



**Nitin Gadkari**, Minister of Road Transport and Highways, India

## Record profits for Government owned Ports

Profits from 12 major ports in the country are expected to touch ₹7,000 crore this year, up from ₹3,000 crore in 2014, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari said recently.

Gadkari said the ministry expects ₹15 lakh crore investments under the ambitious 'Sagarmala' infrastructure development programme.

## Sri Lanka Ports Authority posts a record profit



**Mahinda Samarasinghe**  
Minister of Ports and Shipping,  
Sri Lanka

Due to the prompt actions taken for its future development activities, the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) has made a record profit of 13.2 billion rupees in 2017.

## Bangladesh 'potential' for logistics investment

Bangladesh has jumped four spots to 23 in an annual ranking of the world's leading emerging markets.

This is the second-largest gain of any market in the 50-country 2018 Agility Emerging Markets Logistics Index, according to a recent survey.

Bangladesh, a garment-industry powerhouse with 6.0 per cent GDP growth for seven consecutive years, also improves three places to No. 28 in the rankings for business climate and jumps three spots to No. 44 for infrastructure and transport connections.

In the overall rankings, only Egypt-moving from No. 20 to No. 14- makes bigger gains.

The Index, in its ninth year, is a broad gauge of economic competitiveness that includes a survey of more than 500 logistics industry professionals and a data-driven ranking of 50 emerging markets /



countries by size, economic strength, infrastructure, transport connections and business climate.

In the survey, Bangladesh also makes strides, moving to No. 20 from No. 27 among countries viewed by executives as potential markets for logistics investment. Only the Philippines, which climbs seven spots to No. 11, makes as much improvement.

"Agility Emerging Markets Logistics Index has been

recognised world over by business leaders as a trustworthy tool while formulating investment and growth strategy in the emerging markets," said a statement.

"This year's index further consolidates the position of Bangladesh as the emerging Asian target," it added.

Agility Bangladesh has eight offices and installations spread all over the country supported by a highly-trained and professional team of over 120. ●

## China, Sri Lanka strive for success of Hambantota Port

Sri Lanka is beginning to gain from the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, with the launch of the operation at Hambantota Port through a joint venture between the two sides last year.

Ever since Sri Lanka and China began a joint operation of the Hambantota Port in southern Sri Lanka, there have been doubts over the profitability and the port's future. However, excellent performance of the port along with the fact that concerns



of the former employees are being addressed have proved that time will answer all doubts lingering over China-Sri Lanka cooperation in Hambantota Port.

Earlier, Hambantota Port had witnessed a relatively slow pace

of growth and development. However, with the potential of the port being gradually realized and the joint venture established between Sri Lanka Ports Authority and China Merchants Port Holdings (CMPH) to co-develop the port, the operation of Hambantota Port has improved remarkably.

Sri Lankan Prime Minister also said that the future of the Sri Lanka-China co-operation in Hambantota Port is promising. ●  
Source: Xinhua

## Better infrastructure, lower tariffs, help transshipment gains

India's coastal shipping program, aided by lower port tariffs, dedicated infrastructure and liberalized cabotage rules, is yielding results, as domestic demand for foreign transshipment diminished in the Fiscal year 2016-2017, according to JOC.com

The analysis shows that the number of export-import containers relayed over various foreign ports for India's major, public ports in the last fiscal year declined by 2% (from 2.84 million TEU in the prior year to 2.78 million TEU).

The change came about despite a 3% container throughput growth at major ports during the same year. However, transshipment cargo still represented

INDIA'S FOREIGN TRANSHIPMENT			
Transshipment Port	2016-17	2015-16	Change
Colombo	40%	42%	↓
Singapore	21%	17%	↑
Port Klang	9.3%	8%	↑
Jebel Ali	3%	3%	↔

33% of the Indian major ports' combined volume, or 8.4 million TEU, for fiscal 2016 to 2017.

Transshipment trade with India has long been the mainstay of Sri Lanka's Colombo Port, but new figures reveal that Indian containers transhipped through Colombo fell to 1.11 million TEU from 1.19 million TEU in fiscal 2015 to 2016, translating into a 40% share, versus 42% previously. ●

Source: JOC.com

## Vizhinjam port has to meet deadline



The new CEO of Adani Vizhinjam project, Rajesh Jha, has the tough task of finishing the first phase before the deadline of December 2019. The Adani Group, which entered into a concession agreement with the state on the Vizhinjam project on August 17, 2015, had promised to complete the project within 1,000 days from the time work began. The construction was inaugurated on December 5 in the same year and the first

phase involved building a berth length of 800 metres and a container yard of 131 acres.

The Adani Group will have to make up for lost time this year if they have to meet the deadline. Last year, the company lost valuable man-days due to a local protest allegedly over the damage caused to houses because of drilling near the coast and the Ockhi cyclone. ●

Source: Deccan Chronicle

## Need for integrated check posts

The Agartala-Sabroom road and rail link as also the Feni Bridge are slated for completion in two years. However, Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) are the need of the hour. Unlike the Land Customs Stations (LCS) that offer rudimentary trade and immigration facilities, an ICP operates as a full-fledged logistics hub featuring parking lots, warehouses and container trans-shipment facilities. Passengers are offered airport-like immigration facilities.

Tripura already has such a facility, owned and operated by the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI), the sole provider of these facilities along the land border.

Tripura government, a prime mover of India's economic cooperation agenda with Bangladesh, recently approached the LPAI to set up a land port at Sabroom. Following an initial assessment, the LPAI identified the need for fresh land acquisition to build the ICP. Land may not be an issue, since the villagers here are keen to use the opportunity to earn a premium. A bigger task is to assess the size of the ICP. The new gate will be used primarily to bring in supplies from other parts of India and to move out goods produced in the North-East to the rest of the nation. However, the projected cargo volume is yet to be estimated. ●

## Chabahar Port to empower India-Afghanistan Trade

The first phase of the development of Chabahar Port is complete and this is likely to energize Iran's economy, apart from providing India with a gateway for overland access to Afghanistan and the Central Asian states. Last year, on November 11, a consignment of 15,000 tonnes of wheat arrived in Afghanistan from India via Chabahar Port. This was an important milestone for the three countries, as it marked the operationalization of the transit trade agreement they signed in 2017.

Furthermore, landlocked Afghanistan now has another outlet to the sea, reducing its dependence on Pakistani ports. It will also reduce Islamabad's influence over Afghanistan, according to an article in Cacialanyst.org – a publication of The Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and the Silk Road Studies Program Joint Center. ●

Source: Financial Tribune

## India boosts Sri Lanka port infrastructure aid

India is slowly but steadily expanding its footprint in global port development in an apparent effort to rival China's growing influence in the Asian region. The Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has approved \$45.27 million in credit for the reconstruction of Sri Lanka's Kankesanthurai Port, which was devastated by the December 2004 tsunami and Cyclone Nisha in 2008. That brings New Delhi's total aid through

the Exim Bank for various infrastructure projects in the neighbouring island nation to \$1.4 billion. The Kankesanthurai harbour is located about 250 miles from Colombo. Sri Lankan authorities believe that the reopening of cargo facilities at Kankesanthurai will be a boon to trade and economic growth of the country's northern Jaffna Peninsula. ●

Source: JOC.com

# Bangladesh

## Bangladesh inks deal with Indonesia for LNG imports

Bangladesh recently signed an agreement with Indonesia to open talks on imports of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), as the South Asian country turns to the super cooled fuel to fill a shortfall of domestic natural gas.

Following a meeting between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Indonesian President Joko Widodo, a letter of intent was signed between two state energy companies, Petrobangla and Pertamina. Petrobangla is finalising several floating storage and regasification units, the first of which is expected to begin operations in April 2018.

As its domestic gas reserves dwindle and the demand grows, Bangladesh, a country of over 160 million people, is likely to import around 17.5 million tonnes of LNG a year by 2025. ●

Source: Reuters

## Tripura-Gateway to Chittagong Port



A 150 sq ft patch of land, just ahead of the border fencing at Nabin Para, in Sabroom, Tripura, has been levelled and marked as P1. It indicates the location of the first pillar of a proposed ₹130-crore road bridge across the River Feni, which divides India and Bangladesh. Once complete, the bridge will connect Tripura and other landlocked north-eastern States to Bangladesh's Chittagong sea port, approximately 72 km from the international boundary.

The bridge is not the only piece of infrastructure required to convert this village, the last

post of India on this part of the world, into a trade hotspot. Other plans are afoot, too. It will be connected by a four-lane national highway to Agartala, approximately 132 km away.

The construction of a broad-gauge rail link to Sabroom is also underway. The Guwahati-Agartala broad-gauge link, inaugurated in July 2016, has already been extended to Garji, which is midway between Agartala and Sabroom. Though India and Bangladesh have agreed to extend the rail link to Chittagong port, it is likely to take time. ●

Source: Hindu Business line

## DCI bags B'desh contract

Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) bagged a ₹102 crore contract from Bangladesh for dredging in the Pussur Channel.

The contract has been awarded by the Mongla Port Authority and involves dredging around 3.88 million cubic meters over the next 15 months, DCI said in a statement. This is the first international contract bagged by DCI through an open global tender. DCI has planned to commence the dredging work by September. ●

## Taxes on Chittagong port services rise

Bangladesh's revenue board has expanded the value added tax (VAT) to all 60 services at Port of Chittagong, up from the 25 – a move that has drawn mixed reviews. Currently, the port collects a VAT on 25 export-import services. Adding 35 more services to the VAT substantially raises the cost of doing business. ●

Source: JOC.com

## Sri Lanka's Hemas expands Bangladesh presence

Sri Lanka's Hemas Holdings says it is expanding its marketing activities in Bangladesh, and has launched feminine hygiene products.

"Investments were made in increased marketing activities in Bangladesh in order to extend the reach attained through our own distribution channels and to counter competition," Chief Executive Steven Enderby told shareholders. "Furthermore, we entered the feminine hygiene category during January in Bangladesh and the response in the market has been tremendous."

Hemas said that last year, over 12 per cent of its consumer goods sales came from Bangladesh, and its Kumarika brand had reached the number two slot in the value-added hair oil segment in the country.

Incidentally, Hemas is one of the few Sri Lankan firms that has tapped markets in South Asia. ●

Source: EconomyNext

## Floating LNG terminal off Payra Port

Bangladesh's state-owned Rupantarita Prakritik Gas has shortlisted seven companies to build a 7.5 million mt/year floating LNG terminal off Payra in Patuakhali district, Bangladesh's fourth and largest floating LNG import facility.

The companies are BP, Excelerate Energy, Mitsui OSK Lines, PT Pertamina, Samsung C&T and a joint venture between Posco Daewoo and Kogas and a consortium of Summit Corporation, Summit Oil Shipping and Hoegh LNG. ●

## Bay terminal project on fast track

Bangladesh's government has agreed to designate the Bay Container Terminal (BCT) a 'fast-track' project in order to facilitate growing external trade and ease congestion at the country's prime seaport, Chittagong.

The country's Shipping Minister, Shajahan Khan, said steps will be taken to include the project as a fast-track project, an initiative being overseen by Bangladesh's prime minister-led committee. ●



## Container handling increases at Colombo Port

Cargo handling capacity of the Port of Colombo has increased significantly showing continuous growth in the container handling operations since the fourth quarter of 2017. Transshipment operations at the Port of Colombo have shown a significant increase in January this year against last year amid an increase in productivity.

Against 362,451 teu transshipment operations in January 2017, together with the JCT, SAGT and CICT, the Colombo Port has recorded 436,303 teu transshipment operations for the month of January this year, marking an increase of 20.4 per cent. The container throughput at Sri Lanka Ports Authority controlled terminals has also increased significantly compared to January 2017 and January 2018.

Accordingly, with the increase marked at SLPA and other terminals compared to January 2017, the Port of Colombo has marked an increase of 16.4 per cent in total container throughput in January 2018.

Ship arrivals at Colombo Port in January 2018 also increased compared to January last year. Sri Lanka Ports Authority said the relationship between the Management and trade unions, collaborative support by all parties and stake holders has effectively contributed for the increase of productivity.

Sri Lanka Ports Authority has prepared a 3-year development plan to expedite the port sector development in the country to further increase container volumes. These developments are aimed at making Colombo the Maritime Centre in Asia. ●

## SLPA Chairman calls for an 'un-politicised' Maritime Promotion Bureau



Sri Lanka Ports Authority Chairman, Dr. Parakrama Dissanayake urged the shipping and logistics sector to translate talk into action and actively

lobby the government to improve the business climate and to set up a state agency to drive the Island's hub aspirations in the Indian Ocean.

"Labeling and branding play an important role in achieving your vision. The industry should agitate and tell the government or governments that we need to have a maritime promotion bureau to take it to the next level," Dissanayake told a seminar titled "Maritime Hub Aspirations of Sri Lanka" organized by the Ceylon Association of Shipping Agents.

Dissanayake said while port-

related infrastructure is being expanded in Colombo and Hambantota, the industry must push the government to improve the business climate and trade logistics. "We talk so much about logistics, but in the Logistics Performance Index, our rank is in late 80s. Despite all its bureaucracy, India's rank is 35 and even a country like Pakistan, their rank is 68," Dissanayake said despite Colombo being a transshipment hub for the last 40 years, the industry has failed to move beyond and become a maritime and logistics hub in the Indian Ocean. ●

Courtesy: News 1st

## GAC Logistics Partners for New Container Facility



Niranjan Nallarathnam, CEO – SPECTRA Logistics, Imtiaz Esufally, - Chairman Hemas Transportation Sector/Group Director, Lars Bergstrom - Vice President of GAC Group, Asia Pacific & India subcontinent, Rohan De Silva - Chairman – McLarens Group, Kasturi Wilson, MD, Hemas Pharmaceuticals

GAC Logistics Sri Lanka and Hemas Transportation have opened a new 30,000m<sup>2</sup> container yard with a capacity of 6,000 TEUs at their joint integrated logistics facility in the Muthurajawela Industrial Zone, Wattala.

This is the latest development in the partnership between the two companies, under the name Spectra Logistics and was announced a year ago at the facility's ceremony. Work has already begun on the next

phase, with a distribution centre due to be completed by June 2018.

Built on 15 acres of land within the logistics city designated in the government's Western Region Megapolis Masterplan Project, the Spectra Logistics facility is strategically located between the Port of Colombo and Bandaranaike International Airport. Furthermore, it is fully equipped for container operations. ●

Source: Port Technology International

## Singapore to invest in Sri Lanka



S S Teo, Mission Leader, SBF Chairman and Managing Director of Pacific International Lines during recent visit of Singapore delegation

This is the Federation's fourth visit to Sri Lanka since 2008, with our last visit in June 2016. Today, we have a 32-strong delegation comprising 24 companies and organizations across the ICT, real estate, hospitality, infrastructure, logistics and general trade sectors. The Singapore business community fully welcomes and supports the SLSFTA. With this agreement in place, there will be an even greater impetus for business activities between Singapore and Sri Lanka. ●

## Exim & Logistics Challenge Trophy launched

The Shippers' Academy Colombo (SAC) in association with the Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB) has launched a new corporate quiz for the Exim & Logistics Trophy for the first time. In the past, for over eight years, the SAC introduced high-quality corporate quizzes to the Sri Lankan industry. In fact, the SAC is the only organisation that brought in international teams from the central banks of the region when it inaugurated the Governor's Challenge Trophy with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. Subsequently, the Terminal Operators' Cup in association with the terminals of Colombo was launched. ●

## Port terminal issues being resolved: Laugfs Gas

Sri Lanka's Laugfs Gas is in talks with the new Chinese operator of Hambantota port and investment authorities to resolve problems on proceeding with a terminal it was building at the southern harbour. Construction on a pipeline linking the terminal to the jetty had been halted by Sri Lanka Ports Authority.

Laugfs began building the \$80 million LPG import-export terminal and the project would be completed on time, with the first phase over by April 2018. The current issue will not be detrimental to the project in any way, it added. ●

## Hellmann and MAS form joint venture HMSC



From left: **Tania Polonnowita Wettimuny**, MD, Hellmann Sri Lanka; **Bart de Vries**, Global COO Air & Sea Hellmann; **Deshamanya Mahesh Amalean**, Chairman, MAS Holdings; & **Shirendra Lawrence**, COO, MAS Holdings

Hellmann Worldwide Logistics and MAS Holdings have formed Hellmann MAS Supply Chain (HMSC) in Sri Lanka by combining Hellmann's contract logistics business with logistics activities of MAS. With this, the HWL business in Sri Lanka transitions into a focused air and sea unit while HMSC will provide

contract logistics and Fourth Party Logistics (4PL) services.

In addition to the existing Hellmann contract logistics business in Sri Lanka being transferred to the new joint venture, a new fashion logistics facility will be opened at the MAS compound in Katunayake Export Promotion Zone (KEPZ). ●

## Expolanka wants to be global logistics brand



**Hanif Yusoof**, CEO, Expolanka Group

Expolanka Holdings PLC aims to boost its Expo Freight (EFL) operations to become the first global logistics brand originating from the Indian sub-continent. In order to achieve this, it has bought out minority stakes in its subsidiaries in the US and China.

"In the logistics sector, the main priority would be to position EFL as the first global logistics brand originating from the sub-continent. To drive this, we expect to pursue a

two-pronged approach – grow the freight business and expand the logistics operations globally," Expolanka Group CEO Hanif Yusoof said.

This would be achieved through deeper penetration into the North American and Intra-Asia trade lanes, with an equal emphasis on improving air and sea freight volumes.

Expolanka's decision to acquire the remaining 30% stake in its US subsidiary and the remaining 25% stake in its Chinese subsidiary will contribute towards this by enabling higher growth from these key trade lanes, Yusoof added.

EFL's Intra-Asia volumes were driven by higher cargo uptake from Indonesia, Vietnam and Hong Kong, which helped offset weaker performances from the Middle East and Africa. The core markets of India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh also performed well. ●

## Colombo terminal converts RTG cranes

Colombo International Container Terminals (CICT) has completed a US\$10 million project to convert the company's diesel-operated rubber-tired gantry cranes to electric power. The company now has 40 zero-emission electric RTGs at the Colombo South container terminal, achieving a 45% reduction in the terminal's overall carbon dioxide emissions and a cut of more than 95% in diesel consumption.

The electrification of CICT's RTGs involved extensive modification work, including fitting electricity collector trolleys in the cranes and constructing a conductor bar system (Bus-Bar) in the terminal. The environmental benefits of this investment include lowering air and noise pollution, while in economic terms the converted RTGs reduce operating and maintenance costs and enhance productivity and performance. ●

## Hemas Pharmaceuticals establishes presence in Myanmar



Leading pharmaceutical importer and distributor in Sri Lanka, Hemas Pharmaceuticals, has ventured into regional shores for the first time with its entry into Myanmar to begin distribution operations as Hemas Mandalay Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Hemas Mandalay Pharmaceuticals Ltd, in partnership with Family Mandalay Company, will serve as the main distribution point for multinational and other pharmaceutical manufacturers that would enable the supply of quality pharmaceutical products across Myanmar.



**Hemas Pharmaceuticals MD Kasturi Wilson** added, "It is truly a monumental moment for Hemas Pharmaceuticals as we establish our first-ever distribution operations on foreign shores as Hemas Mandalay Pharmaceuticals Ltd in Myanmar. As a result of this endeavour, we are able to take our expertise, our

best-in-class processes and infrastructure outside of Sri Lanka to add value to other markets. ●

Source: Daily Mirror

## Thailand's infrastructure plans to boost trade with Myanmar



Thailand has announced that it wants to invest in its infrastructure to boost trade with Myanmar. Border trade makes up a reported 80% of trade between Myanmar and Thailand and is essential for the economies of both the countries.

Presently, the construction of a deep-sea port in Leam Chabang is underway and railway lines will connect it with Ma Ta Phut Port and Sattahip Port. Improving transport links will help speed up the transfer of goods, making the process more efficient and cost-effective. Moreover,

companies could move products to the Indian Ocean and bypass the Malacca Straits.

Myanmar and Thailand began

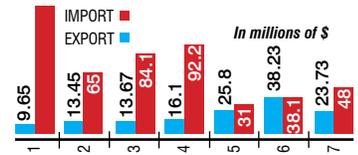
talking earlier this year about bolstering cross-border trade. They focused on developing new routes, improving trade channels, sharing data and discussed on creating a new special economic zone (SEZ).

The volume of cross-border trade between the two countries is growing – while 87% of Myanmar's border trade is with China, trade with Thailand accounts for 12%. The rest of Myanmar's border trade is with India (0.8%) and Bangladesh (0.2%). ●

## Rohingya crisis hits trade with Myanmar

The ongoing Rohingya crisis has impacted Bangladesh's exports to Myanmar as operations at the Teknaf land port, the main gateway to the neighbour, have almost come to a halt owing to the influx of refugees.

Since August 2017, over half a million Rohingyas arrived at Cox's Bazar from the northern Rakhine province of Myanmar after troops and Buddhist mobs burned down their villages and killed civilians. Between July and December last year, exports to Myanmar declined by



12.08% year-on-year to \$10.04 million, according to the Export Promotion Bureau. Over the last two months, trade through Teknaf land port declined to less than 10%, said S M Nurul Hoque, president of the Bangladesh Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and Industry. ●

Courtesy: Refayet Ullah Mirdha, The Daily Star

## MIC seeks investments in logistics, manufacturing

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) is seeking to scale up domestic and international investments in the logistics and manufacturing sectors. Recently the Commission invited investors to develop logistics services located in major urban areas as well as trading hubs. The specific types of investment areas open for participation include dry port services, bonded warehouse services, highway bus and freight terminals, as well as warehouses

and wholesale centres.

Mandalay's first dry port - developed by Kerry Logistics - started operating in July last year, according to the Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MRCCI).

Two more dry ports are being built and are likely to be completed by April 2019. Kerry Resources Transport will build the Ywar Thargyi dry port, while Kerry Logistics Company won the tender for the Myit Nge dry port. ●

Source: Myanmar Times

## Garment exports in Myanmar go up

Myanmar exported US\$1.86 billion (2.51 trillion kyat) worth of products from garment factories operating under the "cut-make-pack" (CMP) system in the first week of January in fiscal year 2017-2018, according to the Ministry of Commerce – which means more than a \$568 million increase over exports for the same period in the last fiscal year. The Ministry has made garment exports their priority and is working with the Myanmar Garment Entrepreneurs' Association to set a 10-year strategy with the intent of promoting the sector and increase exports of the highest quality garment products to the international market, said Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for Commerce.

The country has over 400 garment factories and in 2016 employed 3500,000 workers in the industry. Japan, South Korea and countries from European Union are importing garment products from Myanmar. ●

## After Chabahar Port, Myanmar's Sittwe big on India's radar



After Chabahar Port in Iran, Sittwe in Myanmar may emerge as the next overseas strategic port for India. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is helping to develop Sittwe Port, located at the estuary of Kaladan river in the troubled Rakhine province of Myanmar, for improving connectivity with Mizoram in the North-East.

### THE PLAN

- On the Myanmar-end, a 109-

km road will connect Palletwa with Zorinpui, Mizoram at the India - Myanmar border

- Thereafter, a new road of 90-km will be laid to connect the existing Aizawl-Saiha National Highway up to Zorinpui
- On completion, this will be an alternate route to keep Mizoram and North-eastern states connected with other states in India. ●

Source: Daily News & Analysis

## How Nepal's trade cost can be minimised?

A report titled 'Trade and Transport Facilitation Monitoring Mechanism (TTFMM) in Nepal', states how the nation can reduce its cost of trade through simplification of EXIM processes and reduce transport cost through effective monitoring.

Prepared by the Asian Development Bank and UNESCAP, it suggests that the government set up the TTFMM institutional mechanism to monitor processes in certification, customs, transit and cargo transportation to bring down the cost of trade. Nepal

requires multiple documents for trade that serve the same purpose. Removing even one of such requirements can reduce the cost and time in export. There are dozens of requirements needed to export cargoes from Nepal. Once the exporter gets an order, the lengthy documentation delays exports. It takes 31 days to complete various processes for import – two days to complete the contract, 14 days to ship, and 15 days to complete payment procedures. The report has also analysed the cost of import Transportation. ●

Source: The Himalayan Times

## China plans to launch cargo service to Pakistan through CPEC

China is planning to launch a road and rail freight service to Pakistan through the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a move which could raise concerns in India.

The new line will start from Lanzhou, capital of northwestern China's Gansu Province, travelling through Kashgar in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to the Gwadar Port of Pakistan, Xu Chunhua, director of Lanzhou International Trade and Logistic Park, was quoted as saying.

Last November, China launched the first trade convoy carrying Chinese goods for export

through the western route of the \$50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) being laid through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and shipped it through Gwadar Port.

The CPEC plan included a train service connecting both the countries in addition to the road connectivity. The goods were brought by train till Xinjiang and then taken by trucks through the Karakoram Mountains. The goods will be exported to countries in the Middle East and Africa. India has objected to the \$46 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, (CPEC) which is part of the Silk Road. ●

Courtesy: ASEAN Today

## S Korea to build \$98 million logistics hub in Yangon



signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the project in Nay Pyi Taw recently.

The move will be vital in promoting Myanmar's exports. As Myanmar continues to avail portions of its economy to international trade, an international-

South Korea has invested \$98 million to construct a logistics hub at Shwe Lin Ban Industrial Zone in Hlaing Thar Yar township, Yangon region. HUBS MK Co Ltd from South Korea and Myanmar Trade Promotion Organisation under the Ministry of Commerce

al-standard logistics hub will be required to ensure a certain level of export quality and to reduce production and transportation costs, said U Aung Soe, director-general of Myanmar Trade Promotion Organisation. ●

Source: Myanmar Times

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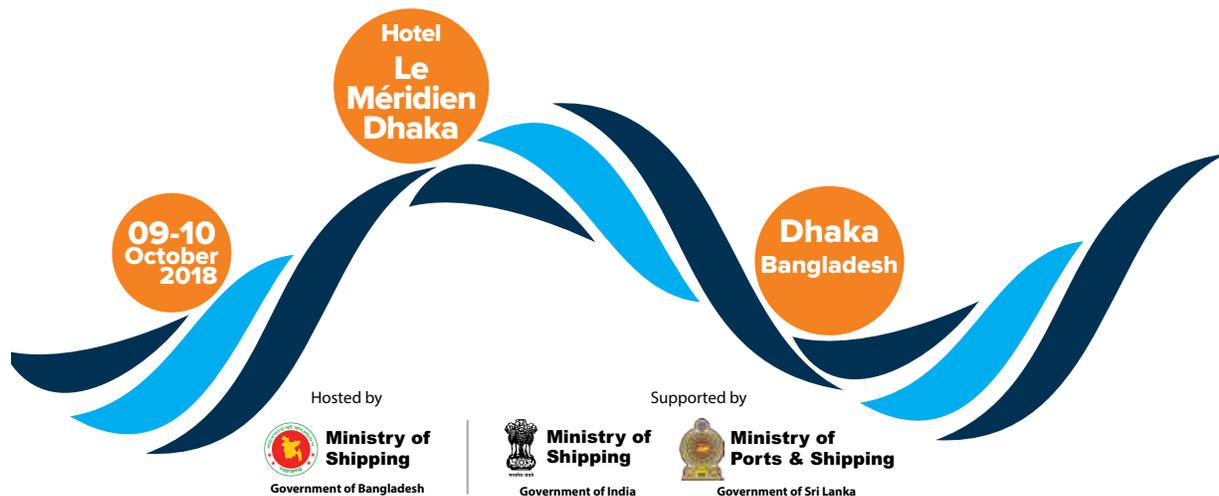
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