

- > Restaurant
- > Culture
- > Internet
- > Photography
- > Elections



International Organization for Migration

سازمان بين المللى مهاجرت
د مهاجرت نړيوال سازمان

*Various project engineers / site inspectors needed
with experience in managing construction projects
in the areas of:*

Roads
Irrigation
Drinking water
Building construction
Electrical engineering
Computer aided design
Database assistant

Positions available for Nationals & Internationals

Internships available for engineers and other posts

Please send your CV and a letter of interest to
applications@iomkابل.net with the subject line
"IOM Engineering Staff"

IOM KABUL

House no: 1093, Ansari Wat, Behind UNICA Guest House, Shahr-i-Naw, Kabul, Afghanistan.

Tel > 30231 / Sat phone > 00 873 762 869 855 / Fax > 00873 762 869 856

contact person Brian Kelly 070 27 88 15

iomkابل@iomkابل.net

www.iom.int



AFSHAR REALESTATE AGENCY

**Your one stop shop for all your real estate needs
American Assocait**



Rentals

*Guest houses, offices and warehouses available throughout Kabul
24-hour customer care & service
Make appointments & view homes via e-mail
Transportation is provided for "in the field" viewing of homes
Negotiation of contracts for the lessee,s best interest
Results in a matter of days
Understanding of the new real estate tax laws*

Logistics

*Security assessment, guest house and office setup, transportation
Property management, renovation & remodelling, turn key entry*

*+93(0)79-48-48-48
+93(0)70-28-70-74
+93(0)79-218-794
+93(0)79-334-999
afgrealestate@yahoo.com*

*Afshar Real Estate Agency
Kabul, Afghanistan*

Shop N 5, Kabul London Market, St N 5, Qalai-Fatullah, Kabul



GLOBAL FLEET SALES

FORD DELIVERS



Sales - Service - Parts - In Kabul
Call Us for Quotes : 079 23 23 22 / 079 30 00 58

STRATEX PROFILE



STRATEX PROFILE

STRATEX Conex buildings are made from either 10, 20 or 40 foot shipping containers, resulting in a product that is ideal for humanitarian aid, government, and military applications tough on the outside and comfortable/efficient on the inside

STRATEX Conex buildings interiors are carefully designed so as to be on a level with standards found in both portable and non-portable western-quality offices

STRATEX is glad to introduce You **building materials store**, located in Kabul, Jalalabad road In our Store You can easily find big varietyb of different building equipment, such as: Brand name Power Tools, Heating Systems, Water Pumps, Boosters, Air Conditioning units, Tools, Electrical Appliances, Wiring, Fans, Generators with installation service, Furniture, Different building Materials. We have one of the biggest Store with big stock.

STRATEX is Authorized Distributor for A Chevron Texaco Company – “**CALTEX**” in Afghanistan. “**CALTEX**” boasts one of the most superior and the most reliable lubricants with competitive prices in the world; designed and tailored to suit the customer’s demands. We would be delighted to provide You the required products like Industrial Lubricants, Diesel Engine Oil, Transmission Oil, Greases, Fuel Cleaners.

Contact us: +9379 118460, eldar@stratex-fs.com Jalalabad road, Kabul
+9379 118454, ekaterina@stratex-fs.com www.stratex-fs.com



Move One

INTERNATIONAL MOVERS

no ordinary mover



worldwide moving
secure storage
customs clearance
quality export packing
free estimates & quotations



www.moveone.info 070-296-492 afghanistan@moveone.info

together we handle all of your moving & transportation needs

Our experience
is your greatest asset

AES Cargo



- project freight forwarding
- rapid response project groups
- dangerous & oversized goods
- warehouse storage facilities
- worldwide air, sea, road and rail transport

afghanistan@moveone.info 070-274-374 www.aescargo.com

CONTENT

3 INTRODUCTION

4 ELECTIONS SCENE

Insight into the upcoming parliamentary elections, by **Marvin G. Weinbaum**

8 PHOTOGRAPHY SCENE

Zubaida captures some startling portraits



10 INTERNET SCENE

Your one stop shop for development information on the Internet, by **Nadia Afrin**

14 WHAT'S ON BE SCENE

Have you been seen?

16 RESTAURANT SCENE

Review of the hottest restaurant in town,

Taverna du Liban

20 ARCHITECTURE SCENE

Edward Altmann tells us how the ancient forts of Afghanistan has influenced global military architecture



24 CULTURE SCENE

Spotlight on the Afghan art scene, by **Arji Karim**

26 POSTCARD SCENE

Dominic Medley drops us a line from Serbia

27 BUSINESS SCENE

The latest business tenders in Afghanistan

29 SIUMMER SCENE

Keep yourself cool this summer with some tips and smoothie recipes

AFGHAN SCENE MAGAZINE



Photo by Aria Productions

Publisher / Afghan Scene Ltd, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul, Afghanistan

Manager / Jahid Mohseni

Editor / Saad Mohseni

Design / Aria Productions

Advertising / sales@afghanscene.com

Printer / EPP

Contact / info@afghanscene.com / www.afghanscene.com

If you have any contributions, stories or want to an event published, please contact us.

Editorial right reserved.

Aqua Feen

MINERAL WATER

- Enjoy great tasting, delicious water.
- Make richer, better tasting coffee, tea and juices.
- Ideal for offices and other work places.
- Ozone sterilized and re-mineralized.
- Tamper proof seal for safety.
- The only company that treats water completely.

Options include:

- Buying and renting dispensers.
- Hot/cold water on demand plus refrigerator and cupholder.
- Consultation for average water consumption.
- Customer Service.
- **Free refill delivery to all locations in Kabul.**



Afghanistan's favorite TRUE Mineral Water.

Web: www.aquafeen.com
Email: Aquafeen@biznas.com

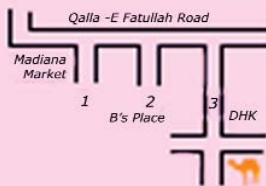
079-800-500
070-209-998

The Oasis Salon

All hairdressers are Western trained and operate in accordance with Western hygiene standards. Visa & Mastercard accepted Thursday - Monday 9am - 9pm



- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| Cutting | Manicure |
| Color | Pedicure |
| Highlights | Facial |
| Foils | Massage |
| Perms | Waxing |
| Styles | Threading |



Qalla-E Fatullah Street 3, House 4
Look for the camels on the wall!
Mobile: 079 217 669
Email: debbiehairdresser@hotmail.com



INTRODUCTION

Spring is leaving us behind already and summer is set to take a red hot turn into Kabul over the coming weeks.

In this edition of **Afghan Scene**, we range from the serious to the not so serious. We chew over the issues surrounding the imminent parliamentary elections with telling insight from Professor Marvin G. Weinbaum. Get up close and personal with the Development Gateway, an internet portal providing access to development information through technology. Edward Altmann also takes a wander through time looking at the ancient forts and watchtowers of Afghanistan.

We hear about how The Foundation for Culture and Civil Society (FCCS) is fostering both Afghan artists and the community through international exchange, an integral

part of the nation's healing process. Zubaida, a budding local photographer also shares with us some of her stunning photography, shot through young Afghan eyes. These images, which are available for purchase, will truly be a great memento or souvenir of your stay in Afghanistan. For those of you in need of a touch of the low brow or escapism, join us for a Lebanese lunch at La Taverna. Restaurant reviews will slowly become a regular feature in **Afghan Scene**, showcased last month by our guest reviewer Maurizio Giuliano, who dined at the popular Thursday night haunt, Elbow Room.

In this issue, we share an 'electronic' postcard from Dominic Medley who found a drink or two at Kandahar....a bar called 'Kandahar' in Belgrade that is. And to keep you cool in the warmer months, try out our luscious smoothie recipes - the Kabul Knuckle Crusher, one of two summer heat busting drinks.....

All of this plus more in your May issue of **Afghan Scene**. Enjoy!

ELECTIONS SCENE

Recreating Parliamentary Anarchy



That history could repeat itself is an ever-present fear among Afghans. Some worry about a resurgent Taliban, others that the contentious, destructive post-1992 era could return unless warlordism is extinguished. But too few today fully appreciate that electoral policies that contributed to bringing down the country's earlier experiment in democracy are about to be revisited. The provisions slated for use in September's parliamentary elections seem likely to result in legislative paralysis similar to the failed Afghan parliamentary system that existed from 1965 to 1973. Then as now, misconceptions about political parties and their role in providing for responsible, effective government largely explain

misguided policies. Although political parties had been authorized by the 1964 Constitution, the royal court, supported by many in government, resisted giving the necessary final approval to enacting legislation. These detractors viewed parties as intrinsically divisive, their legalization most likely to benefit extremist groups. The election of parliaments in 1965 and 1969 from first-passed-the-post districts offered no government slates, and with only several small crypto-parties holding the allegiance of members of the lower house, the great number of 216 legislators (wakils) were independents. The body's sessions were marked by amateurism, demagoguery, and absenteeism. Most members used their

“The choice of the single nontransferable voting system ...seems tailor made to recreate parliamentary anarchy”



office to pursue personal and narrow constituency interests outside the parliament. The resulting unorganized, undisciplined body proved ill equipped to deliberate or aggregate political demands. The prime minister, who owed his office to the king rather than the parliament, was unable to build coalitions for legislative compromises. The choice of the single nontransferable voting system for the upcoming parliamentary election seems tailor made to recreate parliamentary anarchy. With the country's 34 provinces serving as multimember districts, those candidates with the highest votes in each will be elected. If, as expected, some better known candidates succeed in capturing a major share of the votes cast in

each province, most of the remaining victorious candidates will win with only a very small percentage. Of more than 50 registered parties, few if any are well enough organized to instruct supporters not to waste their vote on a single candidate. The resulting parliament is likely to be made up largely of independents and a lower chamber poorly representative of the electorate. What little cooperation occurs among legislators will probably be on the basis of ethnicity and tribe, and many believe that contrary to the designs of the election law's drafters, warlords and drug traffickers will gain influence. President Karzai, in his determination to avoid having to contend with strong parties, has probably overestimated his personal

influence and the power of favors to individual legislators in winning support. As in the past, an atomized, virtually nonparty parliament could become a serious obstacle to a functioning government, leading a frustrated executive to encroach on the parliament's powers and thereby downgrade the institution and Afghan's fledgling democracy.

About the author

Marvin G. Weinbaum is professor emeritus of political science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and served as analyst for Pakistan and Afghanistan in the U.S.

Science Research Council, the Ford Foundation, the Hewlett Foundation, IREX, the American Political Science Association, and other granting agencies.

After retiring at Illinois, Professor Weinbaum has held adjunct professorships at Georgetown and George Washington universities, and lectures regularly at the U.S. Foreign Service Institute. At the State Department he was a recipient of its Superior Honors Award. Since leaving the Department, he has assumed numerous consultancies, both with government agencies and the private sector.



Department of State's Bureau of Intelligence and Research from 1999 to 2003. He is currently a scholar-in-residence at the Middle East Institute in Washington DC. Professor Weinbaum has his doctorate from Columbia University in 1965, and he joined the Illinois faculty in the same year. At Illinois, he served for fifteen years as the director of the Program in South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. Dr. Weinbaum was awarded Fulbright Research Fellowships for Egypt in 1981–82 and Afghanistan in 1989–90, and was a senior fellow at the United States Institute of Peace in 1996–97. Additionally, Dr. Weinbaum has been the recipient of research awards from the Social

Dr. Weinbaum's research, teaching, and consultancies have focused on the issues of national security, state building, democratization, and political economy. He is the author or editor of six books, including "Afghanistan and Pakistan: Resistance and Reconstruction" in 1994. In all, Dr. Weinbaum has written more than 70 journal articles and book chapters, mostly about Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran, but also on Egypt and Turkey. Among his recent publications are book chapters for edited volumes dealing with the U.S.-Pakistan partnership in counterterrorism, state building in Afghanistan, and the politics of human rights in Turkey, Iran, and Afghanistan.

Afghanistan Exhibitions 2005

Venue: Loya Jirga Convention Center



1st KABUL INT'L SPRING TRADE FAIR 2005 (8 - 13 June)

KISTF 2005 is a multi-sector int'l trade fair, which focuses on opening a long-term business connections between Afghanistan and the World. This is a significant effort to promote a free market economy and to increase the country's import-export turnover. We proudly announce that the event this year, on its first round has already generated participation from more than 15 countries worldwide. **Don't Miss it! Be there!!!**



REBUILD AFGHANISTAN 2005, the 1st Int'l Specialized Exhibition & Conference (5 - 8 Sept.)

REBUILD Afghanistan 2005 will open brand new horizons of business opportunities for both multinational companies and investors, by showcasing the full aspect of Building & Construction Industries, Infrastructures, Logistics & Transportation, IT & Communications, Industrial Technology, Financial & Investment Services.



AFGHANISTAN WATER, ELECTRICITY & POWER EXPO 2005, the 1st Int'l Specialized Exhibition & Conference (1 - 4 Oct.)

WEPEX 2005 is planned to be the most significant stage where industry leaders will showcase their latest products, technologies & services. The show will be a shortcut to wide range of governmentally approved and World Bank guaranteed projects in the field of Water & Waste Water, Power Generation, and Electricity Production & Distribution.

Our Sponsors

Silver



Platinum



Silver



Yaqubian Int'l Trading Corp.

Events by:



Brightway Exhibitions & Conference Organising Co.
106 Zeenah Bldg. Port Saeed Rd, Deira, Dubai, UAE
Tel: +971 4 294 9541 Fax: +971 4 295 1196
Email: info@afghanistan-exhibitions.com
Website: www.afghanistan-exhibitions.com

Supported by:



Government of Afghanistan

PHOTOGRAPHY SCENE

Photographs by Zubaida

To purchase Zubaida's prints, email zubaidaakbar@yahoo.com





INTERNET SCENE

Using technology to aid development efforts

by **Nadia Afrin**

When I came to Kabul in late 2004, my goal was to gain a better understanding of the key information needs facing the Afghan people and the international development community assisting with reconstruction. People were very concerned with the difficulty of getting reliable information on who is doing what in the country – and with what kind of success. This was true across the board, from basic statistics collection to health or civil society programs. Hardest of all was finding information about small, locally-run projects and partnerships. Ultimately, this has added to the challenges in ensuring the coordination and effectiveness of overall development efforts.

While the Development Gateway cannot compensate for the lack of reliable statistics, it is playing an important role in linking various players – from local NGOs to UN employees and the Afghani diaspora – to share their knowledge and resources. Working with many partners, such as the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit, we are aggregating and providing summaries of a wide range of information that is relevant to the over 5,000 members of our Afghanistan reconstruction network. The site also allows individual members to upload their own reports, research, best practices, and other information, thus enabling grass-roots collaboration among the people who are closest to the issues at hand. Even business information and jobs get posted on our Afghanistan page. In addition, the Development Gateway portal offers services and tools to help improve the



Nadia Afrin

coordination and efficiency of development efforts worldwide, through greater transparency. Nearly 300 Afghanistan projects are listed in AiDA, which is the largest online directory of global development projects by major bilateral and multilateral agencies. Current government and international procurement notices, including for Afghanistan reconstruction, are also summarized in dgMarket, the site's online global tender listing.

What is lacking, not only on the Development Gateway portal but on other sites as well, is locally generated development content and news, in local languages. We do have some, and we have posted fea-

tures on successful local initiatives such as the Afghan Center's professional training programs for women. An increase in locally-based members could help improve the record, however, and we are open to ideas for cooperation. While online local content may not yet play a large role in addressing the national hunger for information, due to lack of access, it is only a matter of time. Meanwhile, getting local content online would help Afghans tell their own stories to the world and share their own information on the reconstruction process. At the Development Gateway, we're offering an avenue to help do this. The Development Gateway Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization. To join its community, visit www.developmentgateway.org.

Nadia Afrin visited Afghanistan several months ago in her role as leader of the Development Gateway Foundation's online community for Afghanistan reconstruction. The community is part of the Development Gateway's global web portal of development information, and we're certain that it includes many of our readers!



KJAER & KJAER



Transport Solutions for the Developing World

Kjaer & Kjaer A/S is the officially appointed distributor of **NISSAN** vehicles and **HONDA** motorcycles to the aid and development market.

When you need the best solution for your transport requirements, Kjaer & Kjaer is your ideal partner.



Kjaer & Kjaer A/S Grønnemosevej 6
DK-5700 Svendborg Denmark
Tel: +45 62 221 111 Fax +45 62 224 422
info@kjaer.com www.kjaer.com

A MEMBER OF
KJAER GROUP

AEPFC

Afghan Electrical Power Corporation

**Engineering, Design, Supply & Installation for
Electrical Projects of any Size**

- **Generation**
- **Substation**
- **Transmission**
- **Distribution**

**Also Supplies Low, Medium and High Voltage
Equipment**

**Haidar G. Barak
President**

**Add: Street 15, Lane 3, House 260 – Wazir Akber Khan
Kabul, Afghanistan
Contact # +93(0) 70285246 or +93(0) 79323890
Email: eees2@ceretechs.com / info@aepc.af
www.aepc.af**



You need
therefore
We deliver



THE RM ASIA GROUP
Global Fleet Sales
Automotive - Power - Trading
On-Site Construction

Call for Quotes
079 314 513

WHAT'S ON BE SCENE

Share your event or party pics with Afghan Scene, email info@afghanscene.com



FCCS party in April



Angie Ramos from Reuters (second from right) and friends at her farewell party



Eldir (left) and Katarina from Stratex at the Mar-Apr launch party of Afghan Scene, Taverna du Liban



Rostan (left) from Stratex and Yassin Anwari from Afghan Scene at the Mar-Apr launch party of Afghan Scene



ARMAN FM's second anniversary celebration



Assistant Secretary William H. Lash, III (right) interviewed by Mustafa Siddiqi of Tolo TV



Shekaib Isaar and friends at the ARMAN FM second anniversary celebration



Ahmet Bukhari from IHA Turkish News Agency and Khaleeq Ahmad from the President's Office (right) at the FCCS party

RESTAURANT SCENE

Taverna du Liban



For a man who has not smoked for two years, from time to time I allow myself the luxury of a Shisha (fruit flavoured tobacco in a water pipe) when I am in Dubai. I recently discovered that trips to the Middle East could be put on hold indefinitely. The Middle East – with a twist of the Philippines - has arrived in Kabul. La Taverna is Kabul's first Lebanese restaurant. I arrived with my dinner guests at 8.00pm sharp to discover that our table was ready. The restaurant by now was full. Despite the popularity of La Taverna, our drinks waiter – a Philipino chap – arrived promptly to take our drinks order. Coronas

go down very nicely this time of the year. Our group – a jovial and giving bunch – decided to share both starters and main courses.

For starters we went with various dips (there are two types of hommus), samossas, mixed salad and tabouli. The food arrived promptly (accompanied by freshly baked Lebanese bread) and just as promptly disappeared into our mouths. A danger with these types of outings is a temptation to fill up on the freshly baked (clay oven) bread. We resisted this temptation and were rewarded with a mixed grill (lamb, beef and chicken) as well as other bits and pieces



(we asked for more hommus) for our mains. Also don't forget the bread base of the grill plate. These mini pizzas – having soaked up the juices of the Kebabs – are sensational.

It is unusual to be fed such tender meat (all varieties) in Afghanistan. However, rewarded we were and although quite full by the end of the meal, we all managed to muster enough courage to finish off the last remaining morsel of the food on the table.

With our mains we drank a Chilean red which was smooth enough, and I am sure assisted in the digestion of our meal. Once again one of our waitresses was kind enough to recommend this drop.

Now for the grand finale: we each ordered a Shisha (apple flavoured) to go with our teas and coffees. An hour later we were still

blowing smoke left right and centre and enjoying the moment. Kabul is wonderful at this time of the year, and dining outside at La Taverna will certainly allow you to appreciate Spring in Afghanistan.

For those with massive appetites we suggest the vanilla ice cream with chocolate syrup for dessert.

Meals at La Taverna are reasonably priced at \$8-10 for mains. Given the popularity and location of the venue we strongly suggest that you book well in advance.

Unlike most other 'foreign' restaurants in Kabul, one is not forced to venture out to the burbs. You will find La Taverna in the heart of Wazir Akbar Khan off the main WAK Road. Just follow the brown 'La Taverna' signs once you turn into Street 15.

Restaurant review by Ly Sander

AFGHANISTAN IS WATCHING

The leading TV station in Kabul, now available in Mazar-e- Sharif.



Promote your campaign on Afghanistan's station of choice.

sales@tolo.tv / 079 32 10 10



Schedule from 3rd June, 05

From – To	Flight No.	Departure	Arrival	Days of operation
Sharjah – Kabul	G9 273	0910	1210	Mon/Fri
Kabul – Sharjah	G9 274	1310	1520	Mon/Fri

Air craft : Airbus A320
No. of seats : 150
Configuration : All economy

Fares:

Kabul – Sharjah	USD 185
Sharjah – Kabul	USD 195
Kabul – Sharjah – Kabul	USD 380

*** Fares subject to change without prior notice.**

Other destination on Air Arabia from Sharjah

* Aleppo (Syria)	* Alexandria (Egypt)	* Assiut (Egypt)
* Bahrain	* Beirut (Lebanon)	* Colombo (Sri Lanka)
* Damascus (Syria)	* Dammam (Saudi Arabia)	* Doha (Qatar)
* Luxor (Egypt)	* Jeddah (Saudi Arabia)	* Khartoum (Sudan)
* Kuwait	* Mumbai (India)	* Muscat (Oman)
* Riyadh (Saudi Arabia)	* Sana'a (Yemen)	* Sharm El Sheikh (Egypt)

Transit Visa is available at Sharjah on holding confirm onward Ticket.

For reservation and enquiry contact



Dunya Travel Services

Char Rahi Ansari,
Kabul, Afghanistan
Ph. +9379386921/2/3, +93752018860
E-mail: info@dunyatravels.com

Dunya Travel Services

Wazir Akbar Khan, Opp. Pak Embassy
Kabul, Afghanistan
Ph. +93 70238700
E-mail: wazir@dunyatravels.com

ARCHITECTURE SCENE

The ancient forts and watchtowers of Afghanistan

by Edward J. Altmann R.A.

Afghanistan has been the crossroad center of the world since the most ancient times. The famous Silk

Afghanistan also offered treasures of its own.

There was the famous blue stone mentioned above. There were craftsmen who took raw gold and beat it into incredibly beautiful treasures; they took stone and carved it into the tiniest of statues and the largest of monuments; they mined copper and molded it into cult figurines of incredible shapes; they

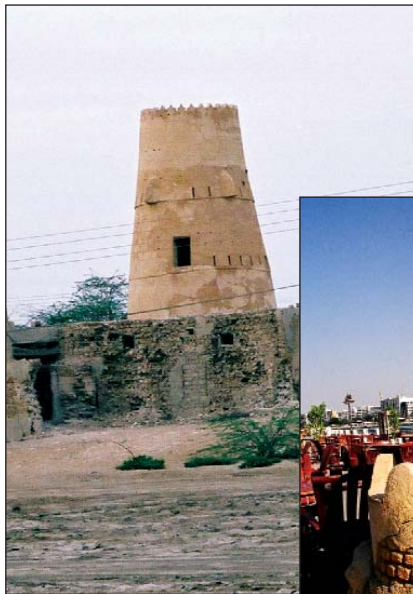
mined pigments from the rocky cliffs and made wall paintings at their religious shrines. Afghani carpets were famous for centuries (and they still are with their beautiful deep reds and browns) as were their sheep-skin cloaks and capes.

To guard these treasures, there was a great need for secure places. Pilgrims came to

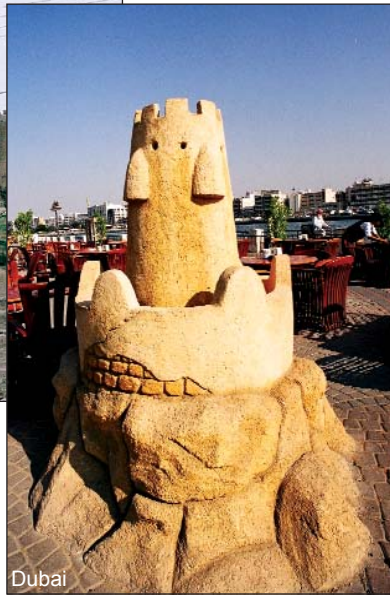
Afghanistan; they came from Nepal and places farther East. They came in the wake of Iskander (Alexander the Great) and farther West. They built monasteries that have lasted until today.

The pilgrims needed to be protected in secure places.

Probably the first such secure places were



Photos: E. Altmann



Dubai

Road, both the northern and southern branches, passed through here. Ancient Egyptian statues had lapis lazuli inlaid eyes, evidence of a five thousand year old connection.

As the treasure laden caravans passed through this mountainous country, they needed secure places to stay, protecting them from thieves and competitors.

Afghanistan was not only a waystation on these long roads from China to Europe and from the Steppes to the Indian sub-continent.



built at strategic points along the tortuous "roads" through the few passes. From the heights, a local strongman could control access and traffic. He could grow rich on the road fees and a percentage of the products brought on horseback and by camel and on human shoulders.

There were a number of criteria that these early secure places had to have.

They had to have a commanding, controlling position. Usually high above the only access road, the occupants could invoke their will by hurling rocks, at first, then using spears, bows and arrows, eventually rifles, RPGs, mortars, and other weapons.

They had to have fields of fire with good visibility.

They needed a dependable source of water (and a nearby source of food).

These secure places were themselves at risk from stronger neighbors and marauders.

They also needed to be protected and were then slowly transformed into forts.

Now we come to the mystery of these ancient designs and their origins.

There are forts all over the world.

The ancient Greeks built forts (as at Mycaneae); the Romans built the Limes (frontier of forts and watchtowers from the Rhine to the Danube and then down the

Danube as far as modern Bulgaria); the Crusaders built forts (as the Krak Des Chevaliers in Syria). The Japanese built forts (especially during the Heike/Genji struggles); the Koreans built forts (Nam Han Sang Son) to defend against the Mongols.

From East to West, there were/are forts and watchtowers. Interestingly, the ancient ones were of a different design.

The Romans build earthen walls with guard towers and ditches for example.

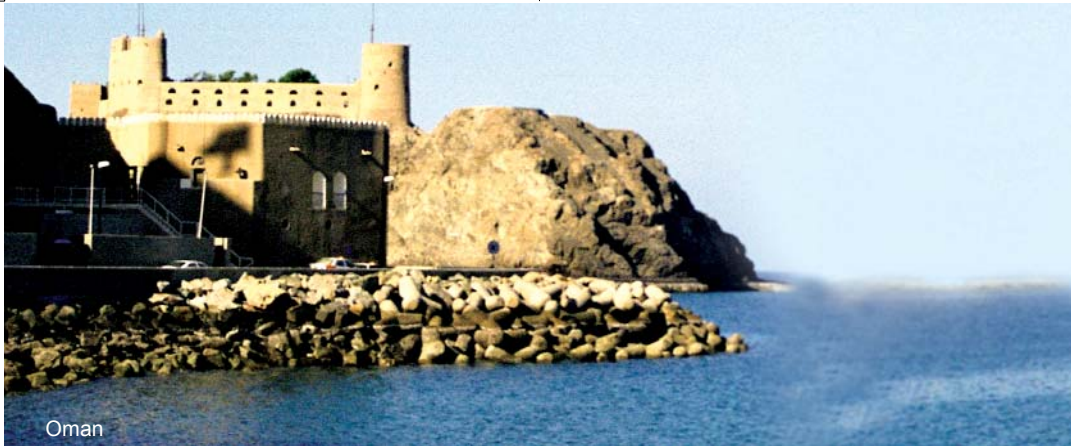
Then, from somewhere, a design of sloping walls, watchtowers on the corners, and fortified gates appeared.

First, it may have been that there was a wall protecting the living quarters. This may also be the origin of the Arabian "FIREEGE".

Later, fortified gates were added and corner Guard Towers.

Slowly, the forts that were started in ancient times began to develop the shapes and forms that we are familiar with.

The Citadel at Herat was founded by Alexander the Great and continuously remodeled. The form that we can see in this easternmost large city of Afghanistan was constructed in 1305 and recently restored. Ever larger fortifications were constructed, eventually walling in even the capital city of Kabul. (One of the most famous forts is the



Oman



Dubai

Kuwait

Kuwait

Bala Hissar in Kabul.)

Even the corner Guard Towers appear to have roots deep in the past.

In the suburbs of the Afghan Capital, there are large areas of carefully cultivated fields. Overlooking the low walled sections, there are numerous Watch Towers.

It is an easy leap of the imagination to attach these high observation towers to the ends of the fort walls and the classic fortification that we are all familiar with is in place. Then, from its roots deep within Afghanistan, the technology was carried, on the same

camel caravans that we saw earlier, to the Persian (Arabian) Gulf.

Eventually, the technology was taken to the Mediterranean along the trade and pilgrim routes where the Crusaders picked up on it and brought it to Europe.

From Europe, the Portuguese then brought the technology back to the Arabian Peninsula on the shores of Oman.

The long road east continued with the Portuguese conquests as far as the "Illa Formosa-the beautiful island" of present day Taiwan and Macao on the edge of the



Afghanistan



Herat



Dubai

Chinese mainland. From there, the technology went to Japan where there were already forts. These were constructed with technology brought along the Silk Road and then down the Korean Peninsula. The Spanish (and the Portuguese) then brought this technology to the "New World." We may see beautiful examples in places like St Augustine, Florida and all along the Caribbean, including some well preserved structures in Puerto Rico (connected by a mysterious tunnel. Once again the technolo-

gy went back to the Persian Gulf as can be seen by the pictures of the U.A.E., Kuwait, and Oman forts in this article. There are also other beautiful examples on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and on the islands of Bahrain. Interestingly, the typical Western Forts of North America are constructed along the same lines except with wood walls and Guard Towers! Makes one wonder if John Wayne knew where his "home on the frontier" originated?

By Edward Altmann

CULTURE SCENE

Spotlight on the Afghan art scene

by Arji Karim

Mazar was the site of Afghanistan's biggest ever musical event this Nauroz. Enthused dancing crowds swamped the stage as soon as Ustaad Ghulam Hussein and Ustaad Asef began to play the rhabab and the tablas. The festival featured both local artists and

showcase the talents of theatre artists, painters, fashion designers, photographers, artisans, potters and others involved in the art scene. International and returned Afghan artists are also working with locals to expose them to new and creative ideas. Local artists are benefiting from both guid-



Photos: Arji Karim

musicians from neighboring countries and the dancing crowds of young people whom signaled clearly that the Taliban period was definitely behind them.

The concerts were organized by the Kabul-based Foundation for Culture and Civil Society (www.afghanfccs.org) whose goal is to promote those trends in Afghan art, music and culture that bring to light the new Afghanistan. Additional events planned for the spring and summer will both nurture and

ance regarding how to participate in exchange programs, residencies and international exhibitions and also how to open doors to new markets. Local artists are beginning to embrace the trend where artists from the developing world are challenging the established art world of the West. The Foundation for Culture and Civil Society has been operating since 2003 through its Cultural Center, which has a stage for music and theatre performances, extensive exhibition space, a cinema club, and conference



facilities for lectures, presentations, workshops and seminars. There is a library for research in contemporary art, and a video unit that produces movies by independent Afghan film makers while constituting a visual archive on contemporary culture.

Art can be used in many ways: one of the most popular programs of the last year, organized by the FCCS and Sayara, was the Elections Awareness theatre campaign. Performances were held in almost 700 rural locations throughout Afghanistan, helping audiences understand the concept of democracy.

Art Institutions like the Kabul University's Faculty of Fine Arts are eager to modernize; a recent FCCS workshop focused on how to market art covering issues such as the importance of framing, labeling and pricing

work, and maintaining a portfolio.

For the potters of Istalif, FCCS provided training which improved both the quality and marketing of their handicrafts, improving sales in both domestic and international markets.

In a development context, organizations such as the FCCS are a stepping stone for artists that need support and exposure, as well as a catalyst for social healing. A significant victory has been obtained with the inaugural participation of Afghan artists in the prestigious Biennale of Venice. When the Afghan pavilion, showing contemporary kelims made by Rahim of the Nomad Gallery and video-art by Lida Abdul, is inaugurated on 11 June, the international art world will realize that a new country has been placed on its map: Afghanistan.

POSTCARD SCENE

POSTCARD FROM BELGRADE, SERBIA

Wish you were here. Just stumbled across the Kandahar bar in Serbia's capital Belgrade! A waitress said it was opened about a year ago and the name was chosen because "it sounded good." Great lounge chairs and a tent cafe on the pavement outside. Ali Baba tea and coffee among the choices!! There's even an old 10,000 Afghani note behind the bar. I had to let them down and tell them it was only worth about 25 cents.

Best wishes to all,
Dominic Medley



If you have an Afghan story from abroad, send us a postcard at info@afghanscene.com

BUSINESS SCENE

Tenders in Afghanistan

Two new RFTs have recently been released. Organisations in the telecommunications or construction industries, read on for more information.

1. GSM licenses

On 23 April 2005, the Ministry of Communications of Afghanistan announced the impending issue of two (2) new GSM licenses (in both 900 and 1800 MHz) with

until the end)

16 July – Deadline for bids

22 August – Announcement of winning bids

Those interested and requiring further information are requested to contact:

Oliver Dziggel

Telecom Regulatory Board (TRB)

office +93-20-210-1179

www.trb.gov.af



service to commence on 10 January 2006.

The timetable for the tender is as follows:

23 April – Press conference

15 May – Release of tender package to bidders (non-refundable payment of 500,000 is required for documentation and registration, equivalent to about \$10,000)

7 June – Bidders conference (Q+A allowed

2. Invitation for bids - road design and construction.

Design and construction of 85 km of ring road from Shirin Tagab (km 468) to Andkhoy (km 553)

The Ministry of Public Works of Afghanistan announced on 16 April 2005 that it has received a loan from the Asian Development

Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the Andkhoy-Qaisar Road Project. Part of this loan will be used for payments under the contract named above. Bidding is open to bidders from eligible source countries of the ADB. The Ministry has asked for sealed bids for the construction of the 85km or ring road from Shirin Tagab (km 468) to Andkhoy (km 553). The words will include:

- * clearance of mines and unexploded ordnance survey
- * detailed design of works
- * rehabilitation and reconstruction of the road to an asphalt-paved standard
- * installation of road tolling facilities including toll plazas, computers and communications equipment, and weighing machines for the project road
- * construction of roads and car parks
- * drainage structures

- * pavement marking
- * staff housing.

The deadline for bids is 12pm, **18 June 2005**.

To obtain more information please contact the following:

Procurement Manager

Afghan Reconstruction and Development Services Procurement Unit (ARDS-PU)

Ministry of Economy

5th and 6th Floor

Malik Asghar Square

Kabul, Afghanistan

Tel: 0093-20-2103430 & 0093(0)79 42 0917

Contact persons: Mr. Hamidullah Durrani

E-mail:

procurement@afghanistangov.org

hamid.durrani@afghanistangov.org

asit.biswas@afghanistangov.org

ahmad.wardak@afghanistangov.org

آب پاک
CW[®]
CLEAR WATER

Opening Soon

www.clearwater.com.af

FREE DELIVERY
FREE TRIAL
FREE INSTALLATION

خالص زنده گانی
دولت صنعت پخش
PREMIUM DRINKING WATER

CW CLEAR WATER

CW CLEAR WATER

SUMMER SCENE

Sips to keep your cool this summer



Too hot and bothered? And not even in the midst of an August dust storm yet? Try out these little recipes that give you something heat-beating to sip on.

Kabul knuckle crusher

Some may claim the combination of ingredients in this bold beverage will cool and pacify, chill your chi, pat on your pita or cure baldness. Add a little something that is at least 12% proof to it, and maybe it will. This is the miracle free version.

- * Watermelon 40%
- * Pineapple 40%
- * Mint – not too little, nor too much
- * Ice 20%

Plonk it all in a blender. Watch it whiz itself into a runny pulp. Plop it in a glass or two.

Drink. Feel cool.

Dust storm slinger

Just the thing to sling off the dust collecting in your oesophagus.

- * Strawberries hulled (that is cut the little green leafy bit off) 70%
 - * Pinch of icing sugar
 - * Ice 20%
 - * Cream 10%
 - * Black pepper....cracked and not too much
- Whiz it all into a creamy frenzy in a blender. Dip the ends of the glasses into a little water, then dip into a bowl with the cracked black pepper, pour in the slinger and dress with mint if you are trying hard to impress.

To share a smoothie or other summer-recipes, email info@afghanscene.com.



Don't sweat the dusty stuff.....keeping yourself nice this summer

Summer in Kabul. The warm hazy layer of dust that covers everything, and blows in with happy abandon each afternoon just as you have managed to wipe, dust and shake out most things around the home or at work. Don't let it get to you. It is all a matter of perspective.....read on for our five easy steps for keeping yourself nice in the Kabul summer....

Dust

Dust. Add water and dust is mud. A full

body mud wrap in a resort in Dubai will put you back a good \$100USD....

Smelly stuff

The olfactory system is linked directly to the memory centres of the brain. You will never, ever forget your time in Kabul.

Little crawling things

Four legs plus and crawling around in front of you? Be thankful you can see it.

Windows of opportunity

Windows are the only thing between you and solid caking of Kabul's finest....windows are the only thing between you and the 45 degree plus microclimate inside your car. Windows up. Windows down. Your choice.

Covering up....

Health and beauty experts globally agree that too much sun is bad for the skin.

Ladies, you can be grateful that the scarf, although insulating sweat and heat, will at least protect you from the harsh rays, dirt and grime.



Therapy
Consultation

Counseling & Therapy Services are available in Kabul for the international English speaking community. Services are provided by an experienced, professional counselor from the USA.

For information, please contact Eileen Summers, MA, LCSW at: esummersafg@yahoo.com

KABUL DOLLS

موسسه گدی سازی کابل



Karzai Doll



Pashton Woman



Panjsheri Woman



Panjsheri Man

The perfect gifts, Souvenirs or Decorations

A range of unique, specially designed dolls made by Afghan women
Home delivery, tour of workshop and brochures available upon request

Kabul Dolls is now available at Bagram PX every Saturday!

It is an ISAF and IOM funded project
Currently 95 afghan widow, returnee and needy women are working at Kabul Dolls



See our range at:

Website: www.kabuldolls.com
Phone: 070 270 982 or 070 206 845
Email: Kabuldolls@yahoo.com

\$5 discount at each doll

Looking for professional and expert commercial legal advice in Afghanistan?

Zamoh Lawyers & Advisors have over 10 years experience in the region. Offering a range of services including;

- ★ Finance and lending / banking
- ★ Entity registration and corporate structures
- ★ Contract drafting and negotiations
- ★ Taxation and revenue
- ★ Intellectual property and technology
- ★ Settlement dispute negotiations.

Recent topics of interest for business and the NGO community:

- ★ Ministry of Communications tender for two further GSM licenses – bids close 16 July 2005
- ★ New Income Tax Laws published in the Official Gazette will affect most businesses and foreign nationals working in Afghanistan
- ★ Proposed Companies laws are expected to be passed as law shortly
- ★ Voting and election laws and procedures

For more information, call 079 44 55 55 or visit www.zamoh.com.



Contact: +93 79 44 55 55 / +93 79 44 33 44
Fax: +1 86 53 42 57 71
www.zamoh.com / info@zamoh.com
Head office Kabul, Afghanistan

Company Profile

Unity Resources Group matches your particular security needs with the unique Afghanistan operating environment. Unity underpins your organization's success and business continuity with an effective, unobtrusive spectrum of security, logistics and operational support services.

Unity Services

- **Security planning and management consultancy services.**
 - **Specialist security staff and asset protection.**
 - **Advanced medical support including equipment, stress management and training.**
 - **High risk area operations and logistic support.**
 - **Specialist training for people in complex and hostile environments.**

P. O. Box: 43659, Dubai, U.A.E.: +971 4 211 5333, Afghanistan: +93 70 154 951, +93 70 154 952
Iraq: + 1 646 2898262 (VOIP) or +964 7901935183, Australia: +612 92525259, email@unityresourcesgroup.com, www.unityresourcesgroup.com

Strength in Unity

Unity Resources Group
Security Specialist





The widest coverage from Afghanistan's preferred network.

Today, our network covers over 25 cities, 4 borders and 5 major roads.
We will continue to work hard to serve you better.

Nazdik Shodan نزدیک شدن **ROSHAN** روشن
connection