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Air Updates

Airfreight Rates Ex-Dhaka Plummet Post-Holiday, Alongside Demand

Airfreight rates have generally begun to ease off as volumes lower following the holiday period – but some lanes have fallen faster than others.

Air rates out of Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, have almost halved in the past month or so to both the U.S. and EU, with demand falling fast.

According to Rotare's database, capacity out of Dhaka has fallen 2.8% from the past month, compared with the previous month, but there was still some 15% more capacity out of Bangladesh in December than a year earlier.

To the U.S., Bangladesh forwarders are reporting rates of between \$5.5 and \$7 per kg, down from \$10 two months ago, with current demand of about 500 to 600 tonnes a day out of Dhaka.

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

Ocean Updates

China's Biggest Shipping Line Added to U.S. Military Blacklist

The U.S. has blacklisted China's largest shipping line and two shipbuilders over alleged links with the People's Liberation Army, as Washington turns its attention to the country's massive maritime sector.

Cosco Shipping Holdings Co. was named in a Federal Register filing on Tuesday, qualifying it as a Chinese military company as determined by the Pentagon, along with China State Shipbuilding Corp. and China Shipbuilding Trading Co. While the blacklist carries no specific penalties, it discourages U.S. firms from dealing with those companies.

It also signals increased scrutiny of marine transport and shipbuilding as Donald Trump prepares to return to the White House. China has the world's largest shipbuilding sector, producing more than half of merchant vessels globally, while the U.S. industry has virtually collapsed over the last generation.

Chinese shipbuilders accounted for almost 60% of the worldwide orderbook in the first quarter of last year, according to shipbroker BRS. The U.S.'s nervousness over this dominance comes as shipping lines and ports become increasingly important as arenas of geopolitical competition, with COVID 19 and its aftermath exposing the fragility of global supply chains.

Washington telegraphed its unease over China's shipbuilding industry at Senate hearings last year.

Read more in an [article from Yahoo Finance](#).

ILA Union and Port Owners Held Secret Meeting on Automation as New Strike Looms

A secret meeting between representatives of the International Longshoremen's Association and the USMX port ownership group was held on Sunday to make headway on the issue of port automation that needs to be resolved by January 15 to avoid a new U.S. East and Gulf Coast ports strike.

A document produced from the meeting indicates that ports are willing to pair any new technology with new union jobs, but that could introduce new risks to a deal, with added labour costs threatening terms agreed to in October for a 62% pay hike for union workers.

Formal talks were set to resume on Tuesday, and it remains unclear if the full port ownership group will support the new language on automation.

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

DP World Partners with Gemini Cooperation to Strengthen Canadian Cargo Operations

DP World announces a new partnership with the Gemini Cooperation between Maersk A/S and Hapag-Lloyd AG to enhance cargo operations throughout Canada. Beginning in February, DP World will introduce several new container services at its terminals at the Port of Vancouver, Port of Prince Rupert and Port Saint John.

This collaboration is intended to strengthen trade connections between Asia, Europe and North America. Vancouver and Prince Rupert will handle key shipping services to and from Asia, while Saint John will manage services connecting to Northern Europe.

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

Rail and Truck Updates

'An Absolute Mess': B.C. Container Truckers Frustrated by Port Reservation System, Closures and Delays

B.C.'s container truck drivers say they want changes to the port reservation system, which penalizes them when they are stuck in traffic or delayed by bad weather, but provides only limited compensation when terminals cancel scheduled pickups and drop-offs.

"The system is an absolute mess," said Tom Johnson, owner of a Delta-based trucking company and director with the Port Transportation Association.

He estimates that he has paid more than \$4,000 in fees for missed reservations over the last four to five months. There are no penalties for terminals when they cancel reservations or close gates.

The association is calling on the port authority to step in and ensure trucking companies and customers are being treated fairly. They want carriers to receive a "monthly reservation buffer" that allows them to be late for a certain number of reservations due to factors such as traffic or weather.

But a spokesman for one of Metro Vancouver's two main container terminals said the reservation system is more than fair to B.C. truckers, who benefit from some of the shortest delays in the world.

"We have the best truck turn times because of our reservation system," said Marko Dekovic, vice-president of public affairs for Global Container Terminals. "If everyone was allowed to show up late, it wouldn't work."

Read more in an [article from the Vancouver Sun](#).

Canadian Business/Government

U.S. Postal Service Resumes Accepting Mail and Packages to Canada

Canadians can expect to receive mail from the U.S. again.

The United States Postal Service (USPS) resumed accepting mail and packages to Canada on Monday following the end to service disruptions from the month-long Canada Post strike.

Canada Post said last month that Canadians should expect domestic package delays into the new year. It said it was working through a backlog of international mail and parcels, and started accepting new international mail on December 23.

Read more in an [article from CTV News](#).