NEWSLETTER

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LA PORT POSTS STRONG APRIL BEFORE TARIFF IMPACT

THE Port of Los Angeles handled 842,806 TEU in April, marking a 9.4 per cent increase from last year. Year to date (YTD), the port has processed 3.34 million TEU, up 6.2 per cent from 2024, reports London's Port Technology International. April 2025 loaded imports totalled 439,230 TEU, a 5 per cent increase from the previous year, while loaded exports dropped 3 per cent to 128,394 TEU. The port processed 275,183 empty containers, a 25 per cent rise from last year. Gene Seroka, executive director of the Port of Los Angeles, said: "We've had nearly two years of robust volume, including 10 straight months of year-over-year growth. "Moving forward, we will see a softening of global trade during this period of elevated tariffs and uncertainty. The Port of Los Angeles will use its strong financial base to invest in infrastructure, technology, and workforce development, with US$230 million in capital projects planned for the upcoming fiscal year." In March, the port handled 778,406 TEU, marking a 4.7 per cent increase compared to the same month last year.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

RED SEA NATIONS STEP UP MEASURES TO TACKLE OIL SPILLS

COUNTRIES in the Red Sea region have worked to strengthen their preparedness and response systems for major marine pollution incidents involving oil and hazardous and noxious substance (HNS) spills. From May 5-8, a subregional workshop in Hurghada, Egypt, brought together 18 officials from Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, and Yemen to develop technical skills, improve coordination, and bolster contingency planning for these types of incidents. As one of the world's most critical shipping lanes, the Red Sea area continues to face maritime security risks related to wider geopolitical tensions, which have led to some maritime incidents. The workshop aimed to strengthen regional preparedness for marine pollution incidents by building skills in oil spill response, inter-agency coordination, and contingency planning. It emphasized the need for collaboration among Red Sea States, UN bodies, and international partners, reports London's Port Technology International.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

SECOND USTR HEARING ON CHINESE SHIP FEES HELD

UNITED States Trade Representative Jamieson Greer has held a second round of hearings on Monday in Washington on port fees for China-built, -owned and -operated ships docking at American ports. The punitive fees are meant to blunt China's maritime dominance and help kick-start US shipbuilding. Public comments ahead of the USTR's first hearing in April led to dramatic changes, notably from a scheme of blanket charges on all ships to fees based on net tonnage and number of containers carried. Expectations are that any changes by USTR this time will be less substantial regarding container shipping, reports New York's FreightWaves. American exporters of bulk commodities such as grain and soybeans say the fees will make their products less competitive in the global market.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

HAPAG Q1 PROFIT UP 45PC TO US$469M AS SALES RISE 15PC

"GERMAN shipping giant Hapag-Lloyd, the world's fifth largest container shipping company, posted a first quarter 45 per cent year-on-year group profit increase to US$469 million drawn on revenues of $5.3 billion, up 15 per cent. Hapag-Lloyd has concluded the first quarter of 2025 with a group EBITDA of $1.1 billion. In the same period, the group EBIT increased to $487 million. In container shipping, revenues increased to $5.2 billion, driven by transport volume of 3.3 million TEU and an average freight rate of $1,480/TEU, both of which were nine per cent higher year on year due to strong demand. In terminal and infrastructure, first quarter EBITDA stood at $36 million and an EBIT at $15 million. In addition, the acquisition of a majority stake in the CNMP LH Terminal in Le Havre secured an important access to the French market. Said Hapag-Lloyd CEO Rolf Habben Jansen: "We have gotten off to a good start. In Gemini Cooperation, we have achieved the targeted high schedule reliability, with which we have been able to clearly set ourselves apart from our competitors.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

CHINA CONTAINERIZED FREIGHT INDEX

ROUTE	LAST PERIOD 2025/5/16	THIS PERIOD 2025/5/23
CCFI	1104.88	1107.4
(JAPAN SERVICE)	974.72	1015
(EUROPE SERVICE)	1430.35	1392.61
(W/C AMERICA SERVICE)	876.92	908.14
(E/C AMERICA SERVICE)	964.6	992.52
(KOREA SERVICE)	475.83	507.58
(SOUTHEAST ASIA SERVICE)	962.68	930.21
(MEDITERRANEAN SERVICE)	1839.33	1804.82
(AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND SERVICE)	920.6	896.21
(SOUTH AFRICA SERVICE)	943.52	932.23
(SOUTH AMERICA SERVICE)	582.4	572.55
(WEST EAST AFRICA SERVICE)	855.07	850.06
(PERSIAN GULF/RED SEA SERVICE)	1118.25	1175.85

CMA CGM TO REJIG FLEET TO AVOID US PORT FEES ON CHINESE VESSELS

FRENCH shipping giant CMA CGM will reorganise its global fleet to avoid US port fees on Chinese-built vessels that are due to take effect from October, the company's finance director said. The port charges are another operational headache for shipping firms wrestling with the fallout from US tariffs, though adjustments made by Washington after an industry backlash have made the fee scheme less disruptive than feared, Ramon Fernandez, CMA CGM's chief financial officer, told Reuters. US President Donald Trump's administration aims to use the port fees to counter China's dominance in global shipbuilding and support a revival of US maritime transport. "We have enough ship capacity to adapt to this situation and avoid paying fees," Mr Fernandez said in an interview, adding that less than half of CMA CGM's fleet of around 670 ships were Chinese built. On a complex scale of fees, Chinese companies operating ships built in China face the steepest levies for calling at US ports.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

SALVAGE TUG ARRIVES AT SCENE OF MAERSK BOX SHIP ADRIFT IN ATLANTIC

NORWEGIAN salvage tug Sea1 Ruby has reached the 8,450 TEU Maersk Sana adrift approximately 75 nautical miles west off the coast of Bermuda. The 21-year-old vessel suffered an engine room explosion on April 28 leaving three crew members injured, including one seriously, according to Ventura, California's gCaptain. At least two crew have since been taken off the ship for treatment as Maersk Sana has remained on auxiliary power only for nearly 3 weeks. The vessel has retained limited maneuvering capability. Sea1 Ruby, an anchor handling tug supply (AHTS) vessel from Sea1 Offshore, departed from Bergen, Norway nearly two weeks ago on May 4. AIS data show the tug reaching the container ship early on May 16 and according to Maersk the two vessels will make their way toward the Bahamas and are expected to reach port by the end of May. The investigation into the cause of the incident remains ongoing, Maersk said.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

TARIFFS TO BLAME FOR SOFT APRIL, SAYS OAKLAND PORT

PLAUGED by changing American tariff policies, the Port of Oakland has reported that April container volume had dropped 14.7 per cent from the previous month but said that its overall container volume was still up 4.3 per cent in the first four months of 2025 compared to that same period last year. By the numbers, the port handled 185,499 TEU in April, marking a slowdown that was driven by market uncertainty and softening demand in exports - both influenced by recent shifts in US trade policy, port leaders said. Total volume for the first four months of 2025 reached 787,028 TEU handled, according to Massachusetts' DC Velocity. "Container volume remained stable during the first four months of 2025; however, uncertainty and high tariff impacted our China volume. We anticipate a similar volume in May with a strong recovery in June," Port of Oakland maritime director Bryan Brandes said in a release.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

IATA CALLS ON GOVERNMENTS TO FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY

THE International Air Transport Association (IATA) has called on governments and industry leaders to focus safety, security, digitisation and sustainability, reports the Lagos Guardian. IATA's head of cargo at the opening of the 18th World Cargo Symposium in Dubai, Brendan Sullivan, said the value of air cargo has never been clearer. "To meet customer expectations and navigate an increasingly complex environment, the air cargo industry must continuously strengthen safety and security, fast-track digitisation, and deliver on sustainability commitments," he said. IATA calls on governments to step up efforts to stop rogue shippers and support ICAO's work to strengthen Annexe 18 of the Chicago Convention-the global framework for safely transporting dangerous goods by air. "Shipments of lithium batteries are growing in volume. With that comes increased risks associated with undeclared or misdeclared goods. The industry has invested in training, certification, and technology. Governments must match that commitment with robust oversight and enforcement," Mr Sullivan said.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

CHINA PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

China offices will be closed on June 2nd, 2025 for Dragon Boat Festival, and resume work on June 3rd, 2025.
(Qingdao, Shanghai, Ningbo, Xiamen, Shenzhen)