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**TURKMENISTAN, AFGHANISTAN STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP IN ENERGY, COMMUNICATIONS SPHERE**

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Turkmenistan and Afghanistan held talks on cooperation in the fields of energy and communications, the Turkmen government said in a message Nov. 25.

Turkmen Deputy Prime Minister Maksat Babayev presented his report on the working visit to the neighboring state at a government meeting.

The two countries discussed the issues related to the construction of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline, the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan power transmission lines (TAP) with a capacity of 500 kW and the fiber-optic communications line in the neighboring country.

Turkmenistans President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov expressed confidence that Afghanistans participation in the implementation of major infrastructure projects is a decisive condition for the restoration of this countrys economy.

Earlier, it was reported that Turkmenistan supplies electricity at a discounted price to the neighboring Afghanistan.

The construction of the Turkmen section of TAPI pipeline began in December 2015, and preparatory work is underway in the Afghan and Pakistani sections.