



# Afghanistan's Economic Development

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Every week, significant economic activities and developments take place in various sectors across Afghanistan. The Afghanistan's Economic Development Newsletter covers these key and latest economic activities and advancements.



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## FOUR NEW SECTIONS INAUGURATED AT SARDAR MOHAMMAD DAWOOD KHAN HOSPITAL



On February 20, 2025, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, inaugurated four new medical sections at the 400-bed Sardar Mohammad Dawood Khan Hospital. The ceremony was also attended by Mawlawi Mohammad Yaqoob Mujahid, Acting Minister of National Defense, and

Qari Fasihuddin Fitrat, Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces.

The newly inaugurated departments include: Ear, Nose, Throat (ENT), and Allergy Diagnosis and Treatment Unit, Advanced Orthopedic and Shock Service Unit, Prosthetic Limb Manufacturing Unit, and Outpatient Department for Civilian

Patients.

The Islamic Emirate has placed great emphasis on the health sector, working towards its expansion and ensuring the delivery of high-quality healthcare services to citizens. Currently, complex surgeries are being performed in multiple hospitals across Afghanistan by Afghan doctors. In addition to other hospitals, the services at Sardar Mohammad Dawood Khan Hospital have significantly improved, allowing successful execution of complex surgical procedures. Moreover, His Excellency Amir-ul-Mu'minin Sheikh Hibatullah Akhundzadah (may Allah protect him) has approved the budget for the construction of general hospitals in 318 districts of the country.

The establishment of these hospitals will not only provide healthcare services to the people but will also create employment opportunities for 27,000 professionals and administrative staff.

The Islamic Emirate remains committed to strengthening the healthcare sector in Afghanistan, aiming to reduce the need for citizens to seek medical treatment abroad.

## AZIZI FOUNDATION'S INVESTMENT IN KABUL

Last week, Deputy PM Mullah Baradar Akhund, attended the inauguration

ceremony of several major projects by Azizi Group and Azizi Foundation in Kabul.



The event was attended by high-ranking officials of the Islamic Emirate and Mirwais Azizi, the head of Azizi Group, along with several other participants.

The Azizi Foundation is constructing a medical complex on 350 jeribs of land in Kabul's 8th district, which will include: a 400-bed cancer treatment hospital, a 200-bed maternity hospital, an orphanage, a medical university, a nursing institute, schools, dormitories for students, and residences for doctors and faculty members.

The establishment of such a large-scale cancer treatment hospital in Afghanistan is a significant step forward and a major contribution to the country's healthcare sector. Cancer is a serious health issue in Afghanistan, and according to the Ministry

of Public Health, 6,000 new cancer cases were reported in Kabul alone last year.

The use of various weapons by foreign occupiers has contributed to the increasing prevalence of cancer in the country. Additionally, drug abuse and poverty are considered significant causes of the disease. The Islamic Emirate has also taken several measures to address cancer treatment, and according to officials, a specialized 200-bed

cancer hospital has already been established. Officials from the Ministry of Public Health have stated that within the next three years, Afghanistan will have sufficient cancer treatment facilities, ensuring that no Afghan citizen will need to seek treatment abroad.

Alongside other sectors, the healthcare sector in Afghanistan presents promising opportunities for investment, allowing

investors to take advantage of existing opportunities while providing high-quality healthcare services to the Afghan people.

During the ceremony, the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs congratulated the officials of Azizi Group and urged all investors to invest in their own country, assuring them of full cooperation and support from the government.

## DEPUTY PM MULLAH BARADAR AKHUND'S SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO UZBEKISTAN



On February 22, 2025, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, undertook an official visit to Uzbekistan. During the visit, he met with Uzbekistan's Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, engaging in detailed discussions on various matters.

The primary objective of this visit was to strengthen and expand economic relations between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan and to attract Uzbek investors to invest in Afghanistan. Deputy Prime Minister Mullah Baradar Akhund encouraged Uzbek investors to explore investment

opportunities in various sectors within Afghanistan.

The Uzbek side emphasized their commitment to enhancing economic ties with Afghanistan and expressed their support for all the proposed projects that would play a crucial role in expanding trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Upon returning to Kabul International Airport, Deputy PM Mullah Baradar Akhund described his visit to Uzbekistan as highly productive, highlighting significant discussions and progress made

in various sectors.

Key achievements of the visit include:

The cost of the 500 kV power transmission line project, originally contracted at \$252 million, was successfully reduced to \$222 million. Uzbekistan agreed to send technical teams—at their own expense—to conduct preliminary feasibility studies for the construction of a railway from Hairatan to Herat. The implementation phase of the project will begin after the initial studies are completed.

This was the Deputy Prime Minister's second visit to Uzbekistan this year. Since the re-establishment of the Islamic Emirate, Uzbekistan has maintained strong political and economic relations with Afghanistan, engaging in various investments and collaborations across different sectors.

Another key development in Afghanistan-Uzbekistan economic relations is the signing of a \$1 billion agreement for the exploration and extraction of natural gas from Faryab's Toti Maidan gas field. The project is currently in the exploration phase, with significant progress already made.