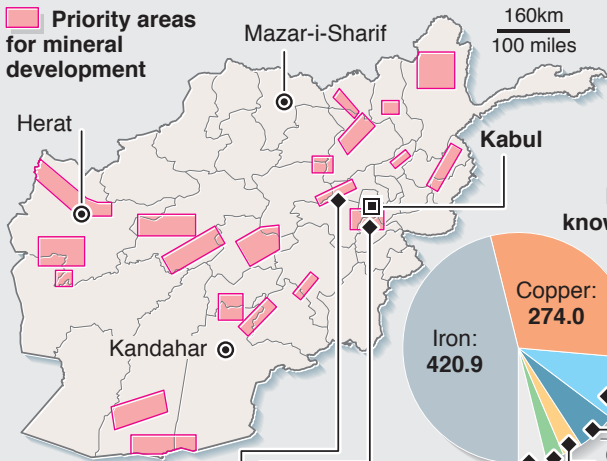


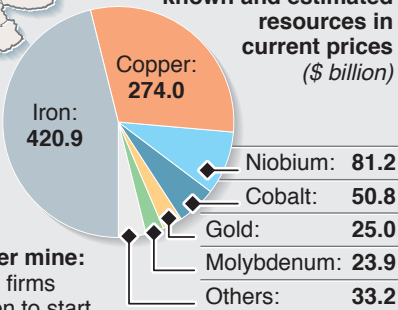
Huge mineral wealth discovered in Afghanistan

U.S. geologists have reportedly discovered nearly \$1 trillion worth of untapped mineral deposits in Afghanistan. The deposits, which include huge veins of iron, copper, gold, cobalt and lithium, are enough to turn the impoverished nation into one of the world's leading mineral centres

 **Priority areas for mineral development**



Potential value of known and estimated resources in current prices (\$ billion)



Hajigak iron deposit:

Contract to mine estimated 1.8bn tons of high-quality iron ore expected to open for international bidding this year

Aynak copper mine:

Two Chinese firms investing \$4bn to start mining in one of world's biggest untapped copper deposits, estimated to be worth up to \$88bn

Lithium deposits may be as large of those of Bolivia – currently has largest known reserves