



CONSULATE GENERAL of
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC
OF AFGHANISTAN
DUBAI

FIRST EDITION

Discover Afghanistan

Revive the heritage. Realize the vision



The Resource Haven



**Afghans:
Changing
the narrative**



**Beneath the
dust and rubble**

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OF AFGHANISTAN IN DUBAI &
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It gives me great pleasure to launch the first ever magazine by the Afghan Consulate General in Dubai & Northern Emirates to showcase Afghanistan to our brothers and sisters in the United Arab Emirates under the name of “DISCOVER AFGHANISTAN”. It is to depict and illustrate the history, culture, investment potentials and achievements in contemporary Afghanistan; a country located in the heart of Asia, the quintessential “crossroads of cultures” and the site of historical and strategic trade lines. Civilizations of the Near East, Central Asia, South Asia, and China interacted on the Silk Route through Afghanistan over thousands of years in a constantly shifting mixture of trade, migration and imperial formation. It is a country with a rich heritage of culture and pure potentiality.

Although our country faced many challenges in the past, we have a strong vision for the future and can move forward as a nation by fostering a community that is built on trust and providing a sustainable environment for domestic and foreign investments. Economic growth and private sector development are central to attract talent and grow the infrastructure sector. We have much to offer to the world, particularly in business, trade, energy, agriculture and natural resources.

The Afghan people and the international community share a common perspective of a unified Afghanistan – one that is at peace with itself, the region and the world – and is capable of transforming the land of competition to the land of cooperation.

We are thankful to the international community, especially the Rulers and people of United Arab Emirates for assisting us in the spheres of security and economy. UAE is one of our most important strategic partners and brotherly nations that has generously assisted us in various fields. It has provided humanitarian aid in building schools, university, hospital, housing, roads, and recently contributed substantially to containing the spread of Covid-19 in Afghanistan by supplying medical equipment and vaccines. UAE is one of the few countries in the world that has successfully managed this pandemic.

Over 120,000 Afghans have chosen the UAE as their second home, thanks to the bilateral relations between our two nations. I encourage my fellow Afghans and the international business community in the UAE to continue to support our nation’s growth by investing in our bountiful resources and infrastructural development.

We launch this magazine to allow the UAE people to discover Afghanistan, considering its achievements and future opportunities. My heartfelt gratitude goes to the entire team at the Consulate General for their hard work. Long live Afghanistan!

“We are adamant about transforming Afghanistan’s narrative into a haven of resources, culture and heritage, and a land full of potential and opportunities.”



H.E. Masood Ahmad Azizi
Afghan Consul General in Dubai, UAE



OUR OUTLOOK

MISSION

Our mission is to remain transparent, provide effective services, and maintain and further improve Afghanistan's relationship with our host countries.

VISION

To rebrand Afghanistan by means of traditional, cultural, sports and economic diplomacy, turning the mission in Dubai into an exemplary diplomatic model in the region

OUR PERSPECTIVE

- Build our own consulate in the UAE
- Provide transparent, efficient & timely services to the Afghan people & customers
- Attract business investments for large projects in Afghanistan
- Organize more Afghan exhibitions in the UAE and participate in more international exhibitions
- Highlight Afghanistan's role in the Expo 2020
- Activate the Afghanistan Social Center in the UAE
- Provide Afghans with more employment opportunities in the UAE
- Maintain good relations with the host country
- Facilitate scholarship grants for Afghan students
- Engage in cultural & economic diplomacy in the UAE

Afghanistan Today

Education in Afghanistan

Afghanistan has a literacy rate of 65.4%. Female education has been on the rise since 2018.



Agriculture in Afghanistan

An abundance of fruits are produced every year with an average yield of 1.5 million tons.

Source: UNESCO UIL

Natural Resources in Afghanistan

Industrial Potential of Afghanistan



Currently, there are over 5,000 small- to medium-sized factories in operation.

Afghanistan has over 5,000 productive factories

Technological Developments in Afghanistan



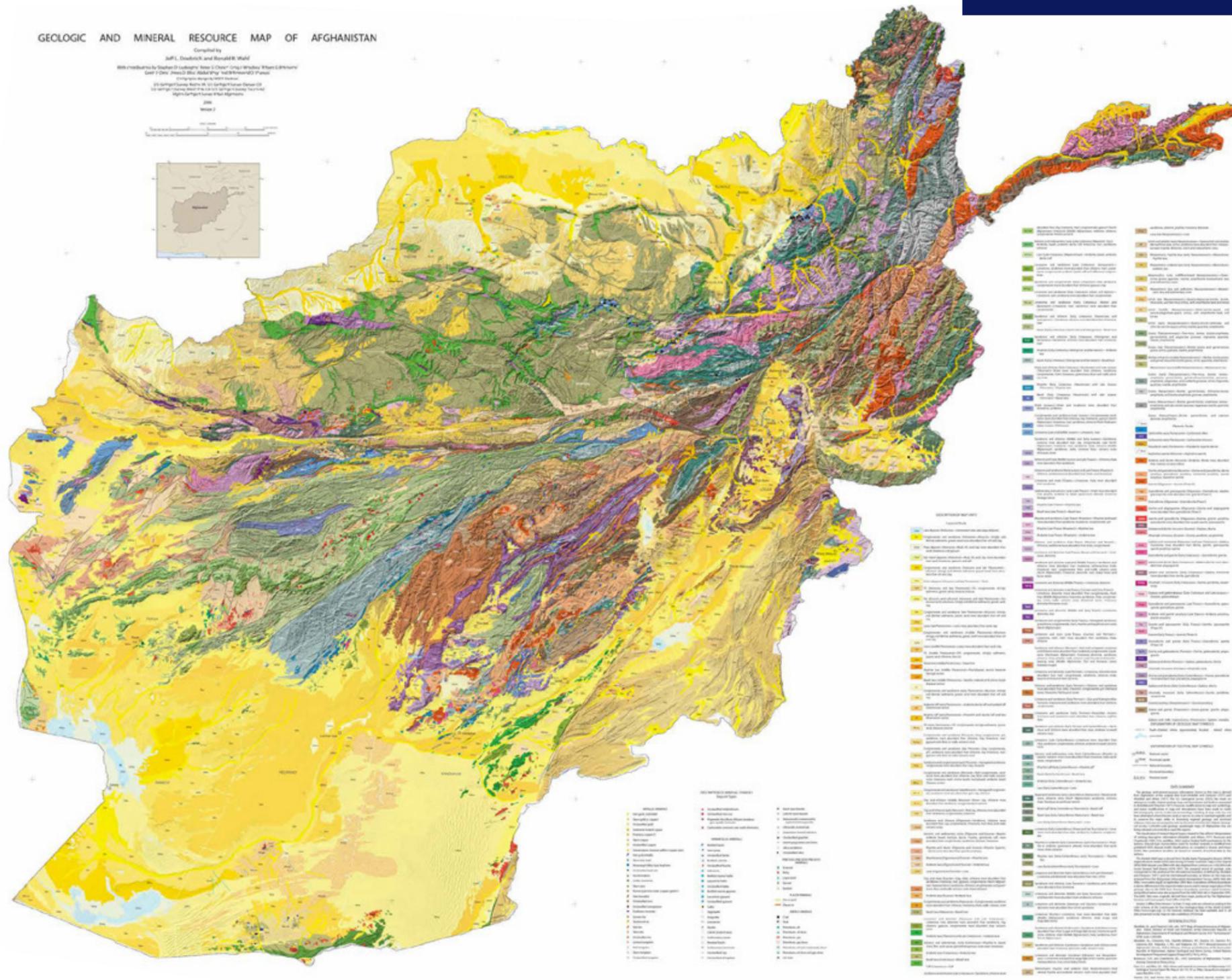
Source: International Islamic University Malaysia

A larger portion of the population have access to mobile communication.

Over 5 million people have internet access.

Despite the dominance of traditional business models in the marketplace of the country, the role and effects of communication and technology are remarkable. The previous and current generation of entrepreneurs and managers are trying to utilize technology for starting and boosting their businesses.

GEOLOGIC AND MINERAL RESOURCE MAP OF AFGHANISTAN



Afghanistan's wealth of natural resources remains largely untapped. Its mineral deposits are estimated to be worth over USD 1 trillion.

H.H. SHEIKH MOHAMED BIN ZAYED VISITS AFGHAN FAMILIES IN HUMANITARIAN CITY



Last 3rd September, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the United Arab Emirates Armed Forces and the de facto ruler of Abu Dhabi visited Emirates Humanitarian City where he examined

the work there to help Afghan evacuees. The site is temporarily hosting families who fled from Afghanistan and are now on their way to third countries. We are thankful for the generosity of the UAE government for ordering assistance to be provided to the UAE's guests, so they can enjoy a comfortable and dignified stay.



His Majesty late Zahir Shah, former King of Afghanistan

FORMER KING OF AFGHANISTAN'S MEETING WITH THE LATE SHEIKH ZAYED



H.H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan

His Majesty late Zahir Shah, the former King of Afghanistan, arrived in the United Arab Emirates on January 6, 2003 and visited the Founder and late President of the UAE, His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan in the Qasr Al Bahr.

He also met with His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, the Emir of Abu Dhabi and the Supreme Commander of the United Arab Emirates Armed Forces who was elected for presidency on November 4, 2004 after the demise of his father, late

H.H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

The former King also met with the current ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, its Minister of Defence, and Ruler of the Emirate of Dubai and His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of the Emirate of Sharjah on January 12, 2003.

UAE ASSISTANCE TO

Afghanistan

ASSISTANCE PROJECTS

- The Red Crescent Society constructed a camp for Afghan Refugees in Chaman, Pakistan, which benefited over **10,000 refugees**. They were provided with essential commodities.
- They also facilitated the delivery of necessary items to the refugees and internally displaced, in collaboration with the UNHCR.
- They **constructed an air bridge to assist refugees** and displaced people in 41 trips. This bridge served as a vital link to transport food, shelter supplies, medical facilities, ambulances and vehicles, along with the delegates to monitor the project.
- They shipped over **2,000 tons of food items** which were dispatched by sea to refugees in Pakistan and by land to Afghanistan.
- The **projects' total cost was estimated at AED 43,464.230** (approximately USD 11,908.821).

RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS



- The late Sheikh Zayed's housing project is composed of **200 residential homes, 1 mosque, 2 schools and 1 clinic**. The estimated cost was AED 15.8 million (approximately USD 4,328.767).
- The Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Charity allocated **USD 2 million** for the construction of a maternity hospital.
- During the Tokyo Conference, the UAE Government pledged a **USD 30 million package for the reconstruction of Afghanistan**.

RELIEF PROJECTS

- The UAE **donated 9 mosques and 523 wells**. It also renovated the UAE Red Crescent Society's hospital and upgraded its medical equipment along with their orphanage.
- In 2003, the Mohammed Bin Rashid Establishment built the Dar Zayed Orphanage in Kandahar to provide services to orphaned students in the province. The estimated cost was **AED 25 million**. In 2011, the establishment provided an additional AED 26 million towards the orphanage's operation costs.
- It organized seasonal projects such as Zakat Al-Fitr and the donation of clothes and consumption materials (meat, etc.)
- The project's total cost was estimated at AED 8,059.930 (approximately USD 2,208.200).
- **The UAE donated relief commodities such as vehicles, office materials, communication, equipment, computers, and etc. The estimated cost was USD 19,521.766.**
- The UAE sponsored the welfare of over **523 Afghan orphans across different categories**.
- The estimated cost was **AED 98,900** (approximately USD 21,041).



DONATIONS & HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- During the 9th Gathering of Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Countries, the UAE announced a USD 3 million donation towards the Afghanistan Fund.
- H.H. Sheikh Saif Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Minister of Interior of the UAE, donated USD 350,000 for the construction of a mosque within the Kabul University Compound.
- The UAE Government offered USD **21,379.244 worth of humanitarian assistance**.
- The Abu Dhabi Fund for Development financed the Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Residential City (4,000 residential homes) in Kabul, Zayed Mother and Child Hospital in Kabul, and Shaikh Zayed University in Khost.
- The UAE **donated more than AED 1.26 billion** (approximately USD 343.4 million) to aid Afghanistan in 2009. Major projects include the reconstruction of the Mazar-i-Sharif Airport and the construction of the Civil Aviation Training Institute in Kabul.
- The Emirates Mine Clearance Project commenced in the Afghan Province of Kandahar in September 2011. **The estimated cost was AED 94.7 million** (approximately USD 25.8 million).
- The Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company (MASDAR) granted AED 56.9 million for the construction of a solar energy power plant. **The 160-kilowatt output powers 600 houses in 8 isolated villages**.
- The UAE **drilled 73 wells to provide water access to over 15,960 people** in isolated areas.



CRISIS ASSISTANCE: AFGHAN CONSULATE GENERAL TEAMS UP WITH DUBAI POLICE TO HELP STRANDED AFGHANS FLY HOME

When the UAE imposed some restrictions (curfews and quarantine) to control the spread of the coronavirus, Afghans living in the UAE faced travel-related challenges. The Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Dubai provided services to Afghan citizens and children detained at the airport in the summer.

FACILITATE AND PROVIDE AIR TRANSPORTATION

Thanks to the Afghan Consulate General's and Embassy's intervention, stranded travelers to Afghanistan were permitted to board the Ariana Afghan Airlines and Fly Dubai flights to Kabul last 26th March.

The Afghan Consulate General coordinated with the Dubai Police to facilitate the transportation of 24,000 Afghans who were unable to travel to Kabul. During this period, Ariana Airlines and Fly Dubai airlines flew a daily average of 136 and 155 Afghans respectively. We are thankful to the UAE Government for making this possible.



EVENTS

Celebrated the National Flag Day brilliantly and the 101st Independence Day with a grand flag raising ceremony at the Burj Khalifa.

AFGHAN BUSINESSMEN IN THE UAE PLEDGE HUMANITARIAN AID TO AFGHANISTAN



Alokozay Group's Afghan-born founder, Mr. Abdul Rehman Alokozay, has extended humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. At the height of the pandemic,

he sponsored the distribution of over 100,000 hot meals daily and chartered passenger planes to evacuate UAE-stranded Afghans.

- The richest Afghan community outside Afghanistan resides in the United Arab Emirates, which is home to about 150,000 Afghan citizens.
- Many affluent Afghan businessmen have invested billions worth of assets in the UAE. They also control about 60% of the total Afghan trade.

In 2004, the UAE allocated \$74 million to different projects in Afghanistan. The UAE also participated in the Donors Conferences in Berlin and London, pledging support for the stability and reconstruction of Afghanistan. According to the office of Asia and Africa Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the UAE, some \$90 million was spent on different projects in Afghanistan and an additional \$30 million will be allocated for the rehabilitation of the Kabul city roads.



Haji Mohammad Yusuf Muhmand



H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed's video conference with H.E. Masood Ahmad Azizi, Consul General



The Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed, met with the Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Dubai, H.E. Masood Ahmad Azizi, via a video conference.



His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed told H.E. Masood Ahmad Azizi:

“Your tireless services are appreciated by the Afghans living in the UAE, and I must say that your actions and good management are being followed by the leadership of the UAE. On behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates, I would like to thank you and congratulate you and your colleagues on this.”

On behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, H.E. Masood Ahmad Azizi expressed his gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed and the UAE Government for providing Afghans a second home in the emirates and for extending humanitarian, security and economic assistance throughout their history. H.E. Masood Ahmad Azizi proposed the “Afghan-UAE Culture Day”, a one-day event every year to showcase the cultural richness of both countries and to raise its awareness across the world. His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed welcomed the proposal and invited H.E. Masood Ahmad Azizi to discuss it further in their succeeding meetings. His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed assured the leaders of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the Muslim and valorous Afghan nation that the UAE Government will continue its humanitarian and comprehensive assistance to the Afghan people.

Thanking His Highness for the continued assistance, H.E. Masood Ahmad Azizi mentioned the plight of Afghans holding UAE resident visas who are currently stranded in Kabul and unable to return to the UAE due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The UAE authorities assured H.E. Masood Ahmad Azizi to address this issue. He also pointed out the allocation of a plot for the future construction of the Afghan Consulate General in Dubai, which will be welcome news for Afghans living in the UAE.

Consulate General Thanks His Highness Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan

On behalf of all Afghans, H.E. Masood Ahmad Azizi thanked His Highness Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan for his continued support towards the Afghan people who consider the UAE their second home. Having traveled to Afghanistan in the past, Sheikh Nahyan is known for his love for our country. He wishes peace and prosperity for the Afghan people and hopes that Afghans will maximize their potential to build a safer and prosperous country.



H.E. MASOOD AHMAD AZIZI MEETS H.H. SHEIKH AHMED BIN SAEED AL MAKTOUM



On 23rd January 2021, the Consul General of Dubai and the Northern Emirates, His Excellency Masood Ahmad Azizi, had the pleasure of meeting His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, the CEO of Emirates Group, in

person. Sheikh Ahmed recalled fond memories of his past visits to Afghanistan, while H.E. Masood Ahmad Azizi discussed the many business opportunities which Afghanistan has to offer.

Consulate in THE MEDIA

Afghan Prisoners Released

شبكة أبوظبي

Eid gift: UAE-based Afghan sisters with thalassaemia promised to be reunited with stranded parents

UAE-based Afghan sisters with Thalassaemia to reunite with stranded parents



Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan - Dubai

په دوبي كې د افغانستان د ارج جنرال قونسل ښاغلي مسعود احمد عزيزي د دوبي د پاملرني خبريزه موسسي (Dubai Cares) له اجرابوي ريس ډاکټر... See More



Masood A Azizi Retweeted

Afghan Consulate General-Du... - 06 Jul

H.E @MasoodAAzizi met Mr Imran Khan, President of @CUCAjman, and signed a Mechanism of cooperation, offering a discounted tuition of (10%-50%) on the monthly fee for bachelor and master degree programs, and some scholarships at City and American schools.

Consulate in ACTION

Consul General Hosted Iftar & Discussed Growth with Afghan Business Owners and Diplomats in the UAE



Masood A Azizi @MasoodA... - 11/11/20

Thank you v much Excellence Sheikh Maktoum Bin Butti Al Maktoum for coming to the Afghan Consulate in Dubai & sharing your condolences & condemning the horrible attack on Afghan students last week. UAE has always stood with their Afghan brothers in our hard times.



GULF NEWS

Masood A Azizi @MasoodAAzizi

Thank you all Council Generals and dear diplomatic colleagues for visiting Afghan consulate in Dubai and sharing your sympathy, condolences and condemning the brutal attack on Afghan university students in #Kabul.

GULF NEWS

COVID-19: Afghanistan repatriates more stranded citizens from the UAE than India and Pakistan

Afghan missions in UAE send the largest number of passengers without making much noise



Consul General of Afghanistan in Dubai Masood Azizi meeting passengers flying back home on special flights from Dubai International Airport.

Dubai: More than 15,000 stranded Afghans have flown home from the UAE on over 100 flights, says a top diplomat.

Sharjah Officials Discussed Strengthening Cooperation with Afghan Government & Communities

Invest In Sharjah

Invest In Sharjah @InvestInSharjah - 17 Nov 2020

في جهود لتعزيز العلاقات وسبل التعاون مع دولة افغانستان، قام سعادة مروان بن جاسم السركال - الرئيس التنفيذي لـ @shurooq، بحضور السيد محمد جمعة العنصر - المدير التنفيذي لـ @investinsharjah، باستقبال القنصل العام الافغاني، سعادة مسعود احمد عزيزي يوم امس الاتي.

الشارقة للأخبار @Sharjahnews

"علاقات الشارقة" تحت تعزيز التعاون مع المدن الأفغانية

توسيع العلاقات الاستثمارية والعمل الثقافي

علاقات الشارقة "تبحث التعاون مع المدن الأفغانية"

بحثت دائرة العلاقات الحكومية في الشارقة آفاق توسيع العلاقات الاستثمارية والعمل الثقافي المشترك بين الإمارة والمدن الأفغانية مع فئتيه جمهورية افغانستان في الدولة. جاء ذلك خلال استقبال الشيخ فاهم القاسمي رئيس دائرة العلاقات الحكومية في الشارقة، سعادة مسعود احمد عزيزي في مطار، عام جمهورية افغانستان، في الدولة.



More than 24,000 Afghans flown home

Masood A Azizi @MasoodA... - 10/1/20

شه خبر!

د کونسلگری د همکارانو په څڅو وتوانیدو چې په متحده عربي اماراتو کې د 11 تنو افغان زندانیانو چې په راس الخیمه کې بندیان وو، اړوند کارونه خلاص کړواو هیواد ته یې ولېږو، د دې تر څنګ نژدې وختونو کې به انشالله یو څو تنه نور افغانان د زندان څخه خلاص او افغانستان ته به ولېږل شي

Masood A Azizi @MasoodAA... - 7/5/20

Great discussion by Afg&UAE ministers of Cultural week, celebrated each year in both countries, established the Afg Cultural center in Dubai and some other new initiatives, to further strengthen the relationship between both countries 1/2

Masood A Azizi @MasoodA... - 9/20/20

It was an honor and pleasure to co-host such a great investment conference in Dubai. Grateful to have had @AbdulHadiArgha2 @Harakat_Invest @HamidHelmandi come and present potential investment projects. Can't wait to assist further & make these investments possible in #Afghanistan

Khaleji Times

EXPO 2020 DUBAI

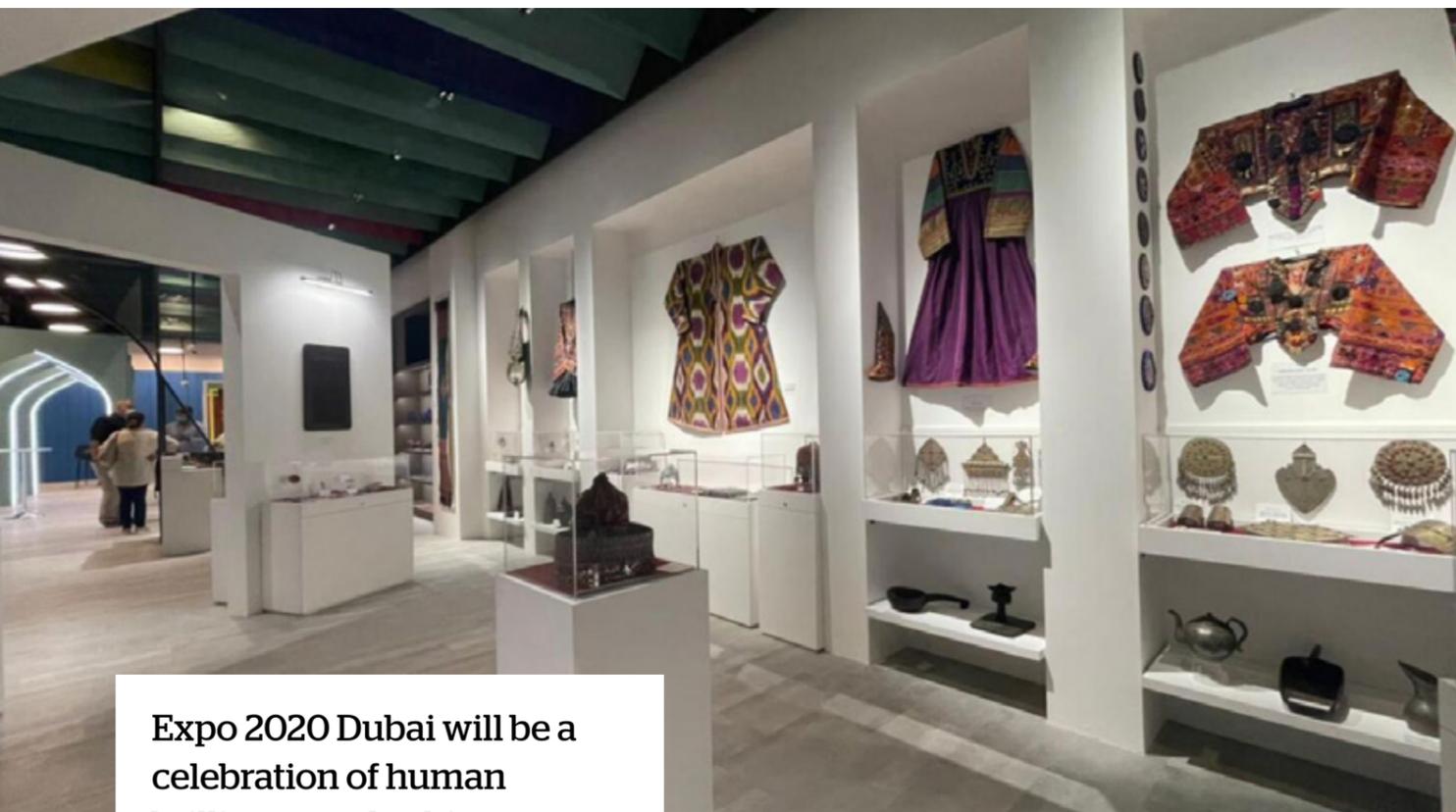
Expo 2020 is an opportunity for Afghanistan: Consul-General

Through its pavilion at the Expo, the South Asian country vows to tell the world its new narrative - far beyond war and conflict

The war-ravaged Afghanistan may not be pumping billions of dollars to build a sprawling pavilion for Expo 2020 Dubai - but the South Asian country promises to showcase a new dawn. A reinvigorated Afghanistan that has stem from the gloom and doom of the past two decades of war and conflict.

Expo 2020 and Afghanistan

Contribution of Afghanistan in Expo 2020



Expo 2020 Dubai will be a celebration of human brilliance and achievement. It will be an opportunity for people to connect from different corners of the world, to experience the best of art, culture, geography, science, technology, innovation, and invention and to set into motion millions of new thoughts and ideas that will make a lasting impact in our lives.

Source: Gulf News

“We’re an untapped market with a land of opportunity with cheap & efficient labour. We can be the next big manufacturing hub in South Asia. Also, the country has a huge mining potential because of its rich mineral reserves such as zinc and copper,” H.E. Masood Ahmad Azizi has said about the Expo.

“People see risks. But the opportunities and returns are the highest in any post-conflict economy,” he said, pointing out the World Bank’s insurance scheme for new businesses and mentioned that the Expo is the ideal opportunity for Afghanistan to show the world what it has to offer.



AFGHANISTAN PAVILION

Afghanistan will join the rest of the world at this year’s Expo 2020 Dubai, showcasing its ancient cultures and modern successes at the Afghanistan Pavilion. Its key features include exhibition booths inspired by old Afghan bazaars, world-class products including cashmere, saffron and precious stones, and traditional artworks and famous stories from the nation’s past.



Economic and Trade Cooperation between Afghanistan and UAE



The Major Exports Include:

- **Dried fruits and nuts**
- **Saffron and medical herbs**
- **Fresh fruits**
(apples, melons, pomegranates, grapes and watermelons)
- **Gemstones**
(aquamarine, emerald and other varieties of beryl, fluorite, garnet, kunzite, ruby, sapphire, lapis lazuli, topaz, tourmaline, and varieties of quartz)

The export of these goods in 2020 amounted to **\$2,700,235.**

Trading Diplomacy Between the UAE and Afghanistan

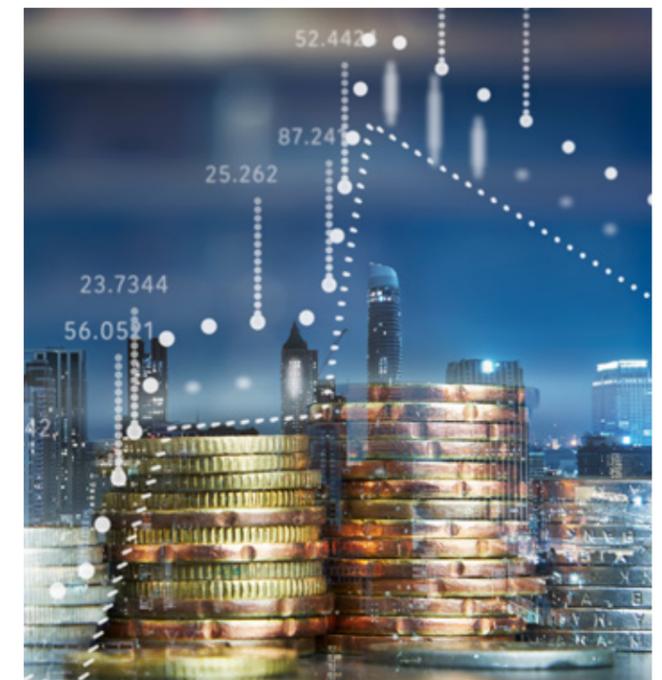
There have been major steps taken in the diplomatic trade between both countries.

UAE is the trade gateway and logistics hub for Afghan goods.

Emirati investors are also planning to implement major projects in Afghanistan which will unlock new investment and trading opportunities between the two countries.

The major work which has been done in 2021 are the:

- **Creation of events to showcase Afghan merchandise and goods in the UAE**
- **Arrangement of Business-to-business meetings between Afghan and Emirati traders to build better relationships and potential partnerships**
- **Introduction of Afghan gemstones in the UAE which led to an increase in market demand**
- **Innovation in technology**
- **Presentation of business opportunities in Afghanistan**



In recent years, the UAE and Afghan Governments have built an economic and trading relationship. This has resulted in an impressive improvement between these two countries. **Despite dealing with COVID-19, the economic and trade between these two governments were not negatively impacted but instead improved each year.**

The results are:

- International markets like Expo 2020 (Dubai) for Afghan and Emirati investors and traders to gain and strengthen

cooperation between their respective governments

- Establishment of an air corridor with the help of Air Arabia (Sharjah) which transports Afghan goods to the UAE market
- Transporting 37 metric tonnes of food supplies to Afghanistan as part of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, its Minister of Defence, and Ruler of the Emirate of Dubai's initiative during the Holy Month of Ramadan

AFGHAN BUSINESSWOMEN IN THE UAE



G U D E E

Gudee's Restaurant serves a fusion of traditional Afghan food with a twist of European influence. Founded in 2013, the flagship restaurant first opened in Abu Dhabi and recently opened a new branch in DIFC, Dubai. Gudee's is a family restaurant led by an Afghan woman with the support of her sister and mother who run this traditional yet chic restaurant together. The name 'Gudee' comes from the Farsi word 'Guddy' meaning doll which also happens to be the nickname of her younger sister.

Tell us the story behind Gudee's and the inspiration behind it.

My mother came to the UAE 33 years ago, and the one thing that we hold close from my beloved nation is our food. Cooking delicious food has always been my mother's passion, and all our family and friends always advised us to open a restaurant. We started the restaurant and hired Afghan chefs too, but they did not have my mother's knowledge and talent for preparing and replicating the authentic Afghan taste. When she realized this, my mom took over the kitchen operations, getting involved in everything from buying organic ingredients to cooking delicious courses. She trained the Afghan chefs and found her forte. Thus, we became Gudee's.



What is your favorite Afghan food? What makes Afghan food so special?

My favorite Afghan food is Mantu, a traditional minced beef dumpling dish with a whole lot of flavor and texture. My mother's favorite is the Afghani aush, a wholesome soup with various ingredients including beans, lentils, homemade noodles, chickpeas, herbs and more, which is one of our bestsellers here at Gudee's as well.

The key ingredients that are at the heart of Afghan cuisine are cumin seeds, cardamom, rose water and dry mint. Foods that are incorporated in most Afghan dishes are chana daal and meat. We avoid putting too much spices in our foods to retain the natural taste of all the herbs.



What are the most popular dishes here at Gudee's? What makes Gudee's unique?

The most popular dishes here at Gudee's are the Bolani, Qabuli, Palaw, Mantu. The Bolani is a traditional Afghan dish composed of fried turnovers with mashed vegetables (for vegetarians) and minced meat (for non-vegetarians). Our bestselling dessert is Roht Cake which is a traditional cake. Basically, Afghan food is very simple and not very complicated, and that is what makes it good. In my opinion, over-complicating food makes food flavors uncomplimentary and distasteful. Our bestselling drinks are our famous dugh, which is like salted buttermilk with dry mint and rose water, and of course our Afghani Green Tea. Gudee's is run just like our kitchen at home, in terms of the ingredients and



food preparation. My mother uses only organic olive oil, meats and eggs, which she buys herself.

Apart from that, at Gudee's we actually create a fusion of contemporary food items like pizza and pasta as well, and add our Afghan elements to them with our special meat sauce and herbs which make our dishes very individualistic and unique.



What is one word that describes Afghanistan and its culture?

Hospitality. Afghans love their guests too much. Hospitality in our culture is probably one of the biggest highlights of our nation. When a customer visits our restaurant, we treat them as a guest in our home, so we do our level best to make sure they leave with a smile.

Tell us a little about yourself and background. How long have you been in the UAE?

I was born and raised in the United States and moved to Abu Dhabi from California in December 2004. I have been an Abu Dhabi resident for over 16 years and live here with my son and daughter named Noah and Lujayn.

I was raised by Afghan parents who emigrated to Denver, Colorado in 1972 from Kabul. My mother was a passionate chef, and my father was a restaurateur. My passion for food and restaurants began through both my father and mother.

When you think of your home Afghanistan, what comes to mind?

Unfortunately, I have not had the opportunity to travel to Afghanistan, and it is one of my top priorities in the near future. When people ask me what home is, I have such a hard time answering this question now, because I have lived in 2 countries which have become a part of my DNA. I do not know what home is anymore. I call myself a human of the Universe.

What are your favorite Afghan dishes? What do you think are the most important ingredients that make Afghan food so special?

I would have to say my favorite Afghan dishes are between Mantoo and Saffron Chicken. Since I moved to the region, I have come to understand that the history of the Afghan Mantoo is much deeper than the borders of Afghanistan. Many countries ranging from Turkey to Armenia have a similar dish, and the history of this dumpling has become a source of interest for me. Another one of my favorite dishes is Saffron Chicken made with sour apricots, chana dahl and chili. A beautiful blend of sour, sweet and spicy.

The most important ingredient that makes Afghan food so special is the love that is put into it while cooking the dishes. It requires patience to understand when to cook each specific

ingredient, and the knowledge to know when it is perfectly finished and ready to serve.

What was it in your culture which inspired you to start Nolu's Restaurant?

When I moved to Abu Dhabi nearly 16 years ago, there was this negative perception of Afghans in the city. The constant battles I would have when I would tell people I was Afghan was hilarious. People thought I was lying or tricking them. They couldn't believe Afghans were as westernized and liberal as I was. I believe that Nolu's was my doorway to highlighting Afghan culture to the Abu Dhabi market. What makes Nolu's very unique is that it blends my cultural backgrounds. It has traditional Californian cuisine, and then I added a twist by introducing delicious Afghan offerings. When you come to Nolu's, you will be amazed to see how the marriage of the two cuisines blended so beautifully together.



Nolu's Restaurant



What dishes are the most popular at Nolu's?

The two dishes that are stars in all of our locations are the Mantoo Dumplings and the Qabili Pallow.

As an Afghan business owner, what is your message for the Afghan community back home and in the UAE?

Being an entrepreneur is something that is not easy, and one must have a certain DNA to be resilient in whatever one is creating, no matter where you are in the world. I believe that the UAE has given me a platform where I have grown and persevered in ways I did not deem possible. First off, being a female entrepreneur in a male-dominated industry has its own set of challenges, not to mention being a foreigner, although I must say that Abu Dhabi has never held me back. It helped me flourish and bring all my passions to life. My one word of advice to anyone coming to the UAE is that if you are coming here to make a quick dirham, forget it. You need to put your sweat, hard work and determination in hyperdrive to succeed, because it's a very competitive market.



In your opinion, what is the beauty of the Afghan culture?

Afghanistan is so diverse that one never gets bored. Our borders have contributed to our diversity, and I am amazed by how resilient we are as a race. Our homes are always open to visitors, and our tables are filled with endless meals that can go from morning until late evening. We have suffered a lot from our turbulent wars, but we have shown our strength and our ability to stand up no matter how many times we have been knocked down. I find Afghans so pure and humble. Even though I was raised in America, I have been embedded with so much culture, one would have a hard time believing I have never been to my motherland.



Tell us how you, Dr. Mughinia Bamyani, first got started in your career and how you became the Founder, Managing Director and Medical Director of Monroe Medical Center.

I was born in Afghanistan, the youngest daughter of Bismillah Bamyani, who was the son of Mullah Said Ahmad Muhtasib, the last Khatib of Bamyan and direct descendant of Abu Bakr Sediq, the first Khalifa of Islam. It was my father who taught me to be strong and to stand up and speak up for my rights. His wish was for all his daughters to study medicine, because Afghanistan needs more female physicians. This is the reason why I studied Medicine and Dentistry.

I was raised in Germany, studied at Leipzig University, and pursued my Master's Degree in Oral Implantology at Frankfurt University. From there, I became a certified member of the German Board of Dentistry and Oral Surgery and the American

Board of Cosmetic Dentistry. I've always loved the UAE. We spent most of our childhood holidays in Dubai, so I eventually decided to settle here for good to return to my Islamic roots. It took some time and a lot of hard work before I was finally able to open my own medical center in 2018, the Monroe Medical Center. This is where I now operate as the Managing Partner and Medical Director.

At Monroe Medical Center, we have the best practitioners in General Dentistry, Cosmetic Dentistry, Dental Radiology, Family Medicine, Aesthetics (Plastic Surgery, Dermatology, Cosmetology and Laser) to provide surgical and non-surgical solutions for men and women. Soon, we will also expand our practice to ENT, Gynecology, Physiology and Neurology. Our vision is to become one of the leading Multispecialty Centers in Dubai.

I poured my heart and soul into doing what I love the most: making my father proud. I would like to encourage all women today to work hard consistently and to make the impossible possible in order to achieve success.

FROM COST-SAVING TO LIFE SAVING:

AFGHAN ALL-WOMEN
ROBOTICS TEAM
DEVELOPS
VENTILATORS OUT
OF CAR PARTS



An all-women robotics team made headlines in 2017 when they won a special award at an international competition in the US for creating ventilators out of car parts. Afghanistan, reeling from years of war, has a maximum of just 400 ventilators for a population of 38.9 million.

Known as the “Afghan Dreamers”, the girls belonged to the western province of Herat, where Afghanistan’s first case of Covid-19 was reported. The girls, aged between 14 and 17, built a prototype using a motor from a used Toyota Corolla and a chain drive from a Honda motorcycle. “I feel so proud to be part of a team that is trying to do something meaningful to support our doctors and nurses – they are our heroes at this time,” said team captain, Somaya Faruqi.

The global shortage of ventilators and their hefty price of \$30,000 (£24,000) to \$50,000 (£40,700) on the global market is a problem. However, the teenagers built the device for less than \$600 each.

The founder of the group, Roya Mahboob, an entrepreneur who has been among Time Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People in the World, said her team is hoping to deliver the ventilators by the end of May.

Dr. Haroon Malik Opens New Branch of Queens Medical Center

In 2019, Zabi Malik and Dr. Haroon Malik opened the first branch of Queens Medical center in one of the oldest neighborhoods known as Al Satwa. The sibling duo’s success story is well known by all means and well appreciated in its neighborhood and in other medical centers due to their exceptional quality of services and hospitality provided.

For the past 2 years, they’ve been serving the customers with the world class and specialized treatments with the most affordable cost in town. Visualizing this as a

stepping stone to their legacy and expertise, they decided and worked endlessly on it to expand their dream venture. With their continuous effort and dedication, they expanded their medical practice by opening a new branch in Burjuman, known as one of old Dubai’s heritage district. An expansion within 2 years comes along with the aim to bring more healthy and perfect pearly smiles to people.

Today, Queens medical center offers one of the UAE’s most advanced dental and wide range of dermatological solutions with a personal touch under one roof, using the latest technologies which helps them cater specialized needs of customers from pediatric dentistry, prosthodontics and orthodontics to laser hair removal, hydra facials and mesotherapy.

Matching up to the management’s aim, vision and goals, their team of highly qualified and multi-disciplinary doctors, nurses and support staff are committed in catering to all patients’



requirements and crafting the best solutions that satisfy and suit them in the best possible manner. Queens Medical Center follows a patient - centric approach as well as undertake continuous quality management techniques to make sure that all services are rendered in the apt way.

Their strong belief in their growth, comes from their passion to keep improving their quality of services and hospitality and their new branch is a perfect example of it.

For a medical center that’s well equipped with dedication, wisdom, technological and human resources, success is always on its way. Queen’s Medical Center is always concerned about customer happiness, their satisfaction and convenience, and we hope success always knocks on their door and may they always stay on merit. Their booming and accomplishing journey is something to look upon proudly.

KEY INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN

Afghanistan

Located in Central Asia, Afghanistan is the bridge connecting South and Central Asia and Europe. Its strategic position means high investment opportunities in regional connectivity and transportation.

Why Invest in Afghanistan

- Top performer in terms of ease of doing business reform
- Availability of 'one-stop shops' for business license issuance
- Government commitment
- Infrastructure and connectivity
- Liberal investment law
- Preferential tariff
- Industrial parks
- Strategic location
- Mega World Bank Insurance

Under the Commercial Laws of Afghanistan, individuals and businesses who want to become legal entities in Afghanistan need to register under the Afghanistan Central Business Registry within the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoCI).

One Stop Shop

Business Licensing One Stop Shop in 25 Provinces
Business Licenses Only \$ 1.4 within 8 Hours

Industrial Park

25 Industrial Parks in over 18 Provinces equipped with adequate infrastructures

Untapped Natural Resources

Natural Resources worth \$1 trillion

Preferential Tariff

Raw Materials 1% & processing machinery 0% Import Tariff

Untapped Market

Afghanistan is located at the heart of Asia and connects the region strategically; the Afghan market is intact, and labor is available at low cost

Regional Connectivity

Crossroads Connecting South Asia, Central Asia & Middle East
TAPI, CASA 1000, TUTAP & Lapis Route in Progress

Liberal Investment Law

Equal Law for Domestic and Foreign Businesses

Ownership & Profit

100% foreign ownership
Real Estate Lease for up to 90 years
100% carry forward of losses and 100% profit repatriations

Corporate Tax rate

Corporate Tax rate 20%

GDP - \$19.29B

Imports - \$6,776.8M

Exports - \$863.8M



INVESTING IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Afghanistan enjoys a good reputation in the cultivation of high-end horticultural crops such as raisins, pomegranates, pistachios and almonds, and it possesses a large international market share. 76% of the total population are engaged in agriculture, which is responsible for about a quarter of the country's GDP in recent years. Rural economic development, with emphasis on agro-business and agro-processing, is one of the top priorities, because it attracts development funds from a host of international donors and significantly impacts production, consumption and overall economic development.



INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR VALUE CHAIN

Manufacturing and Processing

- Dried fruits and nuts processing
- Jams, juices and sauces manufacturing
- Olive oil and olive pickles processing and manufacturing
- Flour and sugar milling
- Potato snacks production
- Cakes and biscuits manufacturing
- Pasteurized dairy (milk, curd, yogurt and cheese) production
- Meat processing
- Dry meat processing
- Oil extraction and processing
- Establishing cold storages
- Cashmere and garment production
- Cotton processing and yarn production
- Leather production

Packaging

- Fresh and dried fruit boxes
- Jars, lids and tins
- Glass and plastic bottles
- Plastic wrappers
- Tetra-packs

Up to 85% of the country's food comes from irrigated farming. Farmers have been relying for centuries on Hari Rud River and natural rainfall to irrigate their land. The harvesting of the winter wheat starts in May in the eastern parts of the country and ends in July while harvesting the mountainous regions. The majority of the wheat grown in the country is of rainfed cultivation, which is planted in April. Most of Afghanistan receives timely and well distributed rains and favourable crop conditions prevail.

Afghanistan's current agricultural area is 96,100,000 hectares (257,455 hectares of which are dedicated for the cultivation of fresh fruits and vegetables). With a lot of cultivable land and the ideal climate for agriculture, livestock, grains, cereals, seeds, pulses, spices and medical herbs are also part of the country's produce.





Investing in Extractive Industries

While the mineral and petroleum resources of Afghanistan have not yet been comprehensively explored and mapped, those that have been identified include a wide variety of minerals from copper (Aynak), iron (Hajgak) and sulfur to bauxite, lithium and other rare earth elements. Afghanistan is home to 60 known deposits of dimensional stone, over 400 varieties of marble, and at least 2 hydrocarbon basins located at the Amu Darya Basin and Afghan-Tajik Basin. By 2020, this sector is estimated to generate 10,000-20,000 direct jobs and between USD 700 million and 1.5 billion worth of revenue.

Main reasons for investing in the mining sector

World-class deposits and excellent discovery potential

Significant amount of technical data available

Attractive investment opportunities

Favorable legal and regulatory regime

Pro-business fiscal regime

Investor-friendly ministry of mines and petroleum

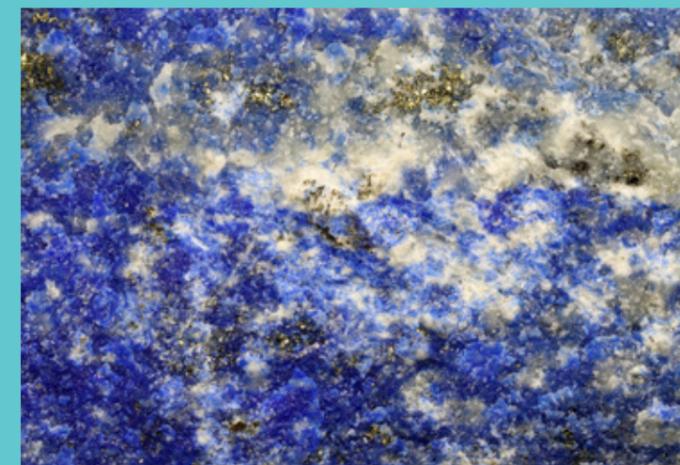
Government's commitment to sector development

Aggressive infrastructure development programs underway

Strategic location in an area of rapidly growing markets

Strong commitment to transparency in all business dealings

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY RESOURCES



Afghanistan is blessed with rich reserves of copper, coal, precious and semi-precious stones (tracing as far back as 6,000 years), yellow and white gold (located at the Wikador Gold Mine in Badakhshan Province, Samti Gold Mine in the Northern Takhar Provinces, Zarkhshan Gold Mine in Ghazni Province, and Pashani Gold Mine in Takhar Province), iron ore (in Hajigak, Bamyan Province), lithium (in the Herat, Nimroz, Ghazni, Badakhshan, Nangarhar, Uruzgan and Nuristan Provinces), marble (with 60 known deposits and 400 varieties), and oil and gas (estimated at 3.8 billion barrels of crude oil in the Balkh and Jawzjan Provinces and 444 billion cubic meters of natural gas in the Amu Darya Basin), Beryllium and other rare earth elements.

In 2006, the Afghan Ministry of Mines and Petroleum and the U.S. Geological Survey conducted a geological survey covering 30% of the country. They further identified substantial amounts of asbestos, talc, magnetite, celestite, chromite clay, glass sand, graphite, igneous-related lead and zinc, lapis lazuli, pegmatite, stone sulfur, niobium, phosphorus, uranium, lithium and thorium.

INVESTING IN THE ENERGY SECTOR



“An energy sector that provides the citizens of Afghanistan and drives the growth of its economy with long-term, reliable and affordable energy access, based on private sector investment and public sector supervision.”

Historically, most of Afghanistan's power generation was based on hydropower and other thermal sources (coal and natural gas). Today, Afghanistan produces 600 million watts of hydropower electricity with a huge potential to produce more in the future.

Kajaki Dam

The Kajaki Dam was built between 1951-1953 by the Morrison-Knudsen firm as part of the Hemland Valley Authority Project, but construction was halted during the Soviet invasion in 1979. Almost 30 years later, Kajaki Dam Units 1 and 3 were fully rehabilitated with funding from USAID, the World Bank and other donors, increasing the dam's installed capacity to 33MW. Unit 1 became operational in September 2005, and Unit 3 in October 2009.

The 18.5 MW-generating Unit 2 had been contracted to Beijing's China Machine Building International Corporation and was set to be completed by June 2007.



RTA World @rtaworld Photos: Kamal Khan Dam, Nimruz Province. <https://twitter.com/rtaworld/status/1348888813100281856>

Kamal Khan Dam

The Kamal Khan Dam was officially inaugurated on March 24, 2021.

The small hydro project and gravity dam located on the Hemland River in Chahar Burjak District, Nimroz Province stands over 16 m high and 2.274 km long and impounds water for irrigation and water production. Its construction officially began in 1974 but was halted after the 1978 Saur Revolution. In

April 2017, work in the main dam and control dam began.

Kamal Khan Dam is managed by the National Water Affairs Regulation Authority (NWARA), formerly the Ministry of Energy and Water.

Solar Energy Projects

Solar energy is a fast-growing industry in Afghanistan producing over 2.2 Megawatt solar power in Afghanistan through various projects.

Its technically qualified and professional personnel can carry out any solar energy project in any province of the country. There are over 3,000 solar-powered streetlamps across Afghanistan.

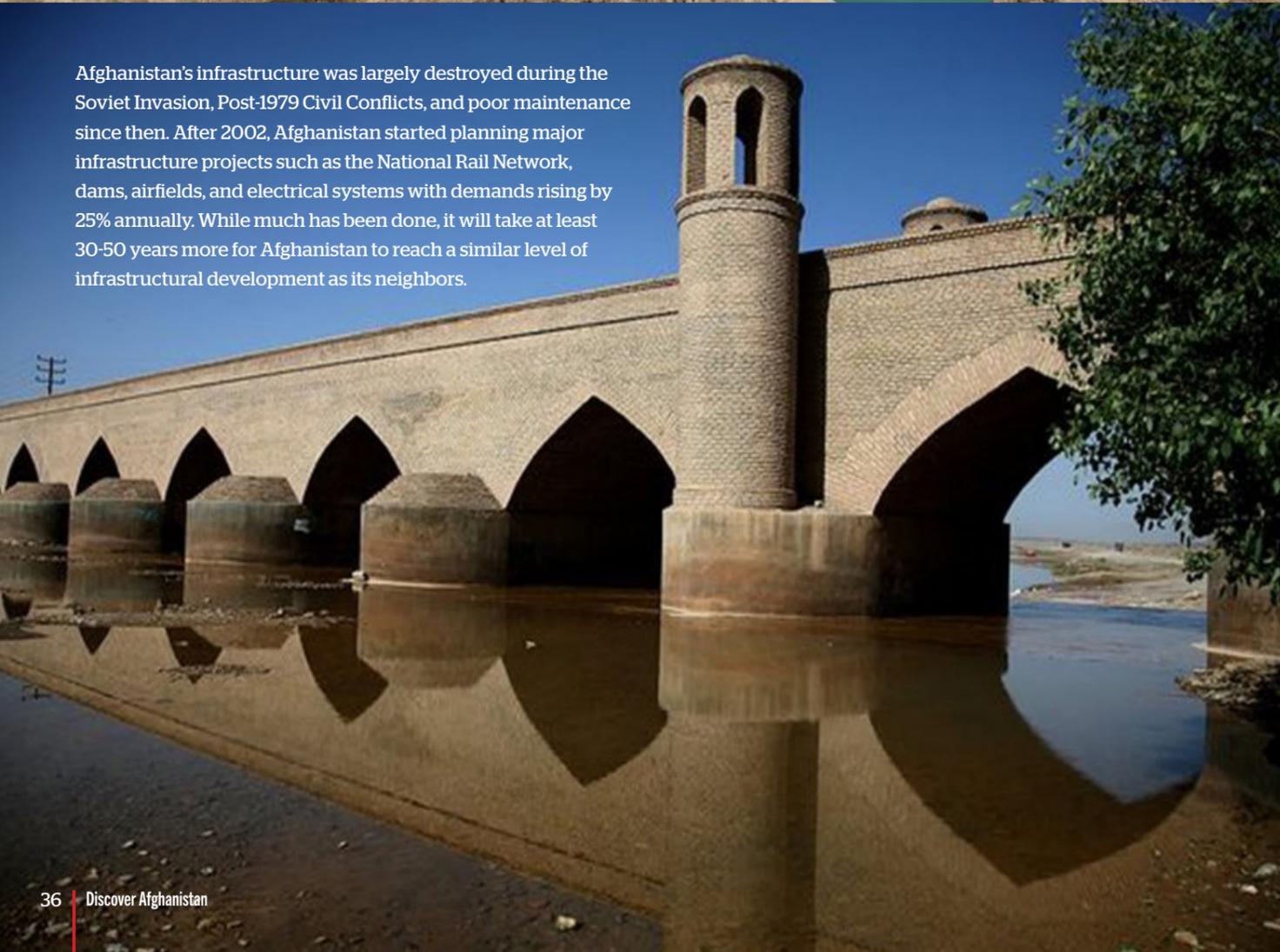
The solar power system is intended to provide constant uninterrupted electricity and water in hard-to-reach regions where it is expensive or impossible to send electricity through conventional power lines, all while being environmentally friendly.

Afghanistan is working towards utilising almost 300 days of sunlight in a year and transform it into a useful resource.



INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE

Afghanistan's infrastructure was largely destroyed during the Soviet Invasion, Post-1979 Civil Conflicts, and poor maintenance since then. After 2002, Afghanistan started planning major infrastructure projects such as the National Rail Network, dams, airfields, and electrical systems with demands rising by 25% annually. While much has been done, it will take at least 30-50 years more for Afghanistan to reach a similar level of infrastructural development as its neighbors.



CEMENT PRODUCTION INCREASES IN NORTHERN AFGHAN PROVINCE

Ghori Cement Plant, Afghanistan's only cement factory, increased its daily cement output from 120 tons to 600 tons, according to a report by XinHua.net on 23rd February 2020. Located at Pul-e-Khumri in Afghanistan's northern province of Baghlan, the Ghori Cement Plant was built over 50 years ago. The cement plant had suffered serious structural damages but was recently reconstructed, employing about 850 workers on the site.

KANDAHAR PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR VISITS MOHMAND HOSPITAL

On 19th August 2021, the Kandahar Public Health Director visited Mohmand Hospital, inspecting its ECU, CT and laboratory facilities. He expressed his appreciation for the hospital's continued service and assured all the personnel of Kandahar Public Health Directorate's full cooperation. Mohmand Hospital is a 200-bed tertiary care hospital located at the center of Kandahar City, Afghanistan.



Khost International Airport

A well-equipped international airport, Khost International Airport has a positive impact on the country's economy and development. It is also the site of the first flight of Bakhtar airlines.

There are several international airways operating in Afghanistan, some of which include:

- Ariana Afghan Airlines
- Pakistan Int'l Airlines
- Emirates Airline
- FlyDubai
- Kam Air
- Turkish Airlines
- Airarabia
- Spicejet



Image Source: View Afghanistan YouTube

Creating Sustainable Homes in Afghanistan

Situated in the Kandahar province, Aino Mena is a suburban development situated on a gently rising site. It was built keeping in mind the cultural necessities of Afghanistan and shows the true potential of the emerging Afghan Economy.

It has created 2,000 new homes, commercial property, health and leisure facilities, transport networks and more. It not only provides housing but has also created over 250,000 jobs

over the years while currently employing about 800 people who earn between AFS 15,000 and AFS 150,000 a month.

Aino Mina is an iconic development, setting a precedent for subsequent projects in Afghanistan. Encouraging investment and confidence as the city continues to grow, it is the benchmark for self-sufficient suburban lifestyles in Kandahar.



Afghanistan Receives Financial Support from the Asian Development Bank for 10 Hospital Constructions

Afghanistan has signed three agreements with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to secure financing worth a total of \$23.95M for the construction of ten hospitals equipped with isolation wards and intensive care units, adding 750 new hospital beds in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The hospitals will feature utilities such as energy-efficient power generators, standard ventilation, heating systems, waste management systems and dedicated wards for female patients.

The financial support is part of ADB's Emergency Assistance for Covid-19 Pandemic Response for Afghanistan. ADB country director for Afghanistan Narendra Singru said, "The agreements signed will help construct hospitals in high-priority provinces."

"The support is part of an integrated approach to improve patient treatment and management to support the government's response to Covid-19."

AGREEMENT ON CONSTRUCTION OF SHEIKH ZAYED 200-BED HOSPITAL

In 2006, the Government of the United Arab Emirates, represented by the Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Charity Foundation, and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, represented by its Ministry of Public Health, signed an agreement to construct the Sheikh Zayed Hospital. The 200-bed hospital project was funded by the UAE government. It is currently Afghanistan's only neurology and neurosurgery medical center for children and the elderly.





Doing Business in Afghanistan

Moreover, with a population of 32 million people and USD 585 GDP per capita, it ranks 167th in World Bank Doing Business Indicator's (DBI) Top Improver. As such, Afghanistan is fast moving towards rendering more facilitation in FDI and domestic investment. It is a new market for many international companies and offers opportunities for product distribution.

“ As a nation, Afghanistan has a wealth of untapped resources. It is our vision to work together with our trade partners and ensure that these resources are utilised to their fullest capacity to benefit all the parties involved. ”

H.E. Masood Ahmad Azizi
(Consul General of I.R. of Afghanistan in Dubai and NE)

Major Import Commodities:

Machinery and other capital goods, food, textiles, and petroleum products

Major Export Commodities:

Grapes, Dried and Fresh Fruits and Nuts, Carpets, Vegetables, Scrap Iron, Legumes, Saffron, Raw Cotton, Asafetida



Doing business covers 12 areas of business regulation including:

- Starting a business
- Dealing with construction permits
- Getting electricity
- Registering property
- Getting credit
- Protecting minority investors
- Paying taxes
- Trading across borders
- Enforcing contracts
- Resolving insolvency

All these are included in the ease of doing business score and ease of doing business ranking.



Why Public Private Partnerships (PPPs)?

The General Directorate of Public Private Partnership was established in 2015 under the direction of His Excellency the President. Afghanistan has suffered with underinvestment and a significant deficit in all forms of infrastructure. Given the increasing demand for infrastructural development, services and the need for significant levels of investment, capacity and resource requirements, the Government recognizes the need to augment its efforts through increased private sector participation. The National Budget Deficit and different competencies of both public and private parties make this a great way to boost economic growth in the country while transferring advanced technology to it.

Achievements of the PPP

\$547 Million of projects in Procurement
\$3.1 billion of projects ready for investment
\$1029 million worth of projects awarded

Some key projects that have been achieved through PPP

- Kandahar Solar Projects worth \$55 million
- Bayat Gas worth \$38 million
- Balkh Gas \$75.3 million
- Kajaki Dam \$175 million
- Kabul Water Supply \$54 million
- Badakhshan Electrification Project \$631 million

Key Projects ready for Investment:

- Air Cargo Terminal Development
- Ali Jinnah Hospital
- Baghdara 226.5 MW Hydro Power Plant
- Qala-I-Mamay Dam
- Watershed Management & Pistachio Orchards

Afghan

Culture



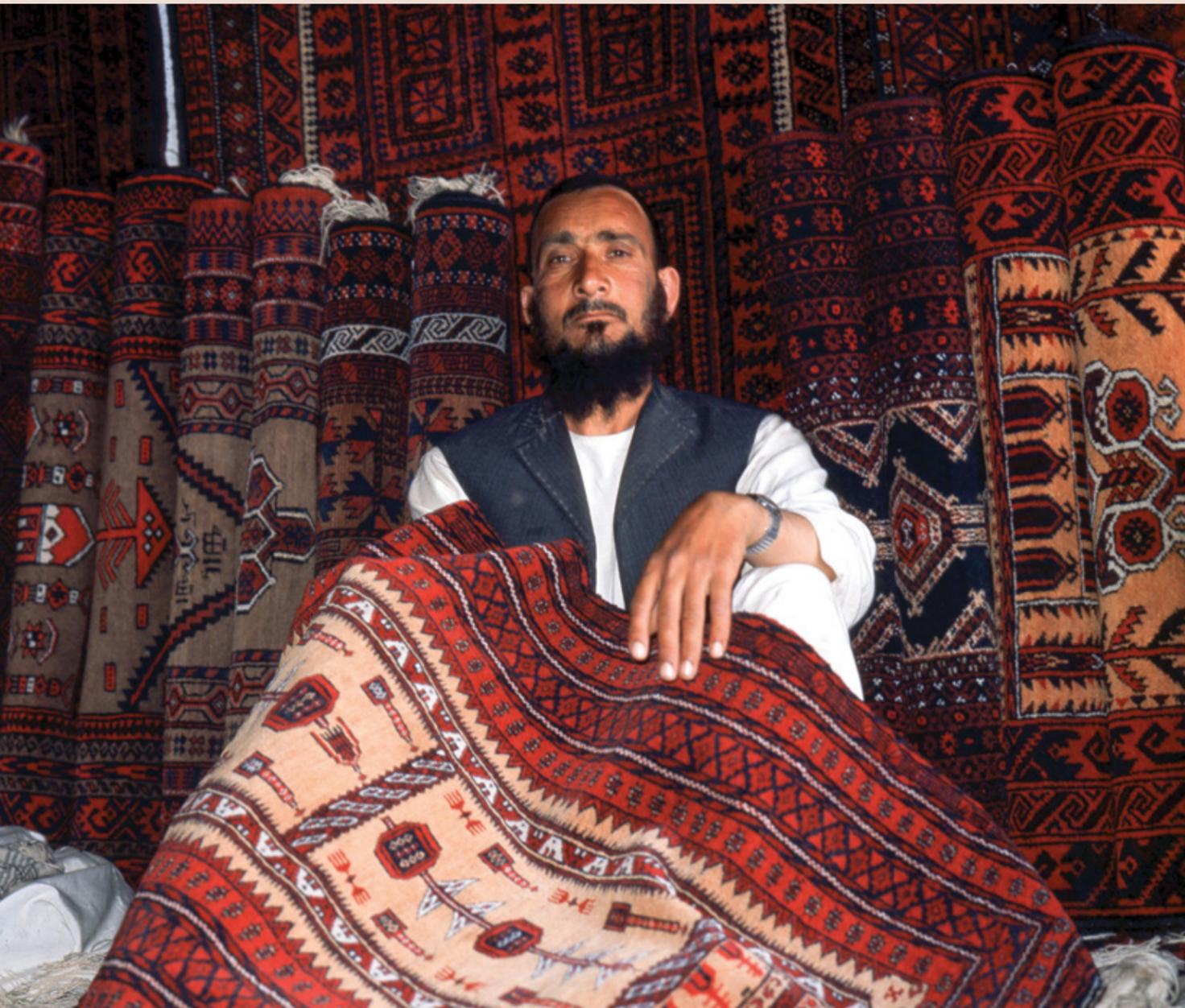
The Ancient arch **Qala-e-Bost**, located in Helmand province, has over 3,500 years of history and is considered one of Afghanistan's greatest cultural heritage sites

Arts

Afghanistan has a rich history of painting, pottery, poetry and architecture, but one of the region's most unique artistic traditions revolves around the creation of Afghan rugs. These oriental rugs can range in size and showcase bright, region-specific geometric designs and mesmerizing artistic scenes.

Its literary heritage is among the richest in Central Asia, tracing back its roots to several ethnic and linguistic traditions. World-renowned Sufi Mystic and Persian poet Jalāl ad-Dīn Mohammad Balkhi, who is also popularly known as Rumi, was born in Balkh, Afghanistan. His enduring popularity inspired many artists including Mohammad Reza Shajarian (Iran), Shahram Nazeri (Iran), Davood Azad (Iran) and Ustad Mohammad Hashem Cheshti (Afghanistan). Rumi's works now enjoy a much larger audience, having been translated to Russian, German, Urdu, Turkish, Arabic, French, Italian and Spanish.

Afghanistan is also well-known for its beautiful architecture and its legacies include the well-preserved traditional Timurid techniques found on the exterior walls of mosques and tombs. The School of Fine Arts was established in Kabul in the 1930s.



Afghanistan celebrates its heritage through folk songs which recount the region's history. Afghan music is created with traditional Middle Eastern instruments, such as flutes, sitars, rubab and tablas. There has been a revival of traditional folk singing inspired by modern Western and Indian music. However, Afghan music remains distinct in many ways, particularly in its scales, note intervals, pitch and rhythm.

Afghanistan is crucial to the evolution of Sufi Music, the mystical Islamic music believed to help devotees grow closer to God. Many of the great Sufi saints originated from the region, including Moinuddin Chishti and Jalal al-Din al-Rumi.



Dance

Cultural, social and traditional feast days with national dance - **Attan**. The traditional Attan dance is performed in open air and has long been observed as the national dance.



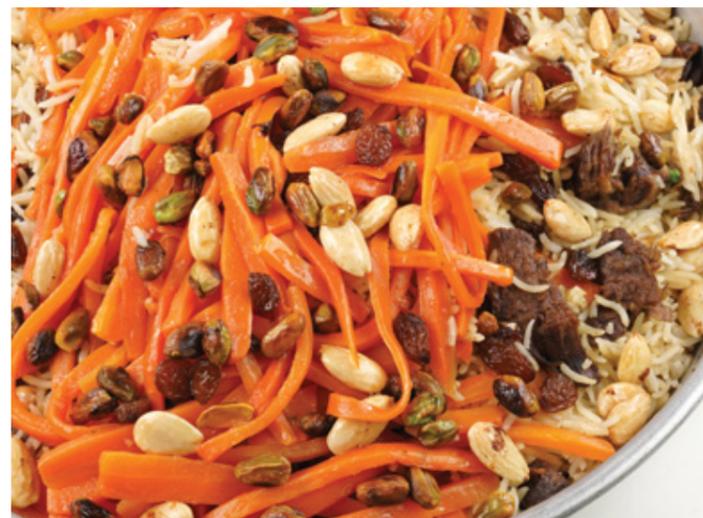
Food



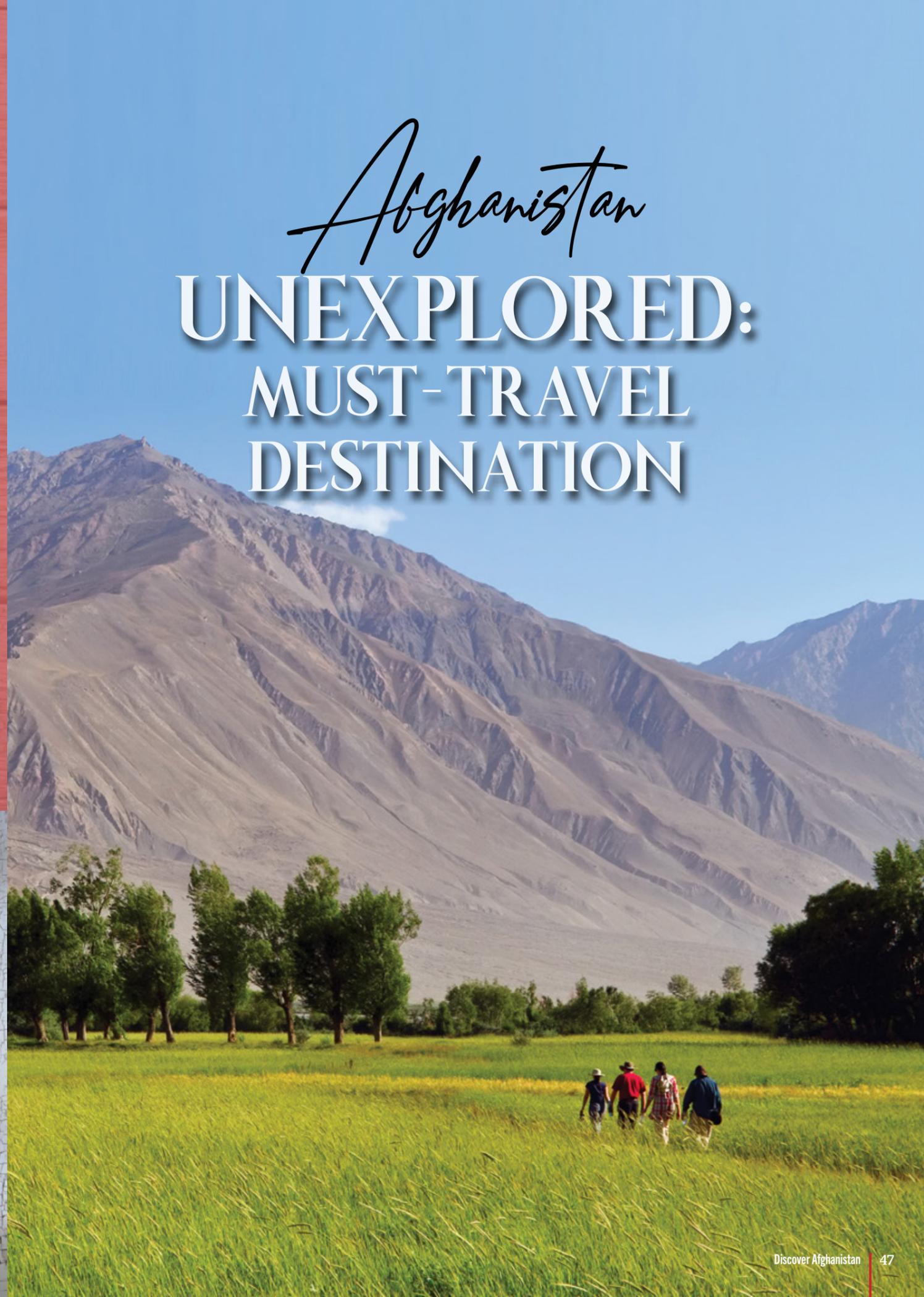
Everyday food consists of flat bread cooked on an iron plate in the fire or the inner wall of a clay oven. It is often dipped in light meat stock. Onions, peas, beans, dried fruits and nuts, and yogurt and other dairy products (butter, cream and dried buttermilk) are diet staples. Rice is more commonly eaten in some areas, particularly urban settlements. Food is cooked with various types of oils, including the fat of a sheep's tail. Tea with sugar and buttermilk are the common beverages.

On special occasions, pilau rice is served with meat, carrots, raisins, pistachios or peas. The preferred meat is mutton, but chicken, beef and camel are also consumed. Kebabs and Aush (fried crepes filled with leeks, ravioli and noodle soup) are popular traditional delicacies. Popular vegetables include spinach, zucchini, turnip, eggplant, peas, beans, cucumbers and tomatoes, while fresh fruits are eaten for dessert.

During formal gatherings, men and women are separated. Dinners start by drinking tea and nibbling on a variety of locally cultivated dried fruit. Food is celebrated and indulged in abundance to demonstrate enjoyment and gratitude.



Afghanistan UNEXPLORED: MUST-TRAVEL DESTINATION





Mazar-e-Sharif Balkh

The capital of Balkh Province and the fourth largest city of Afghanistan, Mazar-e-Sharif is the site of many famous Islamic shrines and Hellenistic archaeological sites.

Its name means the "Tomb of the Prince", referring to the Blue Mosque at the center of the city. This shrine is believed to be the final resting place of Ali ibn Abi Talib, the cousin and son-in-law of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), after his remains were transferred by order of Ja'far as-Sadiq. However, this is disputed by some Muslims who believe his burial site remains in Najaf, Iraq.

The region surrounding the city was historically part of Greater Khorasan and ruled by the Tahirids, Saffarids, Samanids, Ghaznavids, Gurids, Ilkhanates, Timurids and the Khanate of Bukhara. In the mid-18th century, it became part of the Durrani Empire when Emir Murad Beg and Emir Ahmad Shah Durrani signed a friendship treaty.

Mazar-i-Sharif was popularized by Afghan singer Abdul Rahim Sarban's song, "Bia ke berem ba Mazar" ("Come, let's go to Mazar").



The Great Mosque of Herat

Located in Northwestern Afghanistan in the city of Herat, the Great Mosque of Herat (also known as Jami Masjid) was built in 1200 CE by Sultan Ghiyath al-Din Muhammad Ghor of the Ghurids. It was further extended by the Timurids, Safavids, Mughals and Uzbeks. Though most of the glazed tiles had since been replaced, the Friday Mosque's present form dates back to the end of the 15th century.

The Great Mosque of Herat was not always the largest mosque in the city. The title was once held by the much larger Mosque and Madressa of Gawhar Shad prior to its destruction in 1885 by the British Indian Army to prevent the Russian army from using it as a fortress.

Baba-e-Wali Kandahar

Gul Agha Sherzai, the twice-former Governor of Kandahar constructed the shrine Baba-e-Wali (also known as Baba Sahib by Kandaharis) at a cost of millions of dollars to honour one of his revered tribesmen. Baba-e-Wali (kandahari) was a Sufi saint born in Kandahar in about 1476. The shrine provides a breathtaking view to the verdant Arghandab Valley, which is in stark contrast to the rest of the dusty province. It is a popular picnic spot with locals and is a site not to be missed.



The Buddhas of Bamiyan

The famous 6th century monuments of Gautama Buddha were located on the cliffside of the Bamiyan Valley of Central Afghanistan. The “Eastern Buddha” stood at 38m (125ft) and was built around 570 A.D., while the “Western Buddha” stood at 55m (180ft) and was built around 618 A.D.

The statues were made of sandstone, mud, straw and stucco and painted with carmine red. They represented a classical blended style of Gandhara art, which consists of the male Salsal (“the light that shines through the universe”) and female Shamama (“Queen Mother”) as they were once called by the locals.

Surrounding the Buddhas of Bamiyan are numerous caves and surfaces decorated with paintings, the artistic syntheses of Buddhist Art and Gupta, Sassanian, Byzantine and Tokharistanian influences. They date back to the 6th century CE before the Islamic invasions.

In March 2001, Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar declared the Buddhas of Bamiyan as idols and ordered their destruction, drawing strong condemnation by local and international communities.



Chelzina Kandahar

Known as the “Forty Steps of Kandahar”, Chelzina is carved into a mountain peak at the western boundary of what was “Old Kandahar”. This monument was an imposing symbol etched upon the natural defense formed by Kandahar’s western mountains.

Constructed at Babur’s will, he carved a staircase into a mountain and hollowed out an enclave for recording his history. Into the wall of that enclave, Babur carved the story of his conquests in the Mughal Empire in Persian for all to see. He then carved statues of two lions, chained, at the top of the stairs, guarding the entrance to the enclave.

While the staircase is impressive indeed and the inscription is the point of it all, the lions remain the best example of his legacy.



Faizabad Badakshan

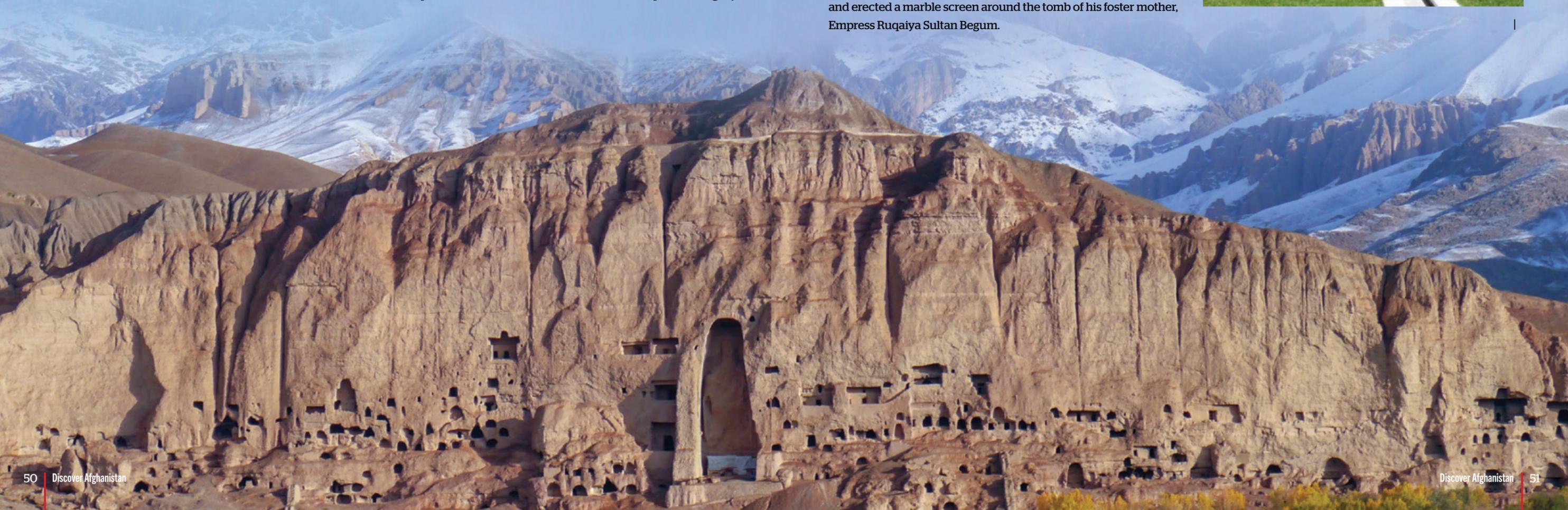
The provincial capital and largest city of the Badakshan Province in Northeast Afghanistan, Faizabad is the main commercial and administrative center of the Pamir Region.

Its name can be roughly translated to the “abode of divine bounty, blessing and charity,” following the tradition which states that Muhammad Shaykh Ziya and Shaykh Niyaz brought the robe of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to the city.

Bagh-E-Babur Kabul

Locally known as the Bagh-e Babur, it is a historic park and the final resting place of the first Mughal emperor, Babur, who gave orders to construct an avenue garden in Kabul in 1528 AD (935 AH). Thus began the Mughal tradition of developing sites of pleasure and recreation and choosing one of them as their final resting place.

In 1607 AD (1016 AH), the Mughal Emperor Jehangir and his stepmother, Empress Ruqaiya Sultan Begum (Babur’s grand daughter) made a pilgrimage to the site of the present-day Garden. They ordered the construction of its surrounding walls and laid a prayer platform and an inscribed headstone on his grave. In 1638 (1047 AH), another Mughal Emperor, Shah Jahan, visited the site and erected a marble screen around the tomb of his foster mother, Empress Ruqaiya Sultan Begum.





Paghman Kabul

The hillside town near the capital city of Kabul, Paghman is known as the garden capital of Afghanistan, thanks to its major tourist attraction, the Gardens of Paghman.

The Taq-e-Zafar ("Arc of Victory") at the entrance of Paghman is a European-style gate inspired by the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, France. It was built by King Amanullah Khan and Queen Soraya Tarzi following their 1928 trip to Europe when they hired foreign experts to redesign Kabul.



About the CONSULATE GENERAL

I.R. of Afghanistan in Dubai and Northern Emirates



Nuristan Badakhshan

Nuristan is one of the 34 provinces of Afghanistan, located in the eastern part of the country. Much of Nuristan is covered by mountainous forests and it has a rich biodiversity with a domestically unique monsoon climate by air coming from the Indian Ocean. As of 2020, the entirety of Nuristan is now a protected national park.



National day celebration

Last August, the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan led by H.E. Masood Ahmad Azizi celebrated National Flag Day. "We should celebrate this day with pride and enthusiasm as the tri-colour flag of Afghanistan represents our nation's identity, history and pride. It is our duty to protect the Afghan national flag," said the Consul General.

AFGHAN CONSULATE GENERAL IN ACTION.

- 86,684 consular services provided
- 72,322 passports issued
- 34,868 Afghan Visas issued



Education Support for Afghans in the UAE

UAE is the second most popular country for education, among second and third generation Afghans. The Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan maintains excellent ties with many higher education institutions in the UAE and has signed various agreements of cooperation to facilitate the enrolment of Afghan students. One of these institutions is the Al Qasimia University in Sharjah.

The Consulate of Afghanistan in Dubai and Skyline University, Sharjah joined hands in bringing about educational reforms for Afghans residing in the country.

Skyline University offered scholarships to all employees working at the Consulate for their undergraduate and postgraduate programs worth AED 1 million. The scholarships were offered

in the fields of International Business, Strategic Management and Leadership, IT systems and many more. Short courses to bring about growth and development in the fields of Business and IT were also offered. They also offered free-of-cost workshops for Afghan laborers by way of health camps and short sessions on English and basic etiquette.

It has been a very progressive and beneficial initiative by the Consul General and could prove to be a reformative move for the Afghan Community in the UAE.

Other universities are:

- Sharjah University
- American University of Dubai
- CUCA University



“ On behalf of the zealous nation of Afghanistan, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Rashid Khan on being named as ICC Men's T20I Player of the Decade by the International Cricket Council (ICC). It is an achievement to be proud of indeed. I wish him every success in the future. ”

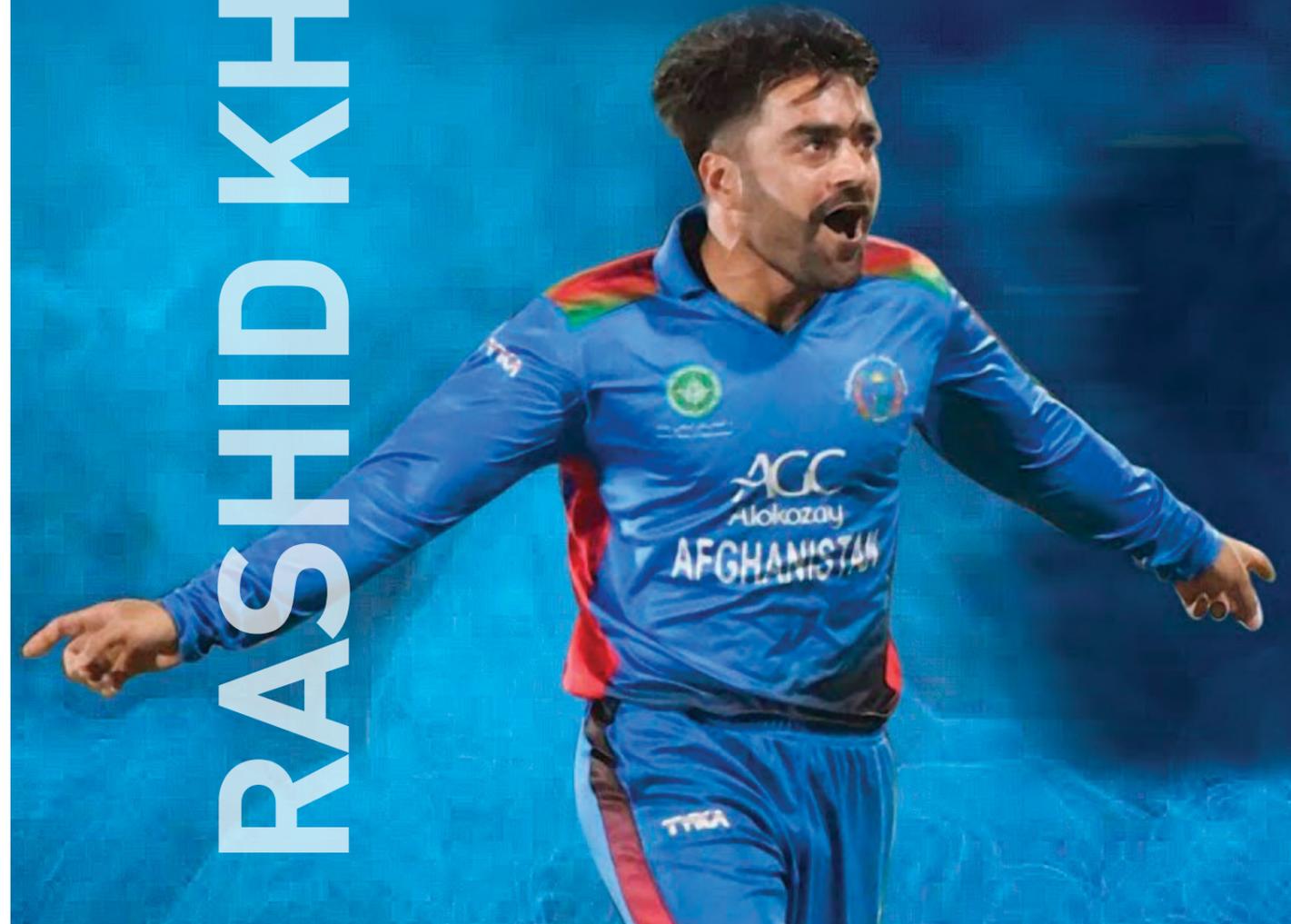
H.E. Masood Ahmad Azizi
Consul General



International
Cricket Council

T20I PLAYER OF THE DECADE

RASHID KHAN



Afghanistan National Day Celebration on August 19th, 2020



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