to 2015, despite generally lower revenues and a slump in activity in the global maritime industry. The port's break bulk was up by 18 per cent and liquid bulk throughput increased 12 per cent year-on-year, the company said. Sohar, which topped an average of one million tonnes a week for 2016, received over 2,600 vessel calls in 2016, also a significant increase in numbers despite the global trend towards larger ships. Revealing the port's performance figures during its annual business reception at The Chedi in Muscat, Sohar CEO Mark Geilenkirchen said the new Food Zone was one of the main highlights of its plans for 2017.

### Gulf Navigation Holding successfully sign and end dispute with DVB, BNP Paribas and DNB

Gulf Navigation Holding PJSC ("GulfNav") is pleased to announce that it has reached full and final settlement with DVB Bank SE, BNP Paribas, and DNB Bank ASA (collectively, "VLCC syndicates"). The settlement relates to VLCCs sold in 2014 financed by the VLCC syndicates. This settlement is part of a continuing process undertaken by the new management of GulfNav to clear all historical liabilities to allow the Company to refocus its energy into exploring new horizons for growth in the maritime and shipping business. Ending the dispute with these lenders also marks another milestone in restoring the Company's reputation as a credible, reliable and responsible player in the shipping industry.

### IRClass Appointed RO for Iran; opens office in Tehran

Indian Register of Shipping (IRClass) has received authorisation as a Recognised Organisation from Iran's maritime administration – Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO). Strengthening its presence further in the Middle East, IRClass has also set up an office in Tehran to offer its services to the Iranian maritime sector. This move is the latest in a series of steps taken by IRClass to enhance its global footprint. The RO agreement was signed on Sunday, 5th February 2017 at a ceremony held in Tehran, Iran by Mr. Mohammad Rastad, Member of the Board of Directors and Deputy Managing Director for Maritime Affairs, on behalf of the PMO and Mr. Suresh Sinha, Managing Director of IRClass.

### Scrapped levy gives hope to India's JNPT productivity measure

APM Terminals-operated Gateway Terminals India at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust has ended an extra charge on imports moved under the direct port delivery program, clearing a major hurdle to gaining greater shipper support for the productivity-boosting measure. The change follows on the heels of authorities stepping up pressure on terminals to lift "unauthorized charges" tied to DPD handling as the port has struggled to meet its goal of moving 40 percent of imports via the program in the fiscal year ending March 31. "The applicable charges for delivery of DPD containers will not be billed to shipping lines," said APMT Mumbai.

### Indian exports rise for fifth month as commodities rebound

India's goods exports rose in January for the fifth straight month on the back of stronger commodity prices, despite growing protectionist and anti-trade sentiment in the United States and Europe. Merchandise exports grew 4.32 percent year-on-year to \$22.12 billion, while imports rose 10.7 percent to \$31.96 billion, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a statement. Oil prices - up nearly 18 percent since the end of November - forced up the bill for crude oil, India's largest import item, by 61.1 percent to \$8.1 billion, threatening to reverse recent declines in inflation.

### Pakistan to use land route to export seafood to Xinjiang

Pakistan to start exporting seafood to Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region using the land route that China will use to ship oil and natural gas from the Middle East. Frozen seafood will depart Pakistan's Gwadar Port on the shores of the Arabian Sea in container trucks and enter China via the Khunjerab Pass, a land port in southern Xinjiang's Kashgar prefecture, more than a 1,500-kilometer journey, the China Daily reported. After a successful trial last month, regular shipments are to start on April 1, according to Mufeng Biological Technology Co, which will ship products from its cold-storage distribution center near Khunjerab, a seasonal port open eight months of the year.

### From Shanghai to Rotterdam in 25 days with new 2M service

This April, the 2M container shipping alliance (formed by Maersk Line and Mediterranean Shipping Company) will be launching a new, rapid transport service between Asia and Europe. With Rotterdam as its European 'first port of call', the schedule shortens shipping times between Shanghai and Rotterdam by three days, to a total of 25. After calling on Rotterdam, the 2M vessels move on to Hamburg, Bremerhaven, Wilhelmshaven, Felixstowe, Antwerp and Le Havre. They then go east, calling on Tangiers (Morocco), Salalah (Oman) and Jebel Ali (Dubai). The scheduled service, which has been named 'AE7', then proceeds to the Chinese ports of Ningbo and Shanghai, via Tanjung Pelepas in Malaysia.