



Afghanistan's Economic Development

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Each week, significant economic activities and developments occur across various sectors in Afghanistan. The Afghanistan's Economic Development Newsletter covers these important and latest economic activities and advancements.



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PARTICIPATION OF MULLAH ABDUL GHANI BARADAR AKHUND IN THE INTERNATIONAL WATER CONFERENCE



Under the leadership of the Ministry of Higher Education, Kabul Polytechnic University organized the International Water Conference at the Loya Jirga Hall, where the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, delivered a speech.

In his address, Deputy PM Mullah Baradar Akhund emphasized the importance of water for human, animal, and plant life, as well as for the economic growth and development of nations. He stated that responsible water management is a fundamental obligation of an Islamic society.

According to him, professional management of water is crucial for global competition, economic growth, and safeguarding the rights of future generations, making it a national responsibility.

The Deputy PM noted that Afghanistan's modern history has seen a lack of professional water management due to various factors. Therefore, he stressed the responsibility of all stakeholders to take fundamental steps toward efficient water management using all available resources.

The Islamic Emirate has prioritized

professional water management to drive the country's economic growth and development. Efforts have been made to properly regulate water resources, especially in regions facing groundwater depletion. To address this issue, the Islamic Emirate has constructed reservoir dams in several provinces and developed numerous check dams to control floodwaters and replenish groundwater.

Water management is also crucial for electricity generation and agricultural development. The Islamic Emirate aims to increase power production through water management and has initiated major agricultural projects, such as the Qosh Tepa National Canal and the Laghman Shahi Canal, which will significantly boost agricultural productivity once completed. The International Water Conference, held on February 24, lasted three days and featured presentations by numerous local and international researchers and experts. Such conferences play a vital role in policy-making, water resource management, and sustainable water utilization. The Islamic Emirate supports and facilitates such scientific gatherings.

APPROVAL OF SEVERAL PROJECTS BY THE NATIONAL PROCUREMENT COMMISSION

The National Procurement Commission, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, approved 27 projects worth approximately 27 billion Afghanis in its recent meeting.

The session, held on February 25 at Marmarin Palace, reviewed 37 proposed projects, of which 27

were approved, 7 were amended, 1 was canceled, and 2 were postponed due to procurement challenges.

The approved and amended projects included the construction of a transportation terminal in the eastern part of Kabul and the installation of electricity pylons and expansion of the power grid from

Kabul to Kandahar.

Previously, the Islamic Emirate had approved the construction of transportation terminals in various parts of Kabul and several provinces. Terminals are crucial for economic growth and the strengthening of transport networks, as they facilitate trade and improve passenger travel. Additionally, the Kabul-to-Kandahar

power project has undergone modifications in terms of electricity pylons, substations, and line

extension to ensure effective implementation. This project aims to supply electricity from Kabul to

Kandahar, increasing power availability in Kandahar's industrial and commercial sectors.

Kandahar is a key commercial and industrial hub in Afghanistan, and providing adequate electricity is essential for sustaining industrial activities. Electricity is a vital component of economic growth, and the Islamic Emirate is actively working to utilize domestic energy resources. Several hydroelectric and solar power projects are under development to increase national electricity production.



REACTIVATION OF BAGHLAN SUGAR FACTORY



After being non-operational for years, the Baghlan Sugar Factory has been reactivated through the efforts of the Islamic Emirate, resuming sugar production.

According to Baghlan officials, the factory is a national asset, and its revival will not only create employment opportunities for youth but also contribute to economic growth.

The Baghlan Sugar Factory has a production capacity of up to 800 tons of sugar per 24 hours. Currently, 60 people are directly employed, while 300 others are engaged indirectly.

The factory was originally established in 1940 and began sugar production two years later. It remained operational until the Soviet invasion, after which its

activities gradually declined and eventually ceased in 1991. During the civil war, the factory suffered significant damage, and the lack of raw materials further impacted its operations.

Currently, Afghanistan imports most of its sugar from neighboring countries, often with inferior quality. However, Baghlan Sugar Factory officials claim that their locally produced sugar surpasses the quality of imported sugar.

The Islamic Emirate is committed to national reconstruction and economic self-sufficiency. Therefore, it has prioritized the restoration and reactivation of non-operational factories.

Prior to the revival of the Baghlan Sugar Factory, the Islamic Emirate also focused on rehabilitating the Ghorī Cement Factory in Baghlan, successfully increasing its production capacity.