



# Afghanistan's Economic Development

**Issue No. 15 (1404 SH)**  
Consecutive Issue No. 29

**(Newsletter)**

**Date: 16/7/2025**

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.



## In this issue:

1. The Herat–Torghundi Railway Project: A New Prospect for Expanding Transit and Trade
2. Technical Assessments Completed for the Balkh–Herat and Herat–Kandahar Railway Projects
3. Internal Connectivity Efforts in Badakhshan: Construction Work Begins on a 120-Kilometer Road

## THE HERAT–TORGHUNDI RAILWAY PROJECT: A NEW PROSPECT FOR EXPANDING TRANSIT AND TRADE

On July 10, 2025, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, met with Kazakhstan's Deputy PM and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Murat Nurtileu, at the Arg.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed cooperation in trade, transit, railways, banking, and other economic sectors. The Deputy PM stated that the Islamic Emirate is working to enhance cooperation with Kazakhstan in areas that contribute to Afghanistan's prosperity and development.

Kazakhstan's Deputy PM and Foreign

Minister, Murat Nurtileu, noted that opportunities for close and joint cooperation between both sides have been established. He further stated that Kazakhstan is ready to invest \$500 million in the Herat–Torgundi railway project.

During the meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed regarding Kazakhstan's \$500 million investment in the Herat–Torgundi railway project.

This project is a vital initiative for Afghanistan that will enable effective utilization of the country's transit potential. It will connect Afghanistan

by rail to Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Iran, thereby expanding trade among these countries.

The railway will also provide a cost-effective and efficient route for Afghanistan's exports to Kazakhstan, other Central Asian countries, China, Russia, and European markets. In turn, Afghanistan will be able to import goods from these countries at lower costs and with shorter delivery times.

The project is considered strategically significant for regional economic connectivity and is expected to play a crucial role in Afghanistan's economic growth by increasing national revenue, generating employment opportunities, and strengthening regional integration.





## TECHNICAL ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED FOR THE BALKH–HERAT AND HERAT–KANDAHAR RAILWAY PROJECTS

Officials of the Islamic Emirate have stated that the technical studies for the Balkh–Herat and Herat–Kandahar railway projects have been completed.

These surveys and assessments were

conducted by the Ministry of Public Works. Following this stage, efforts will focus on designing the project, attracting investment, and initiating practical implementation.

The total length of this railway project



is 1,468 kilometers and will pass through nine provinces of Afghanistan.

The objective of the project is to connect Afghanistan with Central Asia, South Asia, and European countries. It will also link Afghanistan to seaports in Iran and Pakistan.

In addition, once the project is completed, it will provide the shortest transit route between Moscow and New Delhi through Afghanistan. This project is highly significant for Afghanistan's economic integration with regional and global markets. It is expected to bring substantial economic growth, increase the volume of exports and imports, and create employment opportunities, thereby contributing to national economic development. With the implementation of railway projects, Afghanistan is expected to play a central role as a regional trade hub.

## INTERNAL CONNECTIVITY EFFORTS IN BADAKHSHAN: CONSTRUCTION WORK BEGINS ON A 120-KILOMETER ROAD

Officials of the Islamic Emirate have announced the official commencement of construction work on a 120-kilometer road in Sakht Gozar of the Great Pamir region in Badakhshan.

The road, which stretches from Gazkhan to the Pamir Clinic with a width of six meters, is being constructed under the supervision of the Extraordinary Engineering Brigade of the Ministry of National Defense. The graveling phase of the

road is expected to be completed within four months.

Upon completion, the road will provide transportation access to dozens of local families and facilitate easier connection between the region and other areas of Badakhshan. It will also link Badakhshan to neighboring provinces.

Moreover, residents will gain improved access to healthcare, education, and telecommunication

services.

Badakhshan has not been a well-developed province in terms of transportation, and historically, it has not received sufficient attention in development planning. The Islamic Emirate is committed to national economic development and aims to expand transportation networks across the country.

With the expansion of these networks, Badakhshan's commercial ties will strengthen, job opportunities will increase, and residents will be relieved from numerous challenges.