



## Afghanistan

### *EU Approves 100m Euros Aid Package For Afghanistan*



The European Union (EU) on Monday approved a €100 million package to support Afghanistan in bringing reforms to improve its development policies, maintain macroeconomic stability, advance public financial management and strengthen state budget transparency. Afghan Minister of Finance Ekill Hakimi spoke on the occasion and said the financial assistance will be allocated on a number of specific fields .....[full story](#)

### *7th Afghan Youth Voices Festival Held in Kabul*



Youths from five provinces came together on Thursday for the 7th Afghan Youth Voices Festival in Kabul. The festival aims to promote peace and end violence in the country. "We came together to find out what progress youths have made and what their gains are; and to focus on the cultural aspects of our programs; this also indicates unity...[full story](#)



## Azerbaijan

### *Azerbaijan, Turkey to launch new money transfer system*

Turkey, a brother nation and strategic ally of Azerbaijan, is creating a new system of money transfers, which will be launched for the first time to carry out transfers with Azerbaijan. The Turkish side is directly involved in the development of the money transfer system, while Azerbaijan provides advisory services and gives its recommendations, a source in the Azerbaijani postal communication market told Trend. "Currently, various money transfer systems are used between the two countries. The very project stipulates creation of a fundamentally ...[full story](#)



### *CIS, European bankers to convene in Baku*

A meeting of the International Coordination Council of Banking Associations of the CIS, Central and Eastern Europe will be held in Baku on October 26. Bankers of the CIS states, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and other countries plan to exchange experience in the field of the activities of the Institute of Banking Ombudsman, as well as discuss other pressing issues of the financial sphere, Trend reported. Earlier, the Association of Banks of Azerbaijan (ABA) reported that the Institute of Banking Ombudsman will start functioning ... [full story](#)





## Iran

### *Numerous development projects to be inaugurated in 'Government Week'*



On the occasion of the Government Week (August 24-30), several development projects in different sectors including road, rail and electricity are set to go operational across Iran. According to IRNA, 75 road construction projects valued at 8.057 trillion rials (about \$212 million) are among the projects scheduled by the Ministry of Transportation and Urban Development to be inaugurated across the country in the mentioned week. With a total length of 711 kilometers, the mentioned projects include 44 highway construction plans, 26 main road construction and maintenance projects as well as removing five accident-prone spots. ...[full story](#)

### *Iran's steel targeting Arab markets amid EU anti-dumping move*



Mobarakeh Steel Company, the largest steel producer in Iran, is shifting its export target to regional Arab countries as Europe has made the country subject to anti-dumping duties. The European Steel Association (EUROFER) wrote on its website on July 20 that the European Commission has released details of its proposed anti-dumping measures on Hot Rolled Flat (HRF) steel and named Brazil, Iran, Russia, Serbia, and Ukraine as the five countries included in this anti-dumping case. During the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22).... [full story](#)



## Kazakhstan

### *Kazakhstan to switch to electronic customs declaration*

Kazakhstan will completely switch to electronic customs declaration, according to the draft code "On Customs Regulation in Kazakhstan" presented at the Aug. 22 government meeting, reported inform.kz. "Speaking of new things [in the code], one of the main [things] is the fundamentally new approach to customs regulation, which is about the automation of business processes at customs. Priority of electronic declaration is to be introduced. There is no need to attach any supporting documents. , ...[full story](#)



### *Kazakh National Bank cuts base rate to 10.25 percent*

The National Bank of Kazakhstan has reduced the base rate to 10.25 percent with a corridor of +/-1 percent, according to an Aug. 21 press release. "The annual inflation rate continues to decelerate and remains within the target range; its deceleration trajectory matches the forecasted estimates of the National Bank. Easing monetary policy conditions is stipulated by the stable level of the inflationary expectations, stabilisation of the situation on the commodity markets and also by the forecasts of the further deceleration of the inflation level in the medium term," ...[full story](#)





## Kyrgyzstan

### *Kyrgyzstan's new prime minister appointed*



President Almazbek Atambayev signed a decree on Aug. 26 appointing Sapar Isakov as prime minister by dismissing him from the post of chief of the President's Office, the President's press service reported. On Aug. 25 evening, the Kyrgyz Parliament at an extraordinary session approved Sapar Isakov for the post of prime minister, as well as the program and the Cabinet members....[full story](#)

### *Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan to hold friendly football matches*



National teams of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan will hold a match today. The match will begin at 21:00 of Bishkek time. The match will be held in the "closed" mode without viewers and without broadcasting. This game classified as controlling, to check conditions of the national team players. The match results are not recorded in the FIFA ranking.....[full story](#)



## Pakistan

### *SBP launches financing scheme for women-run small businesses*

State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Governor Tariq Bajwa on Friday launched a financing scheme for small businesses run by women entrepreneurs with no refinancing cost and wide risk coverage. The Refinance and Credit Guarantee Scheme for Women Entrepreneurs in Underserved Areas was launched in Quetta as one-fifth of the funds earmarked for the programme would be spent in Balochistan. [full story](#)



### *Over 100 locomotives added to Pakistan Railways*

Pakistan Railways has added 113 locomotives to its fleet after their complete overhauling since 2013, which is ensuring smooth and efficient operations of passengers and freight services. "Dedicated efforts of Pakistan Railways management and increased spending on the repair and maintenance have ensured availability of operational locomotives from 180 in May, 2013 to 293 at present," official sources told the local media.

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## Tajikistan

### *Tajik-German regular Intergovernmental Meeting on Financial and Technical Cooperation will be held in November*



Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Tajikistan in Germany Maliksho Nematov met on August 22 with the head of the Representative Office of the German Development Bank in Tajikistan Christine Laabs in Berlin. According to the Embassy of Tajikistan in Germany, the issue of the regular Intergovernmental Meeting on Financial and Technical Cooperation, which is planned for November, was discussed....[full story](#)

### *Residents of Tajikistan celebrate Idi Qurbon on September 1*



The residents of Tajikistan will celebrate the traditional Muslim holiday - Idi Qurbon (sacrifice festival - Eid al-Adha or Kurban Bayram) like most other Muslim countries of the world on September 1. According to the head of the Council of Ulema of Tajikistan Saidmukarram Abduqodirzoda, Idi Qurbon will traditionally begin with a holiday prayer at 6:30 a.m. local time, which will be held in all the mosques of Tajikistan. After prayer, the Muslims will visit the graves of their relatives, as well as will go to visit relatives and friends.....[full story](#)



## Turkey

### *Turkish housing sales jump in July*

The number of residential properties sold in Turkey advanced by 42.3 percent year-on-year in July, according to Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) data revealed on Thursday. The data showed that a total of 115,869 houses changed hands in the month, up by 19 percent compared with a month earlier. Commenting on the July figures, Melih Tavukcuoglu, head of the Istanbul Anatolian-side Contractors' Association, said that the rise in housing sales reflected the trust in the sector as well as the positive effects of real estate campaigns....[full story](#)



### *Turkey to strengthen trade ties with Asia: PM Yildirim*

Turkey would deepen its trade ties with Asian countries including Vietnam, Turkey's Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said on Thursday. "Our country will maintain its strategy to increase its trade and economic effectiveness in the Far East, mainly in Asian market," the Turkish premier stated during his speech at Vietnam-Turkey Business Forum in Hanoi. Yildirim noted that ratification process of the agreement on reciprocal promotion and protection of investments, as well as prevention of double taxation, signed in 2014 with Vietnam, was finalized.....[full story](#)





## Turkmenistan

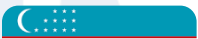
### *Two facilities of Ashgabat's Olympic village get into Guinness World Records*

Two facilities of the Olympic village in Ashgabat have been included in the Guinness World Records, as confirmed by the relevant certificates. The certificates acknowledge that the horse image decorating the stands of the Olympic Stadium is the world's largest architectural image of the horse. At the same time, the Water Sports Center of the Olympic village has been recognized as the world's largest indoor swimming pool.... [full story](#)



### *Turkmenistan, UAE discuss issues of bilateral partnership*

The regular session of bilateral political consultations between Turkmenistan and the United Arab Emirates has been held in Abu Dhabi, according to the information published on the website of Turkmenistan's Foreign Ministry. The delegations of both countries were headed by the countries' deputy foreign ministers. Priority areas of the bilateral partnership topped the agenda of the talks. During the meeting, the sides analyzed the implementation of interstate agreements. The UAE side has reaffirmed its commitment to further expand relations with...[full story](#)



## Uzbekistan

### *Uzbekistan to begin to build energy-efficient houses in rural areas*



On 25 August, a project "Market Transformation for Sustainable Rural Housing" was officially launched in Uzbekistan. The project will be implemented by the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Architecture and Construction, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Uzbekistan on the basis of grant of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). ...[full story](#)

### *Uzbekistan to build pulp and paper mill*



Eco Paper Industry LLC will implement an investment project "Creation of a pulp and paper mill" for production of pulp and paper products in 2017-2019. The capacity of the mill is 16,500 tonnes of products a year. The estimated cost of the project is US\$10.3 million. The project will be financed due to funds of the project initiator worth US\$3.1 million and a loan from the National Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan - US\$7.2 million. The enterprise will process perennial (poplar and others) and annual (stalks of cotton, Jerusalem artichoke, rice and straw) vegetable local raw materials and produce demanded products with high added value. ...[full story](#)