



## Afghanistan

### *Afghanistan, Kazakhstan Agree To Boost Trade Ties*



In a meeting with the chief executive Abdullah Abdullah, Kazakhstan investors vowed to increase their investment in Afghanistan. Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah in his official visit to Kazakhstan met with Kazakh officials and investors where they agreed on the expansion of trade and transit relations between the two countries.....[full story](#)

### *DABS To Launch Solar Power Project In Kabul*



Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS) has designed a project which will help government institutions and Kabul residents to use solar power instead of the imported electricity. The DABS officials said the company would help customers to install the equipment on their house or offices. The plan is a mid-term solution for electricity shortage in Kabul, he said. Head of the company, Amanullah Ghalib, said ...[full story](#)



## Azerbaijan

### *Azerbaijani products to be presented at Worldfood Moscow*

Azerbaijani products will be exhibited at the Worldfood Moscow International Food and Drinks Exhibition scheduled for September 11-14. More than 30 national companies will display their products at the country's booth, Azertac reported. During the event, visitors will also be informed of the country's culture, cuisine, tourism, business and investment opportunities. In late 2016, with a view to bring the economy to a new level Azerbaijan started promoting ...[full story](#)



### *Gross agricultural output jumps*

The gross value of agriculture output in Azerbaijan amounted to 3.68 billion manats (\$2.16 billion) at actual prices this January-July, according to the State Statistics Committee. Of the total volume, some 1.94 billion manats accounted for livestock and 1.74 billion manats (\$1.02 billion) for plant products. If to compare with the results of 2016 then the gross output of agriculture increased by 1.2 percent, including livestock - by 3 percent, while plant products decreased by 0.8 percent..... [full story](#)





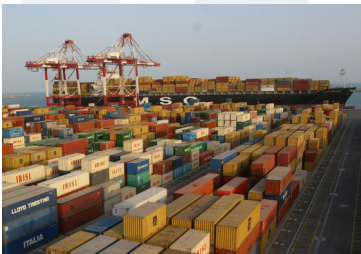
## Iran

### *GDP growth top priority of Industry Ministry*



Increasing the country's gross domestic product (GDP) is going to be the new industry ministry's top priority, President Rouhani's ministerial nominee for industry, mining and trade Mohammad Shariatmadari announced on Saturday. Defending his future plans in an open session of Iranian parliament (Majlis), Shariatmadari noted: "GDP defines the country's share in global economy and our top priority will be increasing this stake." The official went on saying, "According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s latest report following Turkey and Saudi ...[full story](#)

### *Comprehensive performance management system launched at Iran's ports*



Comprehensive performance management system (CPMS) was launched at the Iranian ports, IRIB news reported on Saturday. Addressing a ceremony to launch this system at the place of Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) in Tehran, Nouredin Aliabadi, the deputy head of PMO for engineering and infrastructure development, mentioned clarification and also electronic administration to delete paper processes as some features of this system. He said this system has been prepared and established in line with the country's Sixth Five-Year National ....[full story](#)



## Kazakhstan

### *Kazakhstan willing to expand military partnership with Uzbekistan*

Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev today received Defense Minister of Kazakhstan Saken Zhasuzakov, who is on a visit in Tashkent, says a message posted on the president's website. During the meeting, the sides mulled the effective interaction between the Uzbek and Kazakh defense ministries, including industrial cooperation and training of military personnel. They also commended the rapidly developing cooperation between the two countries. At the meeting, Zhasuzakov conveyed the greetings and best wishes of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev ...[full story](#)



### *Globalink Kazakhstan: from humble beginnings to infinite opportunities*

Soon after the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, the entire Central Asian region became uncharted territory. Many young, ambitious entrepreneurs faced the challenge of exhausted markets in the then-volatile area, while investors were particularly sceptical about starting new ventures. One man with his own vision, however, dared to found a transportation and logistics company that later turned into one of the largest in Eurasia. The Astana Times sat recently with Siddique Khan, one of the earliest industry investors in Kazakhstan, in the hope of understanding the .....[full story](#)







## Kyrgyzstan

### *Atambayev meets with Uzbekistan Prime Minister Aripov*



President Atambayev met with Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Abdulla Aripov who arrived in Kyrgyzstan for working visit. During the meeting, where Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Sooronbai Zheenbekov also took part, the actual issues of cooperation between the two countries in different spheres were discussed, the Kyrgyz Government's press service reported. Atambayev noted a great contribution of Uzbekistan's President Shavhad Mirziyoyev to the Kyrgyz-Uzbek cooperation and expressed confidence that the Uzbek Prime Minister's visit will give a new impulse...[full story](#)

### *Russian, Kyrgyz leaders hold telephone conversation*



Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Kyrgyz counterpart Almazbek Atambayev held a telephone conversation Aug. 14, according to the information published on the Russian President's official website. The topical issues of bilateral cooperation were discussed in the context of implementing the agreements reached during the state visit of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic to Russia, June 19-24....[full story](#)



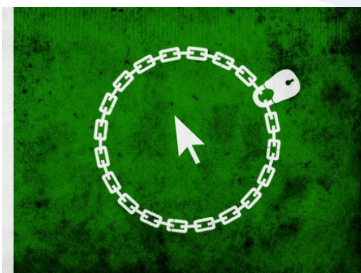
## Pakistan

### *Food security experts shift focus to biotechnology*



There is a dire need for increasing the agricultural yield to feed an increasing global population, food security experts emphasised on Saturday, highlighting biotechnology and its sub-fields as the key to increasing the productivity per acre. Remedies derived from biotechnology could allow crop adaptation to biotic and abiotic stresses arising due to massive climate change at the global level, they said, adding technologies like genetic engineering could transform agricultural practices massively to make the sector more productive.... [full story](#)

### *Cybercrime: 64,000 social media users reported to FIA*



In its drive against 'cyber criminals', especially those on social media, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has sought action against 64,000 Facebook and Twitter accounts on receiving complaints from state institutions and the general public. "There are three major areas where the FIA has found social media being widely misused which are blasphemy, anti-state activities and terrorism," said a senior FIA official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.... [full story](#)



## Tajikistan

### *Committee on Tourism Development to set new travel routes with attracting heads of tourism companies*



On August 12-13, a familiarization tour of heads of tourism companies and journalists to touristic sites of Khatlon areas, including Khovaling and Baljuvon districts took place at the initiative of the Committee on Tourism Development under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. As NIAT "Khovaling" correspondent reports, this group visited historical and touristic places of Khovaling and Baljuvon districts – mausoleum of Hazrati Sulton Uvaysi Qarani, waterfall of Sari Khosor, mausoleum of Langari Shoh of Bulguri Valley, mausoleum of Shoh Nematulloi ...[full story](#)

### *Tajik – Chinese businessmen to hold forum in Dushanbe*



On August 21, a forum of business circles of Tajikistan and Hainan Province of the People's Republic of China will take place in Hotel Sheraton in Dushanbe. According to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Tajikistan, the forum will be attended by the managers and representatives of the 25 most influential companies of Hainan, operating in the fields of industry, agriculture and tourism.....[full story](#)



## Turkey

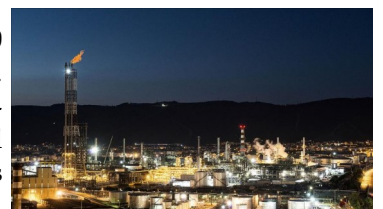
### *Turkey celebrates World Humanitarian Day*

Turkey is the leading country in providing humanitarian assistance to the needy people across the world, Deputy Prime Minister Recep Akdag said on Saturday. Speaking at a photo exhibition on World Humanitarian Day, Akdag said Turkey was fulfilling its duty to support the needy by using all possible means of resources and would continue to do its best. The exhibition titled "Those Sheltering in Our Heart" (sic) was organized by Turkey's Directorate General of Press and Information (DGPI) and the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) at the Press Culture and Arts Center in the capital Ankara. ...[full story](#)



### *Turkey ranks second in world's top contracting firms*

Turkey increased its contracting companies to 46 and ranked second among the top 250 global contractors in 2016, the Turkish Contractors Association (TMB) said on Friday. Turkey had 40 international contracting companies in 2015, according to a list in the Engineering News Record (ENR) publication, the statement said. ENR's Top 250 Global Contractors list is prepared based on the income of companies gained through overseas activities....[full story](#)







## Turkmenistan

### *Turkmenistan stands for sustainable, equitable access to energy resources*

One of the main directions of Turkmenistan's foreign policy strategy is cooperation in the energy sector, ensuring sustainable and equitable access to energy resources, the Turkmen Döwlet Habarlary state news agency reported, Aug. 16. The report is dedicated to the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly, to be held soon in New York. Turkmenistan will strictly and unswervingly implement the provisions of relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly aimed at ensuring reliable and stable energy supply, and, to this end, the country reaffirms its readiness ... [full story](#)



### *Turkmenistan intensifies maritime infrastructure development*

Construction of a new international sea port is underway in the Caspian city of Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan State News Agency reported Aug. 14. "The project aimed at the development of port infrastructure envisages construction of car and passenger terminals, as well as container, loading, polypropylene terminals and other facilities developed in accordance with the environmental safety requirements of GreenPort international standard" said the report. Once the sea port is commissioned, there will emerge great opportunities for sending cargoes arriving to Turkmenbashi ... [full story](#)



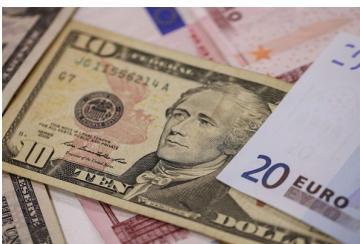
## Uzbekistan

### *Uzbekistan to direct 2.12 trln. soums to construction of houses in rural areas in 2017*



In 2017, Uzbekistan will direct 2.12 trillion soums to finance a programme for construction of affordable houses on new standard projects in rural areas in 2017-2018. In October 2016, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev approved a program for construction of affordable houses on updated standard projects in rural areas in 2017-2021. According to Qishloq Qurilish Bank, 2 trillion and 121.5 billion soums will be allocated to the program in 2017 alone. It is expected that 478.9 billion soums will be issued due to developer companies and 1.642.6 trillion soums ... [full story](#)

### *State Fund for Support of Business Development created in Uzbekistan*



The State Fund for Support of Business Development under the Cabinet of Ministers is being created in Uzbekistan. Today President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev signed a resolution "On establishment of the State Fund for Support of Business Development". The state fund is created in the form of a state institution. The Fund will provide resources to commercial banks, including through attracted foreign credit lines, for subsequent lending to small businesses. ... [full story](#)