



Afghanistan

England-based Afghan Woman Eyes Investment in Afghanistan



An Afghan woman who runs a big jam factory in England wants to invest in a food factory inside Afghanistan. Tahmina Farhang, an England-based Afghan, told TOLONews she has a factory which produces jams under the brand name of Kookcha. The jams have an Afghan flavor. Tahmina said she wants to create job opportunities for dozens of women by investing in Afghanistan. "We want to invest here (In Afghanistan) to take Afghan products to world markets and create jobs for Afghan..." [full story](#)

Afghan Ports' Responsibility To Be Handed To Finance Ministry



Management and control of all entry and exit ports in the country will be transferred from the Ministry of Commerce and Industries to the Ministry of Finance within the next two months, the Afghan Ministry of Finance has announced. Currently, Afghanistan has fifteen small and large ports. Officials at the Ministry of Finance said with the transfer... [full story](#)



Azerbaijan

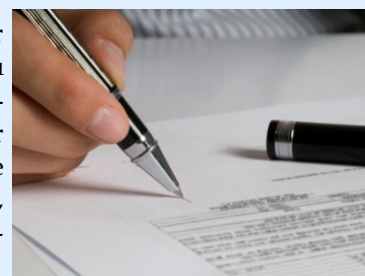
Azerbaijan approves agreement on establishment of CAREC Institute

The Azerbaijani Parliament has approved an agreement on establishment of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute at a plenary session on December 1. The CAREC program established in 1997 is a partnership of 10 countries - Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan - and six multilateral institutions - ADB, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Monetary Fund, Islamic Development Bank, UN Development Program and World Bank... [full story](#)



Azerbaijan to purchase trainer aircraft from Pakistan

Azerbaijan and Pakistan will sign an agreement on the purchase of trainer aircraft, Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov said in Baku on November 30 at a joint press conference with foreign ministers of Turkey and Pakistan. "We should examine availability of opportunities for the development of cooperation in various spheres, including the defense industry, at the expert level," Mammadyarov added. On September 25, Chief of Air Staff of the Pakistan Air Force Sohail Aman during his meeting in Baku with the commander of the Air Force ... [full story](#)





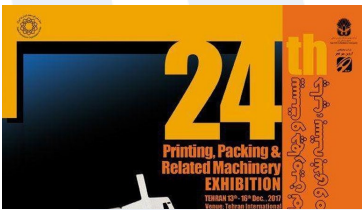
Iran

Hyundai inks €720m rail deal in Iran



South Korean Hyundai Rotem signed a deal worth 720 million euro in Tehran on Saturday on building 450 railbuses in Iran. The deal was signed between the South Korean company, the Iranian Rail Industries Development Company, and the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways, known as RAI. The duration of the contract will be 78 months and the first railbus will be operational 18 months after the deal takes effect, Tasnim news agency quoted the RAI managing director Saeed Mohammadzadeh as saying. ...[full story](#)

Tehran to host printing, packing expo



The 24th international exhibition of printing, packing and related machinery will be held from December 13 to 16 at the Tehran Permanent International Fairground. More than 650 companies from Iran and 12 other countries including Italy, Sweden, England, Switzerland, Spain, Austria and Japan will showcase their latest products and services during the four-day event, IRIB reported. A conference and four specialized workshops in various fields of printing and packaging industry are also scheduled to be held on the sidelines of the exhibition. [end of story](#)



Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev discusses energy projects with Royal Dutch Shell, Chevron management

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev recently discussed the status of energy projects in Kazakhstan, including the Karachaganak and Kashagan fields, with Chief Executive Director of the Royal Dutch Shell Ben van Berden and Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer of Chevron John Watson. Van Buren noted that Nov. 18 marked the 20th anniversary of the production sharing agreement at the Karachaganak and Kashagan fields. "These projects turned out to[full story](#)



Kazakhstan exports more than 800 goods to 113 countries

Kazakhstan exports more than 800 manufactured products to 113 countries, ranking 52nd among the largest exporting countries, said Minister for Investment and Development Zhenis Kassymbek. The government plans to increase the nation's non-oil exports by 50 percent by 2025. "Today, Kazakhstan ranks 52nd among the largest exporting countries; in total, we export over 800 manufactured products to 113 countries of the world. We are world leaders in the supply of uranium, copper, titanium, ferroalloys, yellow phosphorus, flour, cottonseed oil, wheat and[full story](#)





Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyz-Kazakh border dispute settled



The governments of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan signed an agreement on a "road map" to resolve the situation at the border, the Cabinet of Ministers of Kyrgyzstan reported. The document was signed today in Astana by Vice Prime Minister Tolkunbek Abdygulov and Vice Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin. According to the information, starting from Dec. 3, 2017 the checkpoints on the Kyrgyz-Kazakh border will begin to operate as usual. The "road map" contains...[full story](#)

Kyrgyz Government creates most favorable conditions for business



Vice Prime Minister Daiyr Kenekeev took part in the international conference "Prospects for the development of arbitration institutions in Central Asia" in Bishkek, organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of our country. The event was connected with the 15th anniversary of the International Arbitration Court at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic. It was attended by representatives of state bodies of the country, business and international organizations...[full story](#)



Pakistan

WB approves \$130m for water efficiency project

The World Bank has approved an additional financing of \$130 million to continue supporting farmers in Punjab to use water more efficiently. The new financing will help in adopting drip and sprinkler systems that will significantly reduce widespread wasteful irrigation techniques. The loan amount represents additional financing for the first phase of the Punjab Irrigated Agriculture Productivity Improvement Programme (PIAPP), which had an original investment of \$250m. The project has contributed to increased agricultural production, employment and pay....[full story](#)



First phase of Chabahar Port to be inaugurated today

The first phase of Chabahar port, which will open up a new strategic transit route among Iran, India, and Afghanistan, bypassing Pakistan, will be inaugurated on Sunday (today). The port, located in Iran's southeastern Sistan- Baluchestan Province, is scheduled to be inaugurated by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in presence of representatives from India, Afghanistan and several other countries of the region, NDTV reported. However, Pakistan has stressed that it does not regard trade between India and Afghanistan through Iran's Chabahar Port as an alliance against her....[full story](#)





Tajikistan

Participation of the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to the UN in the regular meeting of the Water Friends Group



On November 30, at the United Nations Headquarters, the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the UN, Ambassador Mahmadamin Mahmadaminov attended and addressed the regular meeting of the Water Friends Group. According to the MFA Information Department, during the meeting, Ambassador Mahmadaminov briefed the participants on the launch process of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028" and[full story](#)

Tajikistan and Pakistan expressed readiness for multilateral cooperation in the spheres of culture and art



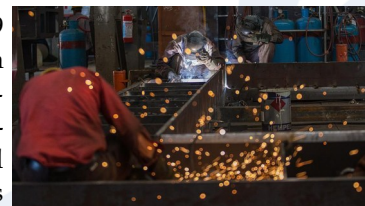
The Minister of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan Shamsiddin Orumbekzoda met with the Chairman of the Committee on State Structure of Pakistan's Senate Muhammad Talha Mahmood on November 27 in Dushanbe. NIAT "Khovar" has been reported by the Ministry of Culture of Tajikistan. During the meeting, Muhammad Talha Mahmood spoke about the friendly relations between Tajikistan and Pakistan, the special commitment and love of the Pakistani people to Tajik art ...[full story](#)



Turkey

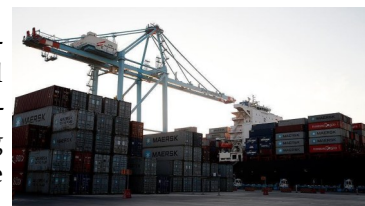
Turkish manufacturing grows for nine consecutive months

The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for Turkey's manufacturing sector reached 52.9 in November amid strong demand, a closely monitored business survey revealed on Friday. "The latest reading marked the ninth consecutive month of growth in the Turkish manufacturing sector - the longest seen since 2014," according to the report of London-based global data company IHS Markit prepared in collaboration with the Istanbul Chamber of Industry. The report indicated a solid overall improvement in Turkey's business conditions. A reading greater than 50 indicates[full story](#)



Turkey's 11-month exports reach over \$142B

Turkey's exports from January to November reached \$142.7 billion, marking a 10.7 percent hike over the same period last year, Turkish Exporters' Assembly (TIM) announced Friday. In November, the country's exports rose by 14.2 percent, year-on-year, and recorded \$13.6 billion, TIM said. Turkey's exports were \$13.9 billion in October, according to the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat). TIM figures also showed exports in the last 12 months showed a 10.5 percent yearly increase to reach \$155.4 billion. The year-end export target is \$156.5 billion, according to the country's...[full story](#)





Turkmenistan

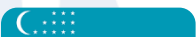
Turkmenistan gets ready for Moscow meeting on Caspian Sea legal status

Turkmenistan's Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov will attend a meeting of foreign ministers of the Caspian littoral states in Moscow on Dec.4-5, the Turkmen Dovlat Habarlary state news agency reported Dec. 2. The report on preparations for this meeting was presented at the session of the Government of Turkmenistan. Meredov informed that the meeting will cover issues related to the agenda of the 5th Summit of the Heads of Caspian Littoral States that is scheduled for 2018 in Kazakhstan. In this regard, the foreign ministers of the Caspian states will pay a particular attention to the draft Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea.....[full story](#)



Energy Charter Conference adopts Ashgabat Declaration

On the second and final day of the 28th meeting of the Energy Charter Conference, which was held in Ashgabat under Turkmenistan's chairmanship, the participants continued discussing the current global and regional energy security issues and development of large-scale international energy cooperation. On the outcomes of the meeting, the Conference adopted the Ashgabat Energy Charter Declaration as a strategic medium-term ...[full story](#)



Uzbekistan

Bukhara-Misken railroad commissioned in Uzbekistan



Uzbekistan Temir Yollari (Uzbekistan Railways) commissioned a new electrified railway line Bukhara-Misken on 1 December 2017, the company said in a statement. The company recalled that the construction of new railway line from Bukhara to Misken with the length of 355 kilometers, began in December 2016. Construction and installation works started simultaneously from two sides of the railroad. Two segments of the railway lines were docked on the day of the 26th anniversary of the independence of the country - 1 September 2017. Electrification[full story](#)

Uzbekistan to build power line to Afghanistan



Uzbekistan will construct a power line from Surkhandarya region to Baghlan province of Afghanistan, Tolonews reported. The Surkhan-Pul-e-Khumri power transmission project between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan was agreed upon by representatives of the two countries on the sidelines of the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) in Turkmenistan last week. This power line will transmit up to 1,000 megawatts of electricity from Uzbekistan to Afghanistan and both countries will start the construction phase soon. ...[full story](#)