



Afghanistan

Five-Nation Lapis Lazuli Trade Agreement Signed



Afghanistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Georgia on Wednesday signed a major international trade and transport corridor deal that will connect Afghanistan directly to Europe. The Lapis Lazuli Corridor will begin in Afghanistan's northern Aqina port in Faryab province and Torgandi in western Herat province and will run through to Turkmenbashi in Turkmenistan. From there it will cross the Caspian Sea and will link the Azerbaijani capital Baku to Tbilisi and Georgia's...[full story](#)

TIR Membership Has Yet To Yield Results



The Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) officials said Afghanistan has not benefited from the Transport and Civil Aviation (MoTCA) agreement in the past 13 years. The ACCI officials said Afghan truck drivers are prevented from transporting goods to Transport International Route (TIR) member countries despite...[full story](#)



Azerbaijan

UN resident coordinator in Azerbaijan talks development of women's entrepreneurship

The development of entrepreneurship among women is an important catalyst for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan Ghulam Isaczai said. Isaczai made the remarks during the conference entitled "Development of Entrepreneurship among Women in Azerbaijan", held within the Global Entrepreneurship Week in Baku on November 17.....[full story](#)



Azerbaijan sees 10% surge in insurance market

Premiums collected by Azerbaijan's insurance companies totaled 462.65 million manats in January-October 2017, which is 10.16 percent more than in the same period of 2016, the country's Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FIMSA) said in a report on November 17. Payments of claims by the Azerbaijani insurance companies totaled 204.6 million manats in January-October 2017, which is 7.12 percent more than in the same period of 2016. Twenty-two insurance companies operate in Azerbaijan. (1.7002 AZN = 1 USD on November 17)....[end of story](#)





Iran

Pakistan due to finalize FTA with Iran next week



A Pakistani trade delegation is scheduled to visit Tehran on November 21 and 22 for finalizing a free trade agreement (FTA) with Iran, according to the commercial counselor of Pakistan to Tehran. Nazar Muhammad Ranjha, leading a delegation of Iranian businessmen from different sectors to visit Expo Pakistan 2017 (held from November 9 to 12 at Karachi Expo Center), made the announcement in an interview with the Tehran Times on the sidelines of the exhibit. Elaborating on the...[full story](#)

Austria calls for increasing trade volume with Iran



Austrian ambassador in Tehran expressed his country's willingness for increasing the volume of trade with Iran, the portal of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) reported on Wednesday. Stefan Scholz made the remarks in a meeting with Gholam-Hossein Shafeie, head of ICCIMA in Tehran. In the meeting, Shafeie mentioned Iran and Austria's good economic relations, saying that ICCIMA is planning on establishing a joint chamber with Austria in....[full story](#)



Kazakhstan

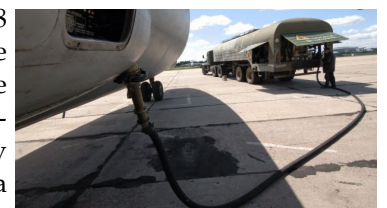
Kazakhstan, China improve tourism co-op

China opened a representative office of the State Tourism Administration in Kazakhstan within the end of the Year of China Tourism in Kazakhstan, said the Deputy Head of the Main Department of Tourism of China Du Jiang during the Closing Ceremony of the Year of China Tourism in Kazakhstan. "This is only the beginning of a great cooperation with Kazakhstan in the tourism industry," said Du Jiang, Kazakh media outlets reported.....[full story](#)



Kazakhstan to start aviation fuel production in 2018, reducing dependence on Russia

Three Kazakh oil refineries will start producing aviation fuel in the second half of 2018 and are expected to be able to fully supply the Kazakh market. "We expect that in the second half of 2018, we will fully supply domestic market with aviation fuel, and we will be able to control its cost and regulate it. I think that by July, when the Astana International Financial Centre [AIFC] will be presented, we will fully supply our country with aviation kerosene," said Kazakh Minister of Energy Kanat Bozumbayev during a Nov. 15 round table at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs...[full story](#)





Kyrgyzstan

Atambayev meets with Putin



President of Kyrgyzstan Almazbek Atambayev today met with President of Russia Vladimir Putin during his working visit to St. Petersburg of the Russian Federation. The Kyrgyz President's press service reported that Putin warmly welcomed Atambayev and called it symbolic that the first and final visit of the Kyrgyz leader took place in Russia. "I am pleased to note that during your presidency....[full story](#)

Kyrgyz delegation participates in 11th UNCTAD Conference on National Debt Management



Chairman of the Accounting Chamber of the Kyrgyz Republic Ulukbek Maripov, at the head of the Kyrgyz delegation, participates in the 11th UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), dedicated to the issues of public debt management. The conference takes place from 13 to 15 November 2017 in Geneva (Switzerland), the press service of the Accounting Chamber of the Kyrgyz Republic reported. The purpose of the event is to discuss current problems in the field of....[full story](#)



Pakistan

Pakistan can be a knowledge hub in the region: US envoy

United States Ambassador David Hale has said that governments come and go but people-to-people ties are more secure, particularly in education and business, than anything. "Governments come and go, there are ups and downs in politics. But there are people-to-people ties which are more secure than anything between the two countries; sometimes in education and sometimes in business represent very strongly," Hale said.

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Policy environment biggest hurdle in growth of start-ups: World Bank

The World Bank has advised Pakistan to ease the policy environment for the country's start-up eco-system as issues related to taxation, payments system, intellectual property and investor regulations continue to be major barriers to innovation and access to capital in this sector. The complex regulatory environment in Pakistan not only impedes entrepreneurship, but also acts as an obstacle to commerce and investment. As a result, the country does not fare very well when evaluated against 'finance' domain of start-up ecosystem, said the global watchdog in a Pakistan Development Update report..... [full story](#)

[story](#)





Tajikistan

Message of condolences of the Leader of the Nation Emomali Rahmon to the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Hassan Rouhani



The Founder of Peace and National Unity – Leader of the Nation, President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon sent a message of condolences to the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Hassan Rouhani. The message reads, in part: “Excellency, We were deeply saddened by the news of deaths and injuries of many people and a great material damage inflicted by an earthquake that hit Kermanshah Province, the western part of the Islamic Republic of Iran...[full story](#)

Germany intends to assist in the implementation of the project for the construction of “Sebzor” hydropower station in Tajikistan



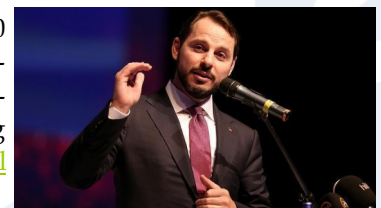
Germany intends to assist in rehabilitation and equipping of tuberculosis hospitals, construction of a children’s tubercular hospital in Machiton, the improvement of medical care for pregnant and newborns, the improvement of emergency services and medical care emergency, the construction of new schools in Khatlon region and Rasht district and the restoration of communal infrastructure. It was informed at the Tajik-German intergovernmental consultations on financial and ... [full story](#)



Turkey

Turkey's energy ministry boosts inspections in mines

Turkey's Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources stopped the activities of 1,780 mines since August 2017 as it has increased inspections of the mines with a new model, which is adopted in August, according to Ministry on Saturday. With the instructions of Minister Berat Albayrak, the first results were started to be taken in the mining inspections, according to the information from the Energy Ministry of Turkey.....[full story](#)



Turkey looks to enhance ties with D-8 economic group

It is vital for Turkey to enhance ties with the D-8 economic group and Nigeria, according to Turkish Science, Industry and Technology Minister Faruk Ozlu Friday. "Turkey and Nigeria have great potential. We should work in detail for advancing trade volume," Ozlu told Anadolu Agency in capital Abuja. The minister said bilateral trade exceeded \$820 million in the first nine months of the year. "This number is very low," he said.[full story](#)





Turkmenistan

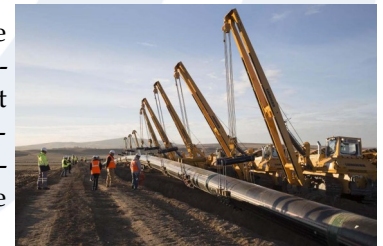
EU, Turkmenistan mull topical regional issues

Turkmenistan's Foreign Ministry hosted a meeting with the European Union Special Envoy for Afghanistan, Ambassador Roland Kobia, the Turkmen Foreign Ministry said in a message Nov. 17. The sides exchanged views on topical issues of the regional agenda, discussed the current security situation in Afghanistan and the mechanisms of regional cooperation of the Central Asian countries and Afghanistan. The parties expressed support for a peaceful settlement of the situation in Afghanistan and noted the importance of further cooperation within the EU-Central Asia dialogue on security with the participation of ...[full story](#)



ADB eyes instruments to finance TAPI project

The Asian Development Bank's (ADB) announced that it will continue to support the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) natural gas pipeline project. In a 5-year Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for Turkmenistan, the Bank revealed that ADB will continue to support the project, including the possibility of providing financial advice, financing shareholder equity in TAPI pipeline company, and non-sovereign loans, and credit enhancement. "ADB will support transport infrastructure investments to improve market access and...[full story](#)



Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan and Pakistan discuss opportunities to increase the volume of mutual trade



A delegation of Uzbekistan held negotiations with the Minister of Commerce and Textile Industry of the Islamic Republic Pakistan by Muhammad Parvayz Malik. The talks were held on the sidelines of the Sixteenth Meeting of Ministers of the SCO member states responsible for foreign economic and foreign trade activities in Moscow on 15 November 2017. During the meeting, the sides discussed the possibilities of increasing the volume of mutual trade, including by organizing the supply of a wide range of Uzbek agricultural equipment, melons and legumes...[full story](#)

Uzbekistan to launch production of Volkswagen Amarok pickups



JV MAN Auto-Uzbekistan plans to organize production of Volkswagen Amarok pickups, the company said in a statement. Uzavtosanoat and Volkswagen AG signed an agreement on organizing of production of Volkswagen Amarok pickups at the existing areas of JV MAN Auto-Uzbekistan JV. The project will implemented in 2018-2019. The document was signed during the visit of the Uzbek delegation headed by Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov to Germany. This agreement means that Volkswagen brand, which is one of the world's top three leaders ...[full story](#)