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Air Updates

Air India Express Restores Flights After Cabin Crew Standoff

Air India Express was planning on Friday to restore operations after it resolved a dispute with cabin crew that saw the airline cancel 85 flights.

Staff who had called in sick en masse were to return to work after progress was made at a conciliation meeting, the airline said in a statement late Thursday. The carrier said that will enable it to swiftly restore its flight schedule.

Air India Express was forced to cancel 85 flights Thursday and seek parent Air India Ltd.'s support to operate some routes after more than 100 cabin crew called in sick at the last minute.

Read more in an [article from the American Journal of Transportation](#).

Ocean Updates

BCMEA–ILWU Local 514 Bargaining Update

The BC Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA) and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Ship and Dock Foremen Local 514 (ILWU Local 514) continued negotiations last week with the support of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS).

Citing "the union bargaining committee's intransigence at the bargaining table," the BCMEA filed a complaint with the Canada Industrial Relations Board on May 10.

The 21-day cooling-off period concluded at 12:01 am PT on Friday morning. Therefore, the parties have acquired the legal right to strike or lockout, but may not exercise their right to strike or lockout until a strike or lockout vote has been taken and a 72-hour strike notice, including date and time of intended action, has been provided to the other party and the Minister of Labour.

Find more information in the [update from the BCMEA](#).

A 'Carrier-Controlled Market' as Spot Rates Rise and Capacity Tightens

"You take away all sense and rationale. And whatever is left, is the container shipping market," said Peter Sand, Xeneta's chief analyst, on Friday.

The continuing Red Sea crisis, in combination with higher-than-expected demand, caught many forwarders on the back foot over the past two weeks, and last week the spot freight rate indices began to match anecdotal trade reports.

Spot rate rises were strong on the Asia-North America trades, with the XSI transpacific trade rising 145%, to \$3,754 per 40ft, while the WCI Shanghai-New York leg showed a 116% jump, to finish the week at \$5,089 per 40ft.

Read more in an [article from The Loadstar](#).

Houthis Continue Targeting MSC Vessels, Claiming Four New Attacks

The Houthi militants continue the targeting of MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company vessels, with the repeated assertion that they are "Israeli ships." MSC vessels have been among the most frequently targeted ships by the militants and, in a new statement from their spokesperson Yahya Saree, they are claiming to have fired on three ships a total of four times without providing details or confirmation.

While the report was issued on May 9, the military tracking operations have not acknowledged any new attacks or reported receiving information from merchant ships in the region.

Read more in an [article from The Maritime Executive](#).

Rail Updates

CPKC–TCRC Collective Bargaining Update

The Minister of Labour has referred a question to the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) to determine if, contrary to the agreement the minister states was reached by CPKC and the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC), any rail activity must continue during a strike or lockout to protect the health and safety of Canadians.

This referral means a legal strike or lockout cannot occur until the CIRB renders its decision. The timing for the CIRB decision is unknown.

Pursuant to the *Canada Labour Code*, the parties are currently in a mandatory 21-day cooling off period, which would otherwise expire at 23:59 ET on May 21. CPKC and the TCRC leadership are scheduled to meet again this week to continue negotiations with the assistance of federal mediators.

Technology

SME Forwarders Should Watch Out for 'Amazonization'

Carrier efforts to break into forwarding should not leave SMEs concerned about a loss of access to capacity, said Ti founder John Manners-Bell last week.

He was discussing the impact of moves by the likes of MSC, following its acquisition of Clasquin, and CMA CGM, which added Bolloré to the group in April and Ceva back in 2019.

“As far as small and medium-sized forwarders go, I do not see any real need for concern over carriers looking to build out their forwarding capabilities,” he said.

“What the shipping lines are seeking is a cradle-to-grave supply chain solution; but it is important to state that this is a solution they are seeking for their bigger customers, part of what they see as being a value-added service.”

Rather, he warned, forwarders needed to be paying closer attention to what he saw as the “Amazonization” of the sector, citing growing expectations – particularly among SME shippers – of full visibility.

Read more in an [article from The Loadstar](#).