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NEWSLETTER

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EXTERNAL NEWS

LA HITS MILLION TEU IN RECORD JUNE

The Port of Los Angeles handled just over 1 million TEU in June, up 12 per cent from the same month in 2025, marking the busiest June in its 118-year history, reported Milwaukee's Progressive Railroading. No other port in the Western hemisphere has surpassed the 1 million container mark in a single month. This is the third time Los Angeles has achieved the milestone, officials said. Strong import demand drove volumes as retailers and manufacturers advanced shipments amid evolving trade policy, rising fuel costs and global supply chain uncertainty. Businesses are moving cargo when conditions are favorable rather than following traditional seasonal patterns, the port said. Port Executive Director Gene Seroka said crossing the 1 million container mark for the third time and closing the fiscal year with more than 10.4 million TEU were remarkable accomplishments. He credited the consistency of the port and its workforce.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

SEA LEGEND OFFERS ARCTIC EXPRESS

Niche Chinese carrier Sea Legend Shipping will next month start a seasonal weekly express service between China and Europe via the Northern Sea Route, offering faster transit times than traditional routes, reported New York's Journal of Commerce. The service is expected to cut about two weeks off voyages compared with east-west sailings that now detour around the Cape of Good Hope due to Red Sea diversions. It will also be five days quicker from Ningbo to Felixstowe than rail freight. Hua Joo Tan of Linerlytica said the move was opportunistic, dictated by the Arctic navigation window rather than cargo demand. He noted vessels were redeployed from Red Sea and Baltic routes and would return once the Arctic season closes. Sea Legend plans eight westbound transits on its CAX service between July and November, using ships of 1,384 TEU to 4,890 TEU. The service begins 1 August from Shanghai, calling Taicang, Ningbo, Felixstowe, Hamburg and Gdynia.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

CHINA, US SEEK TRADE CO-OPERATION

China and the United States are entering a third round of economic talks in Beijing, with both sides seeking tangible progress as inflation surges in China and recession fears grow in the US, reported Bangkok's AsiaNews. US Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez urged free trade and joint efforts to counter protectionist sentiment, while Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson reiterated Washington's priority of yuan revaluation and reducing the US trade deficit, which is expected to exceed last year's US$232.5 billion. Chinese Vice-Minister of Commerce Chen Deming warned that focusing narrowly on currency values could hinder normal trade ties. Analysts said both governments face serious domestic pressures, with China's consumer inflation hitting an 11-year high of 6.9 per cent and US growth threatened by recession.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

ANTWERP-BRUGES CARGO DIPS IN H1

Port of Antwerp-Bruges handled 133.9 million tonnes of maritime cargo in the first half of 2026, a decline of 2.4 per cent compared with last year, reported London's Shipmanagement International. Officials described the fall as relatively limited given geopolitical tensions, trade conflicts, operational disruptions and a weak economic climate. RoRo traffic grew 5.9 per cent and bulk cargo slipped 1.3 per cent, but container throughput was the main drag, falling 1.5 per cent in TEU terms and 3.6 per cent in tonnage. Exports of full containers dropped 5.7 per cent, reflecting Western Europe's weak export position, while empty container throughput rose 13.7 per cent, highlighting a growing imbalance between imports and exports. The decline was worsened by disruptions including a four-day strike in March that cost an estimated 100,000 TEU, an April oil spill in the Deurganck dock that cut about 85,000 TEU, and pilot industrial action in June that reduced throughput by another 75,000 TEU. Despite diversions and adjusted schedules, the port remained operational and cleared backlogs.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

CHINA CONTAINERIZED FREIGHT INDEX

ROUTE	LAST PERIOD 2026/7/17	THIS PERIOD 2026/7/24
CCFI	1910.67	1901.27
(JAPAN SERVICE)	942.32	925.31
(EUROPE SERVICE)	2506.94	2483.29
(W/C AMERICA SERVICE)	1559.94	1632.4
(E/C AMERICA SERVICE)	1778.34	1770.25
(KOREA SERVICE)	636.59	664.02
(SOUTHEAST ASIA SERVICE)	1146.43	1074.12
(MEDITERRANEAN SERVICE)	3153.87	3282.78
(AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND SERVICE)	1530.43	1517.53
(SOUTH AFRICA SERVICE)	1443.87	1388.64
(SOUTH AMERICA SERVICE)	1545.14	1467.82
(WEST EAST AFRICA SERVICE)	1188.86	1191.21
(PERSIAN GULF/RED SEA SERVICE)	3180.09	2971.65

SURCHARGES TO HIT INDIA-EU CARGO

Shipping giant Maersk will impose two major tariff hikes on India-Europe container cargo from August 1, sharply increasing costs for exporters, reported Kochi's The Week. The Emergency Contingency Surcharge on shipments from South and East Indian ports to North Europe will rise by US$1,000 per TEU, taking the rate to $3,800. Cargo from northwestern ports including Mundra and Jawaharlal Nehru will see ECS lifted from $2,500 to $3,500 per TEU. In addition, a Heavy Load Surcharge of $2,000 per overweight TEU will be applied on shipments exceeding 22 tonnes from northwestern India to North Europe. Europe is a key market for Indian exports such as textiles, auto parts, leather and pharmaceuticals, meaning the surcharges will significantly raise logistics costs and squeeze margins amid ongoing Gulf conflict disruptions.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

CMA CGM'S BRAZIL'S BIOETHANOL BUNKERING

CMA CGM, Copersucar and Bunker One have carried out Brazil's first bioethanol bunkering of a deep-sea containership, fueling the 13,000 TEU CMA CGM Iron at the Port of Santos, reported North Dakota's Ethanol Producer Magazine. The operation marks a milestone in maritime decarbonization and positions Brazil among countries able to conduct bioethanol bunkering. The fuel supplied by Copersucar comes from a certified sugarcane supply chain under the RenovaBio programme, which enforces sustainability and zero-deforestation rules. The bunkering involved coordination across the value chain, including transport, storage and transfer via a specialized barge. Regulatory and port authorities supported the initiative, which strengthens Santos as a hub for energy transition. CMA CGM said the demonstration proves bioethanol can deliver immediate greenhouse gas reductions with commercial-scale availability and competitive economics. The company aims to operate about 200 low-carbon containerships by 2031. The CMA CGM Iron, delivered in 2025, is the first of 12 vessels equipped with tri-fuel engines certified for bioethanol.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

COSCO SHIPPING PORTS LIFTS 8.2PC MORE

Cosco Shipping Ports Limited handled 61.3 million TEU in the first half of 2026, an increase of 8.2 per cent year on year, reported London's Port Technology International. June throughput reached 10.58 million TEU, up 6 per cent from a year earlier. Second-quarter volumes totaled 31.61 million TEU, rising 7.4 per cent. The figures exclude Qingdao Port International and Container Terminal Tolerant, which do not publish monthly data. Overseas terminals led growth, with throughput climbing 18.4 per cent to 20.5 million TEU. CSP Chancay Terminal in Peru surged 68.2 per cent to 201,800 TEU, while Suez Canal Container Terminal rose 22.9 per cent to 3.04 million TEU. In China, Pearl River Delta terminals handled 15.58 million TEU, up 6.5 per cent, with Yantian International Container Terminals contributing 8.35 million TEU, a 10 per cent increase. Yangtze River Delta throughput grew 3.6 per cent to 8.68 million TEU, while Bohai Rim terminals rose 5.2 per cent to 9.26 million TEU.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

TRUMP WEIGHS JONES ACT WAIVERS

The White House is considering another extension of waivers allowing foreign ships to carry goods between US ports as renewed conflict with Iran raises concerns over energy prices and supply disruptions, reported Reuters. Officials are weighing geographic restrictions on the waivers to limit where foreign-flagged vessels can operate, sources said. The administration argues the measure has eased supply pressures, though maritime groups and Republican allies say it undermines US shipbuilding and national security. The Energy, Transportation and Interior departments met earlier this week to discuss options ahead of a possible decision before the end of July. The current waiver, extended once already, expires August 16. Domestic crude is about US$80 a barrel. The White House has also tapped the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, now at its lowest level since 1983, to help control prices. "President Trump's decisive action to waive the Jones Act has helped prevent supply chain shortages," a White House official said.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

E-BILLS OF LADING ADOPTION INCREASING

The shipping industry is undergoing rapid digitalisation, with electronic bills of lading (eBL) adoption rising sharply from 1.2 per cent in 2021 to about 11 pc by mid-2025, reported ZIM's Sustainability Report 2025. The FIT Alliance said nearly 49.2 pc of surveyed companies now use electronic formats, with potential savings of US$6.5 billion annually and an extra $40 billion in trade through reduced supply chain friction.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)