



Afghanistan

Saffron Production Makes Dramatic Increase In Herat



The cultivation and production of saffron have made a considerable rise this year in Herat province, in west of Afghanistan, local officials said, adding that they expect eight tons of processed saffron from farmers this year. The provincial Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock director Abdul Saboor Rahmani told TOLONews that Herat farmers said they have cultivated saffron in 3,000 hectares of land in the province. He said saffron trade has provided job opportunity to at least 18,000 ...[full story](#)

Ministry Shares List Of Over 1,000 Mining Contracts



The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum has shared a list of 1,050 contracts of small mining projects on its website, saying that it is the beginning of its efforts to bring reforms and make public aware about improvements in the key government institution. However, according to the list, a considerable number of the projects are in insecure parts of the ...[full story](#)



Azerbaijan

North-South corridor transportation tariffs may decrease

The tariffs for transportation of freight through the International North-South Transport Corridor may drop after the completion of a railway segment connecting two Iranian and Azerbaijani border cities, Hossein Ashouri, the head of international transportation department at the Railways of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said. "The transportation tariffs may drop after the inauguration of Astara (Iran) - Astara (Azerbaijan) railroad within the coming months," he told Trend[full story](#)



Businessmen in Azerbaijan get preferential loans to build greenhouses

Azerbaijan's National Fund for Entrepreneurship Support has provided businessmen in Baku and surrounding settlements with preferential loans worth 188 million manats for construction of 58 modern greenhouses so far, the Azerbaijani Ministry of Economy said in a statement on November 8. Azerbaijan's National Fund for Entrepreneurship Support held a business forum in Azerbaijan's Aghsu district Nov. 8, and about 90 entrepreneurs of the district took part in the forum....[full story](#)





Iran

Bright future for Iran-EU economic co-op



Phil Hogan, European Union commissioner for agriculture and rural development, has predicted a bright future for economic cooperation between Iran and the European Union, particularly in food and agriculture sectors. "We seek to tighten bilateral ties between Iran and the EU which secures interests of both sides," he said. Hogan, leading a 70-member delegation from 40 European companies to Tehran, made the remarks addressing the Iran-EU Agri-Food Business Forum at the place of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) on Saturday. "Some 40 European companies from ...[full story](#)

Tehran intl. home appliance expo to host 430 companies



The 17th International Exhibition of Household Appliances is due to be held from 23 to 26 November at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds, IRIB reported. Some 294 Iranian and 136 foreign companies from 20 countries including China, Turkey, Georgia, Italy, Germany, South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Poland, Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Spain, France and Switzerland will be participating in this year's event....[full story](#)



Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan, Pakistan sign military plan of action

Representatives of the Kazakh Ministry of Defense and the military force of Pakistan signed a joint plan of action for 2018 during a meeting of the Kazakh-Pakistani Joint Military Commission, held in Astana, the press service of Kazakhstan's Defense Ministry said Nov. 11. The delegation of Pakistan was led by Lieutenant-General Malik Zafar Iqbal, Chief of the Headquarters of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces of Pakistan.....[full story](#)



EBRD predicts Kazakh economy to grow 3.8 percent in 2017

A recently released European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) report forecasts Kazakhstan's economy will grow 3.8 percent this year and 3.5 percent in 2018. In a Nov. 7 report, the bank attributes the growth to increased oil production at the Kashagan field, current oil prices and a recovery in real incomes growth. "The broad-based recovery is a very welcome development. It also creates a window of opportunity to carry out reforms that will ensure the sustainability of the stronger growth rates over the longer term," said EBRD's Chief Economist Sergei Guriev.....[full story](#)





Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyz and Kazakh FMs recognize need for early resolution of trade and economic issues



Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Erlan Abdyldaev and Kazakhstan Kairat Abdrakhmanov met in the Uzbek city of Samarkand, on Nov. 9. The sides discussed aspects of regional and bilateral cooperation, problematic issues of integration within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union, the website of the Kazakh Foreign Ministry said. The ministers stressed the mutual interest in strengthening bilateral Kyrgyz-Kazakh relations and the need to resolve the accumulated trade and economic[full story](#)

EFSD to allocate funds for realization of medical project in Kyrgyzstan



Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development (EFSD) will allocate \$2 million grant for the implementation of "Health Caravan" social project in Kyrgyzstan. The fund annually provides 10 percent of its net profit to different social projects of the member states of the fund and the amount of the grant does not depend on the level of the country's income, 24.kg reported. Kyrgyzstan will support the organization of targeted preventive medical check up of the population in the mountainous and inaccessible areas of the country using mobile medical complexes due to the grant of the EFSD.....[full story](#)



Pakistan

IT ministry looks to promote exports

The Ministry of Information Technology and its departments are looking to provide an enabling environment for the industry and help boost exports of the country. According to official data, it was revealed that Pakistan's IT exports have almost doubled in the last four years. The department working under the IT and telecom ministry, the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), has selected 30 professionals and 28 companies and given certifications in Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) platform..... [full story](#)



Technology festival kicks off in Lahore

Pakistan's first technology centred festival, The Mix, kicked off on Saturday to promote experience-based learning and give a platform to change-makers using technology. The two day festival has been chiefly organised by Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) and Information and Culture Department Punjab. The event focused on engaging the public through advancement and excitement of technology..... [full story](#)





Tajikistan

Tajikistan and EU discussed bilateral and multilateral cooperation in Samarkand



The issues of bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the Republic of Tajikistan and the European Union were discussed in Samarkand at the meeting of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Sirodjidin Aslov with the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimitsa. NIAT "Khovar" has been reported by the Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan.....[full story](#)

Meeting of the Leader of the Nation Emomali Rahmon with the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mohammad Javad Zarif



At the Qasri Millat Palace, the Founder of Peace and National Unity – Leader of the Nation, President of the Republic of Tajikistan His Excellency Emomali Rahmon received Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, who is in Dushanbe on a working visit. The talks covered, in particular, the current bilateral cooperation matters between Tajikistan and Iran. The two sides discussed prospects for expanding trade, economic and investment, energy, transportation, agriculture and industry ties. The implementation of bilateral agreements was also addressed.

...[full story](#)



Turkey

Qatar Red Crescent praises cooperation with Turkey

Chairman of Qatar Red Crescent Society Mohammed Al-Maadheed has praised the cooperation with the Turkish Red Crescent. In a recent interview with Anadolu Agency on the sidelines of a summit of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) General Assembly in the southern Mediterranean resort city of Antalya, Mohammed Al-Maadheed said that there was a "very strong cooperations" with the Turkish Red Crescent.....[full story](#)



Turkish businesses eye purchase of Swiss chocolate

Turkish entrepreneurs hope to increase their presence in European markets by buying up existing brands, a leading business figure said Friday. Murat Bayizit, who heads the food and agriculture committee of the Independent Industrialist and Businessmen Association, said association members were considering the purchase of a Swiss chocolate brand. "We thought that we, as Turkish brands, would enter into the international market by developing this brand further," he said. "And we have started working on it. Now we are working on several alternative brands."[full story](#)





Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan can exchange experience in agro-industry

Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan can exchange experience, including in the agro-industry, Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said at a government meeting, the Neutral Turkmenistan newspaper reported Nov. 11. The issue was discussed during the government's meeting at which Deputy Prime Minister Esenmyrat Orazgeldiev presented his report.....[full story](#)



Turkmen government discusses IMF report

The results of mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were discussed at a meeting of Turkmenistan's Cabinet of Ministers on Nov. 10, the Turkmen Dovlet Habarlary state news agency reported. An International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission led by Martin Sommer visited Ashgabat on November 1-8 to assess macroeconomic and financial developments and discuss economic challenges and policy priorities with senior government officials, representatives of real and financial sectors, academia, and the diplomatic community.....[full story](#)



Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan and South Korea signed memorandums and agreements



Uzbekistan and South Korea signed several documents within the framework of Uzbekistan – South Korea business forum and cooperative exchange, in Tashkent. Fund for support of exports of small businesses and private entrepreneurship under the National bank for foreign economic activity of the Republic of Uzbekistan and South Korean companies "Awesome Ltd.", "SuWan TPL Co., Ltd", "DOBE CorpInc" signed memorandums of cooperation on supply of textile products, juices, condiments and other products. ..[full story](#)

Agency for Development of Pharmaceutical Industry created in Uzbekistan



Agency for Development of Pharmaceutical Industry under the Ministry of Health is created in Uzbekistan. At the same time, the concern Uzfarmsanoat is liquidated. President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev signed a decree "On measures for cardinal improvement of pharmaceutical industry management system". In the decree, the head of state underlined a number of systemic shortcomings in pharmaceutical sector. Domestic industry enterprises are not able to meet the need of population for high-quality and competitive pharmaceutical products....[full story](#)