

China's navy continues to escort Indian ships to safety

In an unusual twist, an Indian navy captain is thanking the Chinese navy for keeping his crew and his cargo safe to port in the Gulf of Aden.

While diplomatic relations between India and China remain strained over the ongoing border dispute in Ladakh, the situation is much warmer on the high seas, where both nations face real threats in merchant shipping and enjoy some common ground.

According to a report by The Global Times, the Chinese navy on Saturday successfully escorted an Indian oil tanker carrying 21 Indian crew members to a designated sea area in the Gulf of Aden and received thanks from the tanker's captain.

The 20th fleet of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy successfully escorted three foreign merchant ships, including Indian oil tankers "MT Dosh Gauri," Panamanian Chemical Tanker "Blaghih Nankhai" and Marshall Islands Bulk Carrier "Pan Chao," to their destinations in Southeast Asia on a two-day journey, Global Times reported.

The Dosh Gauri left Ras Gharib port in Egypt, sailed eastward through the Gulf of Aden and entered the Indian Ocean in India. The ship had a safety escort but no security personnel on board, forcing them to seek help from the Chinese navy.

The Gulf of Aden is known as the most dangerous waters in the world for pirate attacks, Global Times reported.

Yang Xibin, chief of staff of

the escort taskforce, said that the Chinese navy came quickly to the aid of the Indian oil tanker "Pan Chao" and the other two Chinese vessels "Dosh Gauri" and "Blaghih Nankhai" when they were in danger of being hijacked by pirates.

"As the captain, this is the second time I have sailed through the Gulf of Aden. A few days ago, when I was sailing westward, I applied for a Chinese naval escort for the first time, accompanied by the frigates named 'Daoyuan'," the Indian captain told the naval escort taskforce via video link.

The captain said that although he has never been to China, the Chinese naval escort taskforce has been providing "safe and efficient" escort services year after year, which are admirable and trustworthy, Global Times reported.

As of Saturday, the Chinese navy's escort taskforce had completed 123 escort missions of 6,824 ships, 3,557 of which are ships from foreign merchant and international organizations.

Tensions have been high in the China-India border area at this particular time, and take their political view from

the high and cold heads of the Himalayas in the open ocean," said Qian.

"Only this way can we understand the true meaning of the saying that 'Asia and the world are large enough to accommodate the contradictions and contradictions of China and India,'" he said.

Despite Qian's optimism about the improvement of the Chinese military toward India, "regional peace and stability" remain the current dispute.

"I hope that India and China as a whole will feel the overall of the Chinese military at this particular time and take their political view from

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'Pakistan ties with Israel' normalization could be next

The Israeli prime minister's recent visit to the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain has opened the door to normalization of relations between the two countries, analysts say.

Jerusalem has expressed hope that the normalization of relations between the two countries will continue to emerge through the region, despite the Palestinian "disapproval" and Israel's implied and explicit threats against its neighbors over any attempt at rapprochement with the Jewish state.

British-Pakistani analyst Naveed Anwar and Pakistani analyst Naveed Anwar have said that the normalization of relations between the two countries will continue to emerge through the region, despite the Palestinian "disapproval" and Israel's implied and explicit threats against its neighbors over any attempt at rapprochement with the Jewish state.



Pakistan has also not closed the door completely but its national interests do not permit it to announce open relations with the Jewish state.

Both sides have had intelligence and military relations for decades. Pakistan has never considered the Jewish state as an enemy but may establish conditional relations with it in the future, after the Arab agreement.

Dr. Iqbal, an independent researcher specializing in Islamic studies and international relations, is an advisor to many national and international organizations, including British Association of Islamic Studies and the Council for Muslim Values, London, UK.

He said that the Israeli-Pakistani peace agreement may prove more problematic than the Shimon-Peres conflict, Dubai explained. "We need to look at the sectarian and political angle."

Air Astana Flights Resume to Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan

Air Astana is set to resume its Central Asian routes with flights from Almaty to Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, having resumed its flight services on September 17, 2020 and to Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, on September 20, 2020. The Turkish carrier will initially operate once a week on Thursdays. The Bishkek flight will operate twice a week on Tuesdays and Sundays with connections to Almaty for Seoul, Korea, service.

Flights are being operated using Airbus family aircraft with flight times being 1 hour and 30 minutes outbound from Almaty to Tashkent and 50 minutes to Bishkek.

The airline has resumed operations to cities of Seoul, Dubai, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Kyiv, Istanbul, Antalya and Tashkent. Flights to Georgia (Tbilisi) and Moscow have been cancelled for July, August, and September due to ongoing closures.

Only citizens of the countries that Kazakhstan has resumed direct flights with and those who have permission granted by the state emergency management committee of Kazakhstan can enter the territory of Kazakhstan during the period of the quarantine restrictions. Activities previously allowed flights to resume with several countries, including Turkey, China, South Korea, Thailand, Georgia, and Japan.

The resumption of further flights will be carried out in phases. No further extensions of international flights are planned, it stresses.

Bangladesh to play an essential role in IPS: US

Having a huge market, strong manufacturing base and strategic location, Bangladesh is an important country for US under Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS), said an top US State Department official.

"Because of its potential and opportunities, Bangladesh is important for US," State Department Deputy Assistant Secretary Lora Stone said on Tuesday. "Her address was a joint virtual press briefing with Deputy Chief of Mission of US Embassy in Dhaka Andrew Wagner."

Bangladesh has common areas where businesses can grow, Ms Stone added.

"We are very excited about working with Bangladesh under the auspices of IPS and also in terms of our bilateral relationship," Ms Wagner said echoing Ms Stone.

Both the officials said that US will continue to partner with Bangladesh in the latter has an essential role to play in the Indo-Pacific region.

Responding to a question, the US official ruled out any condition over IPS that it is a direct competitor to China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Bangladesh is based on a non-aligned foreign policy under the leadership of IPS and bilateral relations.

They stressed on more investment, trade and cultural exchange in the region.

Regarding Rohingya issue, they said the US is completely aware of finding a long term and sustainable solution towards dignified repatriation of Rohingya. They said the USA is working with its international partners to resolve the issue.

The head of Turkmenistan expressed confidence in the continuation of a multi-faceted dialogue and joint work to increase cooperation.

The Turkmen president also congratulated Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs on his election and expressed confidence in the leadership of the leading company of Turkmenistan, such as SANKG, Trak, and IED-Holding, operate in Turkmenistan.

Meanwhile, Turkmenistan and Russia's Eurasian Republic have announced the construction of various types of ships aimed at the development of a merchant fleet on April 6, 2020. In general, Turkmenistan devotes attention to cooperation with Russia's regions and cities, in particular with Tatarstan, Azerbaijan, and Saint Petersburg, mainly

Turkmenistan, Russia's Tatarstan outline plans for further expansion of cooperation

Turkmenistan and Russia's Tatarstan outline plans for further expansion of cooperation, Turkmenistan's Deputy Prime Minister Nury Yesenov said.

The plans were outlined during a telephone conversation between President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and President of Russia's Tatarstan, Rustam Minnikhanov.

The parties noted that in several months received bilateral Turkmen-Tatarstan cooperation, including the fields of science and education.

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As India bans onion export, prices in Nepal go up at least 25 percent overnight

With India once again imposing a ban on the export of all varieties of onion, the market prices in Kathmandu have gone up as much as 25 percent within a day.

The wholesale price of onion jumped to Rs75 per kg during Tuesday morning trade from Rs60 per kg on Monday, according to Kathmandu Fruit and Vegetable Market Development Board that updates rates of fruits and vegetables.

On Monday, the Director General of Foreign Trade, Indira Nepal, and her team issued a notice stating that the export ban on all varieties of onion with immediate effect. The ban comes six months after it had been lifted in March. Retailers have already started charging over Rs100 per kg on Tuesday, a trader at the Kalimati market told the Post.

"Many vendors in the Kalimati vegetable market have started selling onion as they are looking for a big profit of 50 percent or more," he said. "The market could be for two weeks but traders have already started taking advantage of India's export ban, traders said."

Every year between September and November the demand for onion increases in India but the export ban in Nepal also goes up. According to an Indian media report, the Indian government initiated the move in March 2020. Kathmandu

