

CANADA Daily News and Updates February 13rd 2025

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Air Updates

Air Traffic Controllers' Walkout to Close Belgian Airspace Today

A strike-related airspace closure in Belgium means all flights will be cancelled at Liege and Brussels airports today.

Brussels Airport said that, "due to the national demonstration on Thursday and the announced strike by air traffic controllers, the Belgian airspace will be closed [from 6:45 am to 10:15 pm]."

And it warned customers of "a very busy day at Brussels Airport on Friday."

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

Ocean Updates

As Gaza Ceasefire Teeters, Houthis Warn of Renewed Red Sea Hostilities

On Tuesday, following announcements from the U.S. and Israel that put the future of the Gaza ceasefire agreement in doubt, Yemen's Houthi rebels issued a reminder that they could restart ballistic missile attacks if hostilities against Hamas resume.

The Israel-Hamas ceasefire has held so far, and so has the uneasy peace in the Red Sea. But the future of the detente appears tenuous: Last week, U.S. President Donald Trump insisted that the U.S. will "own" and redevelop Gaza into a "Riviera of the Middle East," requiring two million Palestinians to leave and never return. He demanded that all of Hamas' 76 remaining Israeli hostages be released by February 15 – a dramatic acceleration of the ceasefire framework that Hamas had negotiated with Israel.

On Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu suggested that Hamas wasn't living up to the terms of the hostage exchange and promised to resume military action in Gaza if all 76 hostages are not returned by Saturday. Hamas asserts that it is committed to the ceasefire and hostage release agreement.

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

Chaos at Chittagong as Port Workers' Strike Creates Vessel and Box Backlogs

Congestion at Bangladesh's Chittagong Port is mounting, following a wave of strikes last week, with 18 containerships in a queue to berth that is expected to take two weeks to clear.

Port workers downed tools on February 4 after reportedly being attacked by government officials near the port, with vessels forced to either delay sailing for up to two days or depart without boxes, leading to a backlog of containers.

Director of the Bangladesh Shipping Agents' Association (BSAA) Muntasir Rubayat said the strike had "severely disrupted the entire operational cycle."

He added: "With Ramadan approaching and reduced working hours expected, delays may escalate if not addressed promptly."

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

Labour Slowdown Creates Long Delays at Rotterdam Container Terminal

The labour strife that has plagued ports around the world has spread to Rotterdam, with reports of long delays and slowdowns due to a contract dispute at the Hutchison Delta II Terminal. Two labour unions have broken off negotiations and backed away from a tentative agreement, threatening to continue their strikes until the operator meets the terms of the tentative agreement.

Workers at the Delta II terminal are represented by two unions, FNV Havens and CNV. Contract negotiations began in November 2024 and the unions set as one of their key conditions a generous severance package and financial guarantees from Hutchison for the package because, according to the unions, future employment is in doubt due to plans for a new, automated terminal.

After months of contentious negotiations, CNV reported on January 20 that it was planning to withdraw from the negotiations. The unions issued an ultimatum and set a January 28 deadline. After a marathon negotiating session, a deal was reported on January 31. Hutchison agreed to the severance package but the unions demanded written financial guarantees before a February 10-11 membership vote.

The unions contend Hutchison informed them late last week that it needed more time for the financial guarantee. Members rejected the proposed deal and the unions said they were withdrawing from the tentative contract without the guarantee.

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

ILA Wage Scale Committee Signs Off on Tentative ILA-USMX Deal Ahead of Ratification Vote

Ahead of a ratification vote on a new master contract set to take place on February 25, the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) said late last week that its Wage Scale

Committee unanimously approved the tentative agreement between the ILA and the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) that was struck in early January.

“I believe our work here today moves us to the ratification vote on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, when ILA rank-and-file members will vote on what I believe is the greatest ILA contract, and the greatest contract negotiated by a labour organization,” said ILA President Harold J. Daggett. “Our collective strength helped produce the richest contract in our history.”

ILA officials said that the new contract and its benefits are retroactive to October 1, 2024, and, if ratified by ILA members, will stay in effect until September 30, 2030. And they added that ILA rank-and-file members will receive details of the contract (which are not being made public) approved by the ILA Wage Scale Committee at local meetings over the next two weeks, leading up to the February 25 ratification vote date.

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