

ZABULI CENTER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



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Afghani Currency Remains Stable Despite Winter Inflation

According to the latest UN Weekly Market Report, the Afghani (AFN) remains 5% stronger compared to the same period last year. However, this currency stability has not fully offset the rising cost of food items. Due to disruptions in trade routes and increased demand during the peak winter season, prices of essential commodities such as rice and cooking oil continue to rise across markets nationwide.



For more detailed insights, read the full report here: [Read more...](#)

Trade with Pakistan Drops by 53% Due to Closed Crossings

According to Pakistani sources based on Pakistan's fiscal year data, Afghanistan–Pakistan trade has sharply declined due to disruptions at key transit points like Torkham. In the first half of FY2025–26, total trade dropped 53%—from \$1.26 billion to \$594 million—with Pakistan's exports to Afghanistan falling 55% and imports decreasing 49% amid ongoing border closures and reduced cross-border movement.

For more detailed insights, read the full report here: [Read more...](#)





INDIA REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO CHABAHAR PORT

India has reaffirmed that it will not withdraw from the Chabahar Port project despite rising geopolitical tensions and the potential impact of a new 25% US tariff on countries engaging with Iran. Backed by a valid US sanctions waiver until April 26, 2026, New Delhi is negotiating with Washington to secure a workable arrangement that protects its regional connectivity goals. India has already fulfilled its \$120 million investment commitment, and officials emphasize that Chabahar remains a strategic logistics corridor for Afghanistan and Central Asia rather than a trade-volume-driven project.



For more detailed insights, read the full report here: [Read more...](#)

WORLD BANK'S ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

According to the World Bank's January 2026 Global Economic Prospects report, Afghanistan's economy remains very fragile despite modest growth, with real GDP expected to grow by 3.8% in 2026 and 3.5% in 2027. Economic activity has been supported by the demand from around 4 to 4.7 million people returning from Iran and Pakistan.



For more detailed insights, read the full report here: [Read more...](#)

UN LAUNCHES \$1.7 BILLION APPEAL AS MILLIONS IN AFGHANISTAN DEAL WITH CRISIS

UN agencies and humanitarian partners warn that Afghanistan will continue to face one of the world's largest crises in 2026, launching a \$1.7 billion appeal to assist nearly 18 million people. Years of conflict, food insecurity, drought, natural disasters, and large-scale returns of displaced populations have left 45% of the population in need, with urgent priorities including food, water, and sanitation. Despite reduced funding compared to 2025, aid efforts aim to reach more people through improved efficiency and targeted interventions.

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PAKISTAN ALLOWS RE-EXPORT OF TRANSIT CARGO STRANDED AT KARACHI PORTS AMID CLOSED AFGHAN CROSSINGS

Following the closure of key Pak-Afghan crossings in October 2025, over 6,500 containers have remained stranded at Karachi ports, disrupting Afghan Transit Trade. To ease the situation, the Pakistani government is allowing importers to re-export these goods—mainly from China, Vietnam, and Malaysia, including palm oil and humanitarian supplies—through alternative routes, as transit through Chaman and Torkham crossings remains suspended. Afghan imports via Pakistan have already fallen sharply, dropping from \$6.7 billion in FY23 to \$1.01 billion in FY25.



For more detailed insights, read the full report here: [Read more...](#)

INSTABILITY IN IRAN: THE ECONOMIC SIDE OF THE STORY

Protests across Iran are increasingly driven by economic problems. Mismanaged subsidies, corruption, drought, sanctions, and supply shortages have weakened the economy. The rial has lost nearly half its value in a year, causing prices to rise by 43% and making daily life very difficult for ordinary people. Despite some government reforms, many Iranians continue to struggle with high costs and financial uncertainty.

For more detailed insights, read the full report here: [Read more...](#)



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