



# Sagar Sandesh

Guiding Spirit to Shipping Industry

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## Gulf of Guinea states must act and prosecute suspected pirates-DAVID LOOSLEY, BIMCO

Shipping association BIMCO is urging countries in the Gulf of Guinea region that they must take responsibility and step-up prosecution efforts when pirates are apprehended by international navies, following the release of three suspected pirates held in custody on board Danish frigate Esbern Snare.



Mr David Loosley, Secretary General and CEO BIMCO

"The presence of international navies is a very important step in the right direction to keep seafarers safe but establishing a sustainable security situation in the Gulf of Guinea cannot happen without full support of the region. Bringing suspected pirates to justice is best done by regional coastal states," says Secretary General and CEO, David Loosley.

"We have seen suspected pirates brought to justice in the region before. International collaboration between regional jurisdictions and non-regional military forces holds a tremendous potential that cannot be missed," Loosley says.

In July 2021, it was reported that a Togolese court had convicted nine men of piracy following an attack on a tanker in May 2019. One of the pirates was sentenced to 15 years in prison while six were each sentenced to 12 years in prison



Danish frigate Esbern Snare.

The Danish frigate has since the end of October 2021 been part of an international anti-piracy effort in the Gulf of Guinea to deter pirates. On 24 November, special forces from the frigate were involved in a firefight with gunmen in a skiff full of piracy equipment in the waters south of Nigeria and suspected pirates were captured. Four other suspects were killed in fight. But the three of the suspected pirates had remained custody on board Esbern Snare while a fourth, who was injured, was transferred to a hospital in Ghana and brought to Denmark for prosecution for attempted manslaughter.

On last Friday, it was reported that the three remaining suspects were provided a dinghy with enough food and fuel to reach shore and released.

"They have no relation to Denmark, and the crime they have been charged with was committed far from Denmark. They simply do not belong here, and that's why I think it's the right thing to do," Danish Justice Minister Nick Haekkerup said in a statement in response to their release.

Since the arrival of international navies with robust mandates, the number of pirate attacks and kidnapped seafarers in the region has dropped significantly. In Q4 of 2020 an estimated 23 attacks were made against merchant ships trading in the Gulf of Guinea while 50 seafarers were kidnapped. In Q4 of 2021 the numbers had dropped to seven attacks and 20 kidnappings.

The Gulf of Guinea coastal states focus increasingly on maritime security and several initiatives are underway. There are however still challenges. As an

example, Nigeria's Deep Blue is still not deployed on active antipiracy operations.

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# Gulf of Guinea states must act.....

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“If regional coastal states help prosecute apprehended pirates it will significantly strengthen the case for capacity-building and support from the international

community and underpin the development of the blue economy in West Africa,” says BIMCO’s Head of Maritime Safety and Security, Jakob Larsen.

## Chinese Shipbuilding Starts 2022 with Record LNG Carrier Order

NEW DELHI  
Sagar Sandesh News Service

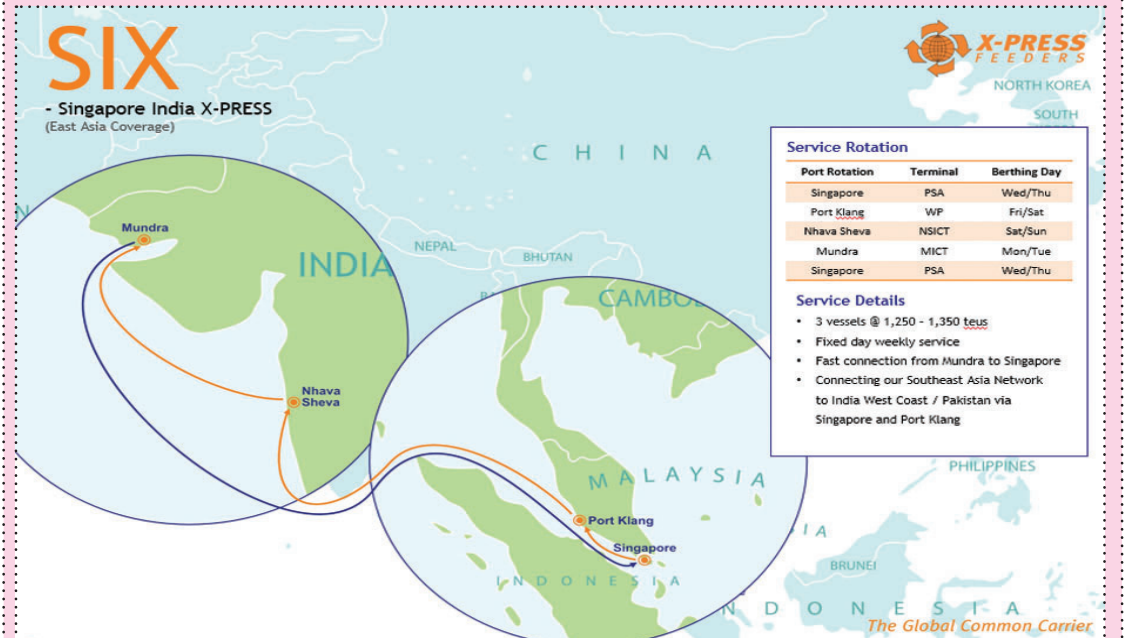
China’s shipbuilding industry is reporting a strong start to 2022 with a record-setting order and growth in the important LNG carrier segment where they are looking to close the gap with South Korean shipbuilders. News of the new orders comes after Clarkson Research reported that China had retaken the top shipbuilding spot for new orders in 2021 from South Korea.

**Order for six large LNG carriers is being reported as the largest single order**

China State Shipbuilding Corporation Hudong-Zhonghua and China Shipbuilding Trading, sign a contract valued at more than \$1.1 billion with Japan’s Mitsui O.S.K. CNOOC Gas & Power Group will operate the ships as the charter from MOL. The order for six large LNG carriers is being reported as the largest single order and the largest contract amount for LNG carrier construction by a Chinese ship company in the past ten years.

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## X-Press Feeders- Launch of Straits India X-Press (SIX)



**X-Press Feeders will be launching Straits India X-Press (SIX) on 12 January 2022.**

The new service will be run with 3 ships deployed in the rotation as follows:

Singapore – Port Klang – Nhava Sheva – Mundra – Singapore

SIX will add on to our Straits - Nhava Sheva

and Mundra coverage by providing additional frequencies per week.

Enhancement of the Mexico Central America (MCX) service

X-Press Feeders will be enhancing the Mexico Central America X-Press (MCX) rotation effective mid-January 2022.

The new MCX will deploy 3

vessels, and cover additional 3 ports (Lazaro Cardenas, Puerto Quetzal, Corinto):

Lazaro Cardenas – Manzanillo – Puerto Quetzal – Ajacutla – Corinto – San Lorenzo – Puerto Quetzal – Lazaro Cardenas

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