



# 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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## ARRIVAL OF THE DEPUTY PM OF TURKMENISTAN IN HERAT



The Deputy PM and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Rashid Meredov, arrived in Herat at the head of a high-level delegation and met with the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, and the Minister of Mines and Petroleum, Mullah Hedayatullah Badri. During the meeting, discussions were held on the expansion of economic cooperation between the two sides, as well as on the TAPI (Turkmenistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan–India) gas pipeline project, railway projects, and other related initiatives.

In his remarks, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund stated that the TAPI project has provided a foundation for strengthening relations among Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, and the countries of the region.

According to him, Delta International Company of Saudi Arabia has expressed interest in investing in this project and intends to cooperate in extending it as far as India.

Rashid Meredov welcomed the investment of Delta International Company in the TAPI project and said that by the end of the current year, the construction works of the TAPI project will reach the center of Herat.

Through the TAPI project, gas from Turkmenistan will be transmitted to Afghanistan and, through Afghanistan, to Pakistan and then to India. This project is a major regional connectivity initiative whose works had been completed in Turkmenistan, but had not started in Afghanistan due to the presence of foreign occupation.

With the return of the Islamic Emirate to power, the occupation ended in the

country and nationwide security was established, paving the way for foreign investment and major regional connectivity projects. TAPI is one of those important projects that the Islamic Emirate decided to initiate, and its implementation in Afghanistan began last year with strong determination.

As a result of this project, many households will be supplied with energy, industrial parks will receive power, and employment opportunities will be created for numerous citizens. Moreover, the project will generate significant annual revenues for the treasury of the Islamic Emirate.

The Islamic Emirate is serious about completing this project, and government officials regularly inspect its progress. So far, land stretching approximately 100 kilometers has been prepared for laying the pipeline, and the pipeline installation work is progressing rapidly.

The initiation of this project demonstrates that stability in Afghanistan is crucial for regional connectivity, and without Afghanistan's cooperation, the completion of regional connectivity will face serious challenges. Regional connectivity projects contribute not only to Afghanistan's prosperity but also to the overall economic development of the entire region.

## INCREASE IN EXPORTS VIA SHER KHAN PORT

Exports through Sher Khan Port in Kunduz Province have increased by 60 percent. According to officials, more than 50 vehicles pass through this port daily.

Officials stated that Afghan fruits, vegetables, and other goods are

exported through Sher Khan Port to Russia, China, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan.

Approximately three months ago, when overland trade between Afghanistan and Pakistan was suspended, Afghanistan expanded its

trade through alternative routes and increased facilities for Afghan traders via Central Asia and Iran. As a result, the products of Afghan farmers and industrialists are now reaching other countries in a timely manner without obstacles or difficulties.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has made the reopening of routes with Pakistan conditional and has

demanded strong guarantees that these routes will not be closed in the future for political reasons, and that trade and politics should remain separate. However, Pakistan is not prepared to provide such guarantees. In addition to Russia, China, India, Iran, and the countries of Central Asia, the Islamic Emirate has expanded its trade relations with many countries around the world, freeing Afghanistan from dependence on a single country. Afghan commercial goods are now transited to other countries through routes other than Pakistan, and increased facilities have been

provided to traders at ports. These developments have contributed to the growth of exports, which has had a

positive impact on the country's economic growth.



**EFFORTS TO INCREASE DIRECT FLIGHTS WITH RUSSIA**

The Ambassador of Afghanistan to Russia, Mawlawi Gul Hassan Hassan, stated that the number of direct flights between Afghanistan and Russia will increase. According to him, in the near future, a private company named Kam Air will also begin direct flights to

Moscow. The expansion of relations between Afghanistan and a major political and economic power such as Russia is positive news for the country's economic growth. This indicates that Afghanistan's formal and informal relations with many

countries around the world are continuing to expand.

Although Afghanistan already maintains close diplomatic relations with Russia, the increase in direct flights will further expand people-to-people exchanges between the two countries, leading to stronger trade relations and an increase in the country's exports.

