

Herat – Khawaf railway not used after opening

Officials for chamber of commerce and industries in Herat say the 3rd phase of Herat – Khawaf railway was opened nearly five months ago. But the railway has not been used since due to lack of equipment to load and unload goods and goods remain high price.

According to officials for chamber of commerce and industries, Provincial Governor Abdul Ghani and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani both officially opened the Herat – Khawaf railway project via webinar in November 2020. Opening the 3rd phase of the railway was considered a good move for Afghan entrepreneurs including Fajr Ahmad Tahir, but unfortunately the railway has not been used since.

Fajr Mohammad Tahir, one of

producers of fuel and water tanks at Herat Industrial Township, is anticipating the government to pave the way for imports and exports through the Herat-Khawaf railway.

"We're missing heavy machinery to load and unload goods at the railway through which custom processes take little time and cost less. It is good for us to compete, but the railway has not been used for the past five or six months," Fajr Mohammad Tahir said.

He said that only 570 tons of goods were transited via the railway since its opening.

Mohammad Razi Rahmani, executive director for Herat's chamber of commerce and industries says the first problem is the high cost for transiting goods

through the railway as there is no any particular mechanism for goods' cost in either side of the two countries. He also said that there was no any incentive to transport goods through the railway. He said that the railway is not used because of the high cost of goods if transited by roads.

Practical chairman of chamber of commerce and industries for Herat Sayed Danish believes with using the Herat – Khawaf railway problem of in the field of manufacturing new material will be addressed at Herat Industrial Township.

"We have lots of problems in providing raw material at Herat Industrial Township as we have problem in general transportation. Transporting goods from outside the country is very difficult. The goods-carrying trains have arrived in Herat. Local officials of Herat Railway Authority have confirmed that for transit of goods via the railway, there should be bilateral agreement between Afghanistan and Iran.

Khawaf-Herat railway is 225 km long and its operation is carried out in four parts. Part one and two are 78 km long in Iran and from Khawaf city to the border of Herat and Khawaf railway project. Parts three and four of the railway are 147 km long in the Afghanistan soil from the border to Herat 83 km, of which 140 km are in operation since 2020.

Development and strengthening of economic, social and cultural relations between Iran and Afghanistan by facilitating the export and import of goods and transport of passengers between the two countries, proper utilization of Afghanistan through Iran is another important issue related to the railway project between Iran, Caucasus, Turkey, Iraq and Europe, according to the officials of this national plan.

China's economy has not recovered 100% from Covid, says former central bank advisor

China's policymakers are "seriously aggressive" in containing debt levels, leading Chinese consumers to cut back on spending, says a former advisor to the People's Bank of China. He also warned that the economy has not completely recovered from the pandemic.

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Shahin Kohistani

Turkey leaves interest rates unchanged, nods to lira weakness

Turkey's central bank has held its key interest rate at 19 percent as expected and has suggested it might close in a year expected later this year, even while it needed to control pressure on the Turkish lira.

The bank said on Thursday the recent import-price pressure gives a coin in pressing risks to inflation expectations, and it repeated a pledge to keep rates above inflation, which is expected to remain about 17 percent for much of the year.

The central bank last changed its one-week policy rate in March when former Governor Naci Agal stepped down. Analysts expect the rate to begin its fourth quarter when inflation is predicted to decline.

The lira has shed 2.5 percent this week after the United States Federal Reserve adopted a more hawkish tone, and after the first meeting between President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his US counterpart Joe Biden yielded no breakthroughs on key disputes.

The weakness of the lira, which tumbled an all-time low as Turkey's latest import.

In addition to the recent port-price-based cost factors, demand conditions, supply constraints in some sectors, and high levels of inflation expectations continue to press risks to the pricing behavior and inflation on the bank," the bank's policy committee said in a statement after its

Federal Reserve warns US economy path depends on virus

The Federal Reserve said its forecast for inflation in 2021 remains Powell said the recovery from Covid-19 has been "uneven" and that the economy's path depends on the virus.

The Fed's statement said that while employment has strengthened, " risks to the economic outlook remain."

It warned that the path of the economy would depend "significantly" on the course of the virus.

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Colorado taxpayers to see refunds thanks to a sound state economy, analysts say

Colorado's economy is in such good health, state economists said Friday, that taxpayers are likely to see refunds as cut through 2022.

The state government is expected to take a 11.6 percent increase this fiscal year — ending June 30 — that was expected in March, analysts from the state's Legislative Finance Committee said in a quarterly economic forecast presentation to lawmakers. The growth is projected to continue with a nearly 8% improvement next year and more than \$3 billion more in General Fund revenue by the 2022-23 fiscal year.

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Iran election boycott threat as economic conditions worsen

In "Prisoners of Iran as in Working Conditions, Women," Iran's women, Iranian citizens with the latest state of the Iranian people's struggle for democracy.

The struggle of the women's only is attributed to large part to home-based economic income and revenue.

Employment for people making more than \$40,000 has badly suffered since the start of the pandemic, and the state's economy is in such good health, state economists said Friday, that taxpayers are likely to see refunds as cut through 2022.

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