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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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\$500 MILLION TRADE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has announced that significant cooperation agreements worth over \$500 million have been signed between the private sectors of Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. These

agreements were concluded during a trade connectivity conference attended by traders, investors, and officials from both countries, and are considered a key step toward strengthening regional economic integration.

Minister of Industry and Commerce,

Nooruddin Azizi, described such trade conferences as an important mechanism for increasing the volume of trade between countries.

The implementation of these agreements is expected to facilitate export growth, expand employment opportunities, and strengthen the private sector. These agreements will significantly increase bilateral trade and gradually shift Afghanistan from a consumption-based market toward production and export orientation. Furthermore, enhanced regional connectivity will position Afghanistan as a key hub in Central and South Asian trade corridors.

Overall, this development is regarded as the beginning of a new chapter in economic cooperation for Afghanistan and is expected to have a positive impact on the country's economic stability and growth in the short term.



24-HOUR OPERATIONS AT HAIRATAN PORT: A MAJOR STEP TOWARD EXPANDING ECONOMIC COOPERATION

The Ministry of Public Works has announced that an agreement has been reached with the Uzbek side to

operate Hairatan Port services 24 hours a day, a move considered a significant transformation for

Afghanistan's economy. The agreement was reached during a meeting between railway officials of Afghanistan and Uzbekistan.

According to officials, round-the-clock operations at the port will enhance the speed of goods transportation, improve access to laboratory services, and reduce traders' costs. Most notably, the number of transit wagons will increase from 130 to 500, and potentially up to 700 wagons.

Hairatan Port serves as a key gateway connecting Afghanistan to Central Asia, and its 24-hour operation will directly impact import and export flows. Continuous operations will reduce cargo delays, lower trade



costs, and further enhance Afghanistan's value as a transit hub. Rail transport is more cost-effective, secure, and faster compared to road

transport. Therefore, this initiative is expected to boost traders' confidence and increase the volume of regional trade. It will also strengthen

Afghanistan's role as a transit corridor between Central and South Asia.

NEW GAS WELLS IN YATIM TAQ, JOWZJAN: PROMISING DEVELOPMENT FOR THE ENERGY SECTOR

The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum has announced the commencement of drilling new gas wells in the Yatim Taq area of Jowzjan Province. This project is considered an important step toward strengthening Afghanistan's energy sector.

The Director General of Hydrocarbons stated that drilling of the second well is currently underway, and additional wells will soon be initiated. According to available information, upon

completion of the new wells, daily gas extraction is expected to reach approximately 1.25 million cubic meters.

This development has the potential to increase domestic energy production and reduce reliance on imported energy. Increased gas production will serve as a key source for electricity generation, industrial operations, and household energy supply.

Expansion of the energy sector forms

the foundation of industrial growth. Increased gas output will reduce industrial costs, attract investment, and create new employment opportunities.

Moreover, higher natural gas production could prepare Afghanistan for future energy exports. This project is expected to have long-term positive impacts on national economic growth.

Overall, the Yatim Taq project is considered a significant step toward the effective utilization of Afghanistan's natural resources and achieving economic self-sufficiency.

