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US turns to Iran for help to jump start Afghanistan's economy

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According to reports, the United States has turned to Iran in a bid to help jump start the fledgling economy of Afghanistan.

The move was reportedly made by Pentagon to seek out business relations with Afghanistan's western neighbor by establishing a special task form.

Iran has been asked by the special task force to establish a pharmaceutical company in Afghanistan and develop four mines, the Wall Street Journal reported.

This comes as Washington has levied strict sanctions on American companies doing business in Iran.

The trade value between Afghanistan and Iran has hit \$4 billion annually with Iranian officials saying that the growth was noted in trade deals, including transit of goods and fuel products.

In the meantime, Afghanistan is expected to find new sea routes through Iran's Chabahar port after the Indian government approved a plan to develop the port.

The port will be developed by an Indian joint venture company with an investment of \$85.21 million and operate the port for 10 years.

Chabahar port is located in th sistan-Baluchistan province in southeastern coast of Iran which is considered to be a strategic utility for India.

The port is having a distance of 883 km to Zaranj district of western Nimroz province which could link the major cities of Afghanistan, Herat, Kandahar, Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif to sea routes through Zaranj-Delaram road.