

Nantong report

China–Afghanistan direct freight train resumed operation

By Li Tong

On the morning of 31st October, China- Afghanistan (Hai’ an–Hai- ratan) direct freight train restart ceremony was held at the Hai’an Logistics Base of Shanghai Civil Engineering Co., Ltd.

Zhang Tong, Deputy Party Secretary and Mayor of Nantong, stated that Nantong would take the resumption of China- Afghanistan train as an opportunity, actively expand new emerging markets such as Central Asia and South Asia, and amplify the integrated effects of ‘cross border e-commerce + market procurement + industrial belts + overseas warehouses’, to promote the overseas expansion of advantageous industries

such as construction and home textile, and constantly stimulate new momentum for open development.

In the past few years, the economic and trade interactions between China and Afghanistan have been steadily expanded, and practical cooperation has been continuously improved. The resumption of China- Afghanistan freight train will provide important opportunities to deepen the integration of interests of the two parties and realize mutual benefits.

Karimi, the Afghan Ambassador to China, expressed gratitude to China for resumption of China- Afghanistan direct freight train. Afghanistan has many high-quality export products with great potential, which will greatly promote the trade between China and Afghanistan.

Nantong home textile enterprises launched new products in Shanghai

By Chen Ke

On 29th October, ‘Good Home Textiles Made in Nantong’ 2024 Nantong Home Textile New Product Launch Conference was held. Several home textile new products from Nantong of different themes such as new sleep, slow fashion and trendy culture were presented by means including on-site promotion, physical display, and live broadcast.

‘Good Home Textiles Made in Nantong’ 2024 Home Textile Consumption Season was officially started on 28th September. The Home Textile New Product Launch Conference in Shanghai is one of the activities of the consumption season.

China leads in home textile in the world, and Nantong leads in home

textile in China. Nantong is renowned as the ‘capital of home textile’. In 2023, the annual market turnover exceeded 240 billion yuan, which accounted for a lot more than 50% of the national home textile market.

Nantong home textiles have a wide range of categories and excellent brands. At present there are 8 major categories including set, quilt, pillow, mattress, and summer sleeping mat, more than 200 small categories, and more than 10 million SKUs, which can meet a variety of different needs. There are nearly 1,000 registered brands. Among them, there are 42 Madrid trademarks and 18 China Well-known Trademarks. A lot of nationally famous and industry- renowned leading brands have emerged such as Luolai, Gold Sun, and Triumph.

The 3rd Nantong Zilang Music Festival held

By Zhang Jian, Yang Zhenxiao and Gao Yang

On 27th October, more than 20, 000 fans gathered by Zilang Lake, to celebrate an autumn music extravaganza together. The two- day

3rd Nantong Zilang Music Festival concluded successfully.

The music festival attracted in total nearly 60,000 fans. Among them, 58% are from places other than Nantong, 75% are young people aged 18 to 30.

Naming and delivery



The 7,600 cubic meters LNG bunkering ship S1062 built by Nantong CIMC Sinopacific Offshore & Engineering for a Canadian shipowner was successfully named and delivered on 23rd October. Photo by Xu Congjun



Teachers and students from Hungarian–Chinese Bilingual Primary and Secondary School came to Nantong for exchanges

By Shen Liang

‘I am willing that it is a torrent, the river in the mountain, pass the rock on the rugged mountain path...’ On 28th October, when the students from Nantong High School communicated with the students from Hungarian- Chinese Bilingual Primary and Secondary School in Hungary, the Hungarian students recited *I am willing that it is a torrent*, a poem written by famous Hungarian poet Petőfi Sándor in Chinese and Hungarian. On the day, 19 teachers and students from Hungarian-Chinese Bilingual Primary and Secondary School visited Nantong High School and Nantong University.

It was the second time that teachers and students from Hungarian-Chinese Bilingual Primary and Secondary School visited Nantong, and also the first time that they visited Nantong University.

Hungarian-Chinese Bilingual Pri-



mary and Secondary School is an important achievement and a special bond of cultural exchange and friendly cooperation between China and Hungary. In November 2019, Hungarian-Chinese Bilingual Primary and Secondary School and Nan-

School. It was the second time the teachers and students delegation from Hungarian- Chinese Bilingual Primary and Secondary School visited Nantong High School.

At Nantong University, the Hungarian students visited the campus of Nantong University and the School of Arts, and experienced the intangible cultural heritage ‘paper tearing’. Angie, the vice principal of Hungarian- Chinese Bilingual Primary and Secondary School, said, ‘It is a great honor to visit Nantong University. The students who came to Nantong University today not only work hard to learn Chinese, but also have a special interest in Chinese culture. I believe that the Nantong trip will enable the students to gain a deeper understanding of Chinese culture and gain unforgettable experiences and memories. Our students from Hungarian-Chinese Bilingual Primary and Secondary School will actively promote the cultural and economic connections between the two countries in the future.’

The president of Wellington College Education and his delegation visited Nantong

By Shen Liang

On 31st October, Sir Anthony Seldon, CEO of Wellington College Education, and Joy Qiao, Founder and Chairman of Wellington College China, and their delegation visited Nantong.

Nantong, as the hometown of education, has profound cultural heritage and rich educational resources. Wellington(China) has kept close cooperation with Wellington College in the UK, which has a history of over 160 years. It has founded more than 10 schools around the world. In September 2022, a flagship boarding school under Wellington (China) —Hiba Academy Nantong officially opened. It

“Sir Anthony Seldon said, ‘in my eyes, Nantong is a very vibrant and joyful city.’”

has absorbed the essence of Chinese, British and international education, providing immersive multilingual and multicultural learning experience to Nantong students. In the future, Nantong hopes to further deepen the cooperation with Wellington(China), to provide service support for cultivating more international and integrated talents for Hiba Academy Nantong, and create an environment and atmosphere that support the development of private education.

Sir Anthony Seldon said, ‘in my eyes, Nantong is a very vibrant and joyful city.’ While in Nantong, he visited Hiba Academy Nantong, and hoped the school could give full play to their advantages and cultivate more outstanding students with global vision and international competitiveness, and build bridges for in-depth exchange between Chinese and western cultures.

Briefly

Flights to places such as Osaka and Yulin launched

By You Lian

At about 3:40 pm on 27th October, flight ZH691 with 116 passengers on board took off from Nantong Airport, marking the opening of Nantong⇌Osaka flight. On the day, National civil aviation industry entered winter-spring flight season. After the flight schedule was ‘updated’, Nantong Airport was able to reach nearly 40 domestic and foreign cities.

After the season change, Tianjin Airlines has launched flights to Yulin, Hanzhong, Wuhan and Dalian. Donghai Airlines has resumed the flight to Nanchang. Shenzhen Airlines has resumed flights to Osaka, Japan. Apart from that, China Eastern Airlines, Shenzhen Airlines, Xiamen Airlines, Qingdao Airlines, etc. have also increased the number of flights to cities including Xi’an, Chengdu, Dalian, Harbin, and Fuzhou.