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IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS WITHIN OUR SHORES

AMAECHI DENIES GRANTING CABOTAGE WAIVERS TO FOREIGN VESSELS

INTELS GETS SEVEN-DAY ULTIMATUM TO RECALL 600 SACKED WORKERS

OIL TANKER EXPLODES ON OTEDOLA BRIDGE, LAGOS

#ENDSARS PROTEST AND THE HARD LESSONS FOR NIGERIAN LEADERS

FOREIGN WATCH

BRITISH AIRWAYS FINED £20M FOR BREACH OF CUSTOMERS' DATA

PORT OF LOS ANGELES STRUGGLES WITH SURGE OF UNSCHEDULED SHIPS

AMAECHI DENIES GRANTING CABOTAGE WAIVERS TO FOREIGN VESSELS

by Ships & Ports

Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi said on Thursday that he has no knowledge of any Cabotage law waiver granted to foreign vessels to operate in Nigeria's coastal trade.

The Coastal and Inland Shipping Act 2003, also known as the Cabotage Act, which came into force in 2004, reserves the commercial transportation of goods and services within Nigeria's coastal and inland waters to vessels flying Nigerian flag. Such vessels must also be owned and crewed by Nigerian citizens, and built in Nigeria.

According to the law, a foreign vessel can only operate in Nigeria's coastal and inland waters if it obtains an approval from the Minister of Transport waiving the above-stated requirements.

Speaking on Thursday in Abuja when he appeared before the Senate Joint Committee on Local Content, Downstream Petroleum and Legislative Compliance, the Minister said he was not aware of any waiver given to the vessels by the Director-General of Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA).

The committee is investigating alleged breach of Nigerian laws by foreign vessels in coastal shipping of petroleum products in the downstream sector of the Nigerian Maritime Industry.

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OIL TANKER EXPLODES ON OTEDOLA BRIDGE, LAGOS

by Victor Enengedi

An Oil tanker has exploded on the popular Otedola bridge, Lagos.

The incident of this morning is said to have occurred when a trailer laden with fabrics, experienced a mechanical error and crashed into the oil tanker carrying 33,000 litres of petrol, which was in motion.

However, no casualty was recorded in the ensuing inferno, but traffic soon developed on the lane inwards Berger of the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

According to an eyewitness account, the ensuing fire affected a 40ft containerized truck and a high tension wire nearby. Also affected was a stationary truck containing petrol, with the registration number KBG 91 XA

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INTELS GETS SEVEN-DAY ULTIMATUM TO RECALL 600 SACKED WORKERS

by The Guardian

The Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN) has directed the management of Intels Nigeria Limited at Onne Port, Rivers State to recall the 600 sacked workers and issued the firm a seven-day ultimatum to do so.

In a memo addressed to the Managing Director of Intels, MWUN said the firm terminated its contract with Associate Maritime Services (AMS), its subsidiary, which led to the disengagement of over 600 workers without recourse to the union for the negotiation of their terminal benefits.

The letter, signed by General Secretary of MWUN, Felix Akingboye, maintained that the oppressive labour practice was unacceptable to the union, thereby issuing a seven-day ultimatum to withdraw letters of termination and redundancy to the workers and recall them to duty.

It said the failure of Intels to recall the workers, the union is compelled to withdraw the services of its members from the company's terminal at the expiration of the notice.

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#ENDSARS PROTEST AND THE HARD LESSONS FOR NIGERIAN LEADERS

by Ships & Ports

There is no doubt that the chicken has come home to roost. For 15 straight days, Nigerian youths mounted a strong and spirited protest against the activities of the now disbanded Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS). The protest which erupted on October 3, while Nigerian leaders were still celebrating the 60 years of Nigeria's independence, started from the social media as #EndSARS.

The social media protest started after a video of a young man manhandled by SARS operatives at Ughelli, Delta State went viral. From the social media, the protest spread to the streets and engulfed most parts of the country. Major roads in major cities in Lagos, Abuja Port Harcourt, Owerri, Ogbomosho and many others were blocked as hundreds of thousands of youths poured into the streets with placards, paralyzing business and social activities in those places.

Activists, celebrities, Nigerian youths home and abroad were all involved in the protests to demand an end to SARS and police brutality.

The sustenance of the protest for 15 days should be an eye-opener to Nigerian leaders or rulers. There was a level of organization with the people coordinating action on social media remaining largely unidentified. They refused to select leaders or be identified not because they were afraid as they were also part of the street protests, but because they did not want anyone negotiating with the government behind their back.

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BRITISH AIRWAYS FINED £20M FOR BREACH OF CUSTOMERS' DATA

by Ships & Ports

British Airways has been fined £20 million for failing to protect data that left more than 400,000 of its customers' details the subject of a 2018 cyber attack. The fine is the biggest such penalty to be imposed by the data protection watchdog till date.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) said its investigators found BA should have identified weaknesses in its security and resolved them with measures available at the time, which would have prevented the data breach.

"Their failure to act was unacceptable and affected hundreds of thousands of people, which may have caused some anxiety and distress as a result," the ICO said. BA said in a statement that it had alerted customers as soon as it became aware of the attack.

The penalty was considerably less than the 183.4 million pounds the ICO proposed last year – in part reflecting the crisis the airline industry is now facing due to COVID-19.

Still, shares in BA's Anglo-Spanish parent IAG ICAG.L slid to session lows following the announcement. By 0917 GMT, they were 3% lower at 93.2 pence.

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PORT OF LOS ANGELES STRUGGLES WITH SURGE OF UNSCHEDULED SHIPS

by Ship & Ports

Incoming cargo to the Port of Los Angeles is surging as businesses restock depleted inventories and retailers prepare for an early holiday season, the port's Executive Director, Gene Seroka, said on Wednesday.

Workers unloaded 471,795 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU) of imports in September, which is 17% more than the year earlier, marking the second month of robust import gains at the port for U.S. trade with China.

The trend has carried into October with 16 vessels now docked and 10 at anchor with cargo waiting to be unloaded.

Seroka said, "We continue to see the replenishment of warehouse and distribution center inventories along with retailers prepping for year-end holidays."

Amazon, Walmart, Target and Best Buy are among the U.S. retailers launching holiday promotions before Halloween to lock in sales and ease residential delivery crunches as worries mount over fast-rising COVID-19 infections and potential unrest around next month's Presidential election.

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