

### Kandla port city to attract Rs 10,000 crore investment

The country's first smart industrial port city (SIPC), coming up near Gandhidham, Kandla, is expected to attract private investments in excess of Rs 10,000 crore. Opening bids for auction of plots for industries, the Kandla Port Trust (KPT) is focusing on key sectors of edible oil, furniture, salt-based chemicals and engineering. Spanning 1,425 acres, SIPC will be developed in two parts, a 580 acre smart urban township and an 845 acre modern industrial zone. The urban township in Adipur-Gandhidham includes the development of residential units, commercial complexes and entertainment zones. Equipped with features such as smart utilities and a smart traffic system, along with a command centre, SIPC can house a population of 65,000. The master plan for the Kandla SIPC includes utility, trunk, and social infrastructure catering to the needs of both the sites.

### Contract for phase 2 of Hamad Port awarded

The Ministry of Transport and Communications has awarded the contract of part one of the second phase of the Hamad Port. The ministry announced, on its social media platforms that the contract of the project has been awarded for \$2bn. The port was inaugurated in December 2016. The construction work of the first phase of Hamad Port had been completed six months before its stipulated time and at a cost lower than estimated. Currently, the technology being used for various operations at the port is most sophisticated and modern. These systems have the capacity to inspect as many as 5,600 containers per day which stands among the highest figures of the world ports. At present, Hamad Port's capacity is 2 million containers and it will go up to 7 million after the completion of all the three phases. The Minister for Transport and Communications, H E Jassim Saif Ahmed Al Sulaiti had stated last year that the projects for next two phases will be awarded in 2017 with a budgetary allocation amounting to QR2.5bn.

### New procedure for paying terminal handling charges in Iran

As of June 22, container owners should refer to the Ports and Maritime Organization of Iran to pay terminal handling charges, chairman of the Transportation and Logistics Federation of Iran said. He was also quoted as saying by News Agency that international container shipping companies have until now received THCs from owners of containers and withhold them for 25 days before paying to PMO. "Although shipping lines make no profit in carrying out this procedure, they have to pay Iran National Tax Administration and the Social Security Organization. The whole thing increases the terminal handling charges of Iranian ports," he added. THCs are additional costs, on top of the sea freight, normally charged by shipping companies for the handling of containers at the container terminal before being loaded onboard a vessel. Referring to the point that terminal handling charges vary from port to port in each country depending on the total cost of port terminal handling at each location, the official said THCs are higher in Iranian ports than those of regional ports such as the Emirati port of Jebel Ali.

### Allianz: Shipping losses see downward trend but risk challenges remain

Large shipping losses have declined by 50% over the past decade, largely driven by the development of a more robust safety environment by shipowners, according to Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty SE's (AGCS) fifth annual Safety & Shipping Review 2017. 85 large vessels were lost worldwide in 2016, down by 16% when compared with a year earlier. The number of shipping incidents also declined slightly year-on-year, by 4% with 2,611 reported, according to the review, which analyzes reported shipping losses over 100 gross tons. "While the long-term downward loss trend is encouraging, there can be no room for complacency. The shipping sector is being buffeted by a number of interconnected risks at a time of inherent economic challenges," Baptiste Ossena, ACGS' Global Product Leader Hull & Marine Liabilities, commented. Environmental scrutiny is increasing with record fines for vessel pollution. New ballast water management rules that come into force in 2017 are welcomed, but the cost of complying could have a significant impact on already-stressed shippers, Allianz said.

### Suez canal to keep boxship fees reduced until year-end

The Suez Canal Authority (SCA) plans to extend until December 31, 2017, the reduction of rates offered to containerships coming from Eastern America ports and heading to South and South-East Asian ports, GAC informed. Specifically, boxships coming from the Port of Norfolk and its northern ports en route to the ports of Port Kelang and its eastern ports will be granted a reduction of 45%. Containerships coming from ports south of Port of Norfolk heading to ports of Port Kelang and its eastern ports will be granted a reduction of 65%. Additionally, vessels coming from ports south of Port of Norfolk destined for Port of Colombo and its eastern ports located just up to Port of Port Kelang will get a reduction of 55%. Reduction of rates will be calculated only from the applicable transit tolls as per the table of dues + additional dues of extra tiers of containers, according to GAC.

### Second container ship docks in Chabahar Port

The Deputy General of Sistan and Baluchistan Department of Ports and Maritime Seyed Hasan Ebrahimi announced cargo evacuation of the second container ship from India's Kandla Port to the Chabahar Port. Fortunately, with the continued maritime transportation and regular marketing between Chabahar Port and major ports of Oman Sea and the Indian Ocean, the second container ship arrived in Chabahar Port, directly from the port of Kandla in India. Behshad ship, owned by IRISL container shipping company, berthed directly at Chabahar Port, with 625 containers of imported goods from India's Kandla Port. Sistan and Baluchistan Department of Ports and Maritime will do its best to maintain cooperation between Chabahar Free Trade-Industrial Zone (CFZ) and Chabahar General Administration of Customs, he added.

### Ocean Alliance makes maiden call at port of New York and New Jersey

APM Terminals facility in Port Elizabeth, New Jersey has welcomed the 8,700 TEU capacity CMA CGM Bianca, marking the first call of the weekly Ocean Alliance US East Coast Loop 3 Service, now providing direct service to the U.S. East Coast from ports in China and Southeast Asia. Until recently, container ships calling the Port of New York & New Jersey were restricted to 5,000-8,000 TEU in size. But, with the opening of the Panama Canal Expansion in 2016, vessels of up to 14,000 TEU capacity can now transit the widened Panama Canal locks, linking US East facilities such as APM Terminals Port Elizabeth with the Far East. The 350 acre APM Terminals Port Elizabeth facility, with an annual capacity of 2.3 million TEUs, is currently undergoing a \$200 million infrastructure investment program to prepare for the increase in ultra-large container ships into both the global fleet and the U.S. trade lanes. Larger ship calls to the Port of New York/New Jersey's Newark Bay terminals have also been made possible by the raising of the Bayonne Bridge on the channel into Newark Bay.

### DP World, Kazakhstan to build port system for Eurasian corridor

Global operator of marine and inland terminals, DP World today said it has inked two pacts with Kazakhstan for developing a port community system (PCS) for Eurasian Transcontinental Trade Corridor. PCS is one-stop electronic platform developed by DP World company Dubai Trade which enables the exchange of information between organisations involved in maritime, inland and airport processes. "Two Memorandums of Understanding were signed between global trade enabler DP World and the Kazakhstan government for the development of a PCS and to integrate customs processes ahead of the Astana Economic Forum," the company said in a statement. The pacts aim at improving the ease of doing business at Kazakhstan's ports and free-zones through paperless transactions that remove long queues in administrative offices, delays and duplication. The first agreement was signed between DP World and the Kazakhstan Temir Zholy for setting up a joint venture company to implement and manage the PCS system.

### Global cargo shipping market grows by 3.45% until 2023

The global cargo shipping market is expected to grow by 3.45% during the period 2017-2023, according to report of Market Research Future. According to the report, the global shipping volumes will reach 12.52 billion tons in 2021, driven by global economic development, commodity supply and demand are key drivers fuelling the growth of the global cargo shipping trade. The analyzers account the forging of regional free trade agreements, as well as initiatives "One Belt, One Road" and expansion of the key canal routes, which support the growth of the maritime transport and generate business opportunities. The market is expected to keep its growing trend during the next year and the trade to be boosted by the recover of the global economy. The growth in container transport will have highest in cargo shipping trade. Additionally, the investments in port infrastructure, global supply and demand cycle will have positive impact on container transport. North America is anticipated to grow at promising cargo volumes during the forecast period due to the presence of Canada and Mexico, which are export oriented economies.

### Panama switches diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to China

Panama switched diplomatic relations from Taiwan to China on Tuesday, dealing a major victory to Beijing in its drive to isolate the self-governing island it claims as its own territory. In Panama, President Juan Carlos Varela announced the change, which entails breaking off formal relations with Taiwan, saying in a televised address that it represents the "correct path for our country." A joint statement released on Monday evening in Panama said Panama and China were recognizing each other and establishing ambassadorial-level relations the same day. "The Government of the Republic of Panama recognizes that there is but one China in the world, that the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China, and that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory," the statement read. "The Government of the Republic of Panama severs 'diplomatic relations' with Taiwan as of this day and undertakes not to have any more official relations or official exchanges with Taiwan," it continued.