



AFGHAN COMMUNICATOR

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311 CITIZEN SERVICE CENTER

The public now has one easy to remember number to access New York City's non-emergency government services. This Citizen Service initiative will allow City residents to obtain important non-emergency services through one central, all-purpose phone number quickly and effectively, and it reflects this Administration's commitment to bringing government to the people.

The 311 Citizen Service Center:

- Is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and is answered by a live operator.
- Eliminates the need to search over 4,000 entries on 14 pages of the phone book.
- Can assist callers in 170 languages. (Dari & Pashto)
- Provides tracking numbers so that callers can follow up on

the status of their requests.

- Can be accessed outside of New York City by dialing (212) NEW YORK.
 - TY Services are available by calling (212) 504-4115.
- The 311 Citizen Service Center provides easy access to all non-emergency City services.**
- For example:**
- If alternate side of the st. parking is in effect.
 - Report loud noise, or a blocked driveway
 - Find your neighborhood library & its operating hours.
 - Find out how to become a Parks Department lifeguard.
 - Leave an opinion for the Mayor
 - Report a pothole or street light that needs to be fixed.
 - Find out about garbage collection.

SAVE THE DATE!
AFGHAN HERITAGE DAY ON
SUNDAY AUGUST 17TH, AT
SUNY OLD WESTBURY COLLEGE
IN LONG ISLAND. SEE OUR WEB
SITE FOR INFO

PERSONAL GUIDANCE TO FIND THE HELP YOU NEED

To work with someone one-on-one to help you develop a long-term plan tailored to your special situation, call the toll-free September 11th Support Hotline and request a Service Coordinator. Service Coordinators work with you over time to keep you informed and help connect you with the full range of benefits and services for which you are eligible.


September 11th Support Hotline: 1-866-689-HELP (4357)
Call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with questions, or to request a Service Coordinator.

To speak with a counselor for immediate crisis counseling or to get a referral to an appropriate mental health provider or substance abuse treatment program tailored to your individual needs, call LifeNet.

LifeNet: 1-800-LIFENET (543-3638)

Call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for assistance with emotional issues or substance abuse problems.

For More Information, Visit:
<http://www.sept11help.org/>



A representative of PAE Government Services, Inc. will be at Afghan Heritage Day and will be collecting resumes for future business opportunities in Afghanistan. Information about other contracts in Southern and Central Asia and the Middle East will also be available. Visit the PAE booth on August 17th for more information!

AFGHAN COMMUNICATOR



SERVING THE AFGHAN COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

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INTER AFGHAN YOUTH SUMMIT V - 2003



Participants of IAYS 2003

The staff of Afghan Communicator participated in the Fifth Inter Afghan Youth Summit (IAYS), which was organized by Society of Afghan Professionals (SAP) in California's Bay Area. This two day event, attended by over 50 active young Afghans from all over the US and Canada, was held at Stanford University on June 21 and 22.

IAYS was originally founded by Afghan Communicator in August of 1999, to bring active young Afghans together to discuss and shape their future. The first Summit was held in Queens, NY by Afghan Communicator; the second Summit was held in San Francisco by SAP; the third in Virginia by Afghan Student Association (ASA); and the fourth in Manhattan's Empire State Building by AC.



Mr. Shafiq Shamel, speaking in front of the summit participants

This well-organized

and information packed event included workshops, guest speakers and a social. Workshops were facilitated by Mr. Farhad Azad, Editor of Lemar Aftab (www.afghanmagazine.com), also a SAP member, and Mr. Afzal Rashid, Country Representative of International Development Law Organization, who also addressed the Summit attendees with some words of wisdom. At the social, Mr. Shafiq Shamel performed and the key note speaker, Mr. Hekmat Karzai, First Secretary of the Afghan Embassy in Washington DC, spoke about activism and the role of young Afghans in the reconstruction process.



Mr. Hekmat Karzai Keynote Speaker at IAYS 2003

کانفرانس بین الافغانی جوانان

موسسه هماهنگی جوانان افغان (Afghan Communicator) در کانفرانس بین الافغانی جوانان که توسط انجمن فنی افغان (SAP) در سانفرانسیسکو برگزار شده بود در ۲۰-۲۱ جون، اشتراک کرد. جوانان فعال افغان از چهار گوشه امریکا و کانادا اشتراک داشتند.

VISITING AFGHANISTAN'S MINISTRY OF HEALTH



Dr. Abdullah Sherzai

In a recent trip to Kabul, I had an occasion to speak with Dr. Abdullah Sherzai, General Director of Plan and Policy. Dr. Sherzai was gracious enough to make time to meet with me and discuss the current public health situation in Afghanistan. "We're in a battle," he explained, as countless lives are lost to respiratory tract diseases, malaria, tuberculosis, diarrhea diseases and prenatal

illnesses. The primary focus of the ministry is currently on women and children because of the alarmingly high rate of pregnancy-related deaths. As a result of bleeding complications, women die 4-5 harrowing days after the birth of a child. The congestion in Afghanistan's main cities further complicates the situation. Refugees returning from Pakistan, Iran and other neighboring countries have become habituated to city life and, thus, repatriate to the cities of Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat. The ministry's responsibilities also include providing assess-

ments of the water supplies, testing foods and coordinating the countless NGO's looking to make their own niche in Afghanistan.

USAID and foreign countries are opening clinics but the need for high quality health care workers, equipment, facilities and medicines is still astounding. In response to the what the biggest need is in Afghanistan, Dr. Sherzai answered "E - All of the above."

We wish Dr. Sherzai and the health-care workers in Afghanistan the best in their tireless daily efforts to save Afghan lives.

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FIRST TRIP TO KABUL

By Nadia Hashimi

My perspective probably differs from most travelers to Afghanistan. For me, a US born Afghan-American, this was not a return to the homeland. Rather, it was a chance for me to get a first hand look at a place that had been described to me by family, friends and the evening news.

The sun had not yet risen when we arrived at the Dubai airport to await our Ariana flight to Kabul. There were moments of apprehension when it occurred to me that the funky green floral upholstery of the plane seats were not "retro" designs, but evidence of the plane's age. Once I was able to forgive the dated appearance, however, I was able to appreciate the breathtaking views as the plane made its ascent. We passed over the deserts of Dubai, the Persian Gulf, the mountains of Iran and at 8:10 AM the flight attendant informed us that we had entered the Afghan skies. Edging our way into the country, more and more hints of civilization began to appear below – indistinguishable signs of life against a khaki tapestry.

Once in Kabul, it was amazing to see the everyday life and mood of the people there. As anticipated, we saw skeletons of buildings, mounds of rubble, refugee tents and more green flags than the eye can count, marking the graves of fallen soldiers. Pock marked buildings, some with one wall destroyed still housed people in the parts that stood. As

much devastation as there may be, however, there is an almost tangible excitement and hope in the form of countless construction sites, congested traffic and bustling street markets.

The juxtaposition of old and new is striking as we saw children drag pails of well water just blocks away from Internet Cafes. Anything and everything can be found in Kabul, which now boasts a Chinese restaurant, Iranian restaurant, Italian restaurant and more. Even your late night pizza cravings can be satisfied with the availability of 24-hour pizza delivery. From a patio outside *Bagh-e Baala* reception hall there is a magnificent view of Kabul lit up at night.



Masjid Pul-e Kheshti in Kabul

I visited two schools in Kabul and spoke with teachers and principals. Because of space limitations, schools are run in shifts, so that each school serves hundreds of children a day. I was especially impressed by the dedication of the children to attend class, with kindergarteners rising earlier than everyone else for their 6 am lessons. Some schools had comfortable facilities while others held classes

in tents under the shade of a tree with unbearable temperatures. I saw students ranging from 5 to 50 years old, all eager to learn.

I also visited two hospitals, the new tuberculosis hospital constructed by Japan and the extremely busy Rabi Balkhi hospital where hundreds of children are delivered each day.

The doctors at each hospital were kind enough to make time to show me the facilities and talk about their needs. At Rabi Balki, the doctors explained that they are in dire need of equipment and medicine. Laboratory tests for blood samples are very limited. When prescriptions are written, they are often left unfilled because few people can afford the 1000 Afghani price.

As expected for a country in a transitional state, however, progress and limitations exist side by side. On the streets, I had the sense that people feel good about the security and reconstruction in Afghanistan under the leadership of the affectionately nicknamed "*Chakarza*". ISAF troops are seen infrequently, but make casual appearances around city streets. Real estate prices have skyrocketed and the current property values make it next to impossible for many families to afford a modest living space. The setting is ripe for the makings of an economically polarized society, but it is encouraging to see the markets overflowing with goods and shoppers at all hours of the day.

Although my stay in Kabul was brief, each day was packed with incredible and emotional experiences. We at Afghan Communicator look forward to bringing you more firsthand updates on the situation in Afghanistan.

2003 MOST ACTIVE AFGHAN AWARD



In order to recognize the efforts and initiatives of our active young leaders, Afghan Communicator created this award to encourage further activism in the community. Founding the Inter Afghan Youth Summit (IAYS) in 1999, Afghan Communicator aimed to bring together the young Afghan leaders together. In its fifth year, IAYS has grown to fulfill its intended goals. Through this award, once a year our peers get an opportunity to select one of their own as the Most Active Young Afghan. In addition to winning the recognition of their peers, the winner would also receive a certificate of recognition and cash prize.

This year's winner was Ms. Khaleda Atta, 23, President of Society of Afghan Professionals, whose relentless work in the community has

rightfully won her the recognition of her peers. Afghan Communicator was happy to present her with a check for \$400 and will send her a recognition certificate.

Ms. Atta was chosen from a list of five well-qualified candidates such as Ms. Katrin Fakiri, former President and co-founder of SAP, also member of the IAYS Advisory Committee; Mr. Haroon Mohsini, Co-founder, Director, and President of Afghan-Canadian Professionals of Ontario (ACPO), Canada, also member of the IAYS Advisory Committee; Mr. Weis Sherdel Co-founder & Executive Director of American Society of Afghan Professionals (ASAP) of Virginia; and Ms. Tooba Mayel Acting President of Afghans4Tomorrow. The five finalists were nominated by Afghan Communicator and the IAYS attendees voted for the winner.



Ms. Khaleda Atta, winner of the 2003 Most Active Afghan

Speaking on the problems facing the Afghan community, Ms. Atta sighted "Lack of encouragement to youth for volunteerism. Lack of support and positive reinforcement in general toward achievements and success". Wanting to be part of the solution, Ms. Atta said, "I would deal with this by attempting to expand the network of young Active Afghan volunteers through continued support to the IAYS and related gatherings. Consistent public awareness campaigns to educate the community on daily activities of the volunteers and encouragement of recruitment. Also, support other such Afghan volunteerism and/or Success Awards in the community at-large for youth".

Afghan Communicator offers its best wishes to Ms. Atta, and hopes to work closely with her and other young leaders to achieve our common goals in the Afghan communities.



IMMIGRATION WORKERS FREEDOM RIDE

Following the September 11th tragedy, immigrants have been the target of some of the most repressive legislation & executive policy in memory. Government raids on workplaces, homes, punitive detentions for protracted periods of time, the constant threat of deportation, & often the abrupt loss of employment, now characterize immigrant life in the US.

With the 2004 election season already underway, a dramatic intervention in the political process is needed to insure that presidential & Congressional

candidates as well as both major parties, know that millions of voters care about the rights of immigrant workers in this country.

In an effort to accomplish this political intervention, & inspired by the 1960's Civil Rights Movement Freedom Riders, the NYC Central Labor Council is sponsoring the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride. Buses filled with immigrant workers & their community allies will set out from ten major US cities, starting September 20th, to draw national attention to immigrant rights & the current injustices of outdated immigration laws. The

cities that will be covered for this journey include; Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Houston, Minneapolis, Chicago, Miami, Boston, Washington DC, & NYC.

The Riders will end their journey in NY on October 4th at Flushing Meadows – Corona Park, Queens.

For further information regarding this event, please contact Ryan Delgado at (212) 604-9552, ext. 219. You may also visit <http://www.iwrf.org> for more information.

بدرست آوردن کار

کتابخانه های کوینز هموطنان عزیز را جهت جستجو برای کار همکاری مینمایند. لطفاً به کتابخانه نزدیک تان مراجعه فرمایید و از کاتب در باره جاب ریفرنس (Job Reference) بپرسید.

AC & THE COMMUNITY BOARD 7

As of May 2003, Afghan Communicator officially became cabinet member for the Community Board 7 (CB 7). The CB 7 members also include representatives from most city agencies, such as the New York Police Department, Fire Department of New York, Department of Environmental Protection, City Council Member's office, as well as community based organizations.

The Community Board 7 encompasses the areas of Flushing, College Pt., Whitestone, Bay Terrace, Malba, Beechhurst, Bayside, Queensboro Hill, and Willets Pt. areas where majority of Afghan residents are concentrated.

With Ms. Marilyn Bitterman, appointed as the District Manager, the CB 7's goal is to help bring solutions to problems that affect part or all of the community, problems ranging from traffic issues to deteriorating housing. Input from each Community Board also contributes to the dialog about the city budget, municipal service delivery & many other matters relating to their communities' welfare.

As a member of the Community Board 7, AC is committed to effectively establish a viable working relationship with the city agencies and/or organizations in our collective effort to find solutions to the problems that faces our community.



جایزه فعال ترین جوان افغان

در کانفرانس بین الاقوامی جوانان، موسسه هماهنگی AC جایزه فعال ترین جوان افغان را جهت تشویق جوانان در راه خدمت به جامعه افغانی معرفی کرد. برنده این جایزه دوشیزه خالد عطاء، رئیس انجمن فنی افغان (SAP) که توسط اشتراک کننده گان این کانفرانس انتخاب شد. این جایزه حاوی از یک شهادتنامه و پول نقد \$400 است به دوشیزه عطاء داده شد. از صمیم قلب برای خالد جان تبریک میگویم.

نمره ۳۱۱

شاروالی شهر نیویورک برای سهل ساختن زندگی برای همه نمره ۳۱۱ تیلیفون را بوجود آورده. هموطنان میتوانند به این نمره زنگ بزنند برای همه ضروریات غیر ایمرجنسی از قبیل راپور دادن صدای بلند، راه بستن گراج تان با موتر کسی دیگر، گذاشتن نظر برای شاروال و غیره. زبان دری و پشتو صحبت میشود.

JOB REFERENCE SERVICE FOR ADULTS

The Queens Borough Public Library Job Information Center is proud to announce its Job Reference Service for Adults program, which will enable people within the community to seek assistance on how to obtain a job during this uncertain economic condition. The types of assistance that this program offer includes:

Job and career resources:

The library has in their possession periodicals, books, videos, specialized database which will help you on your search for a career.

Job Information Librarian:

A job information librarian will answer your job and career question in a confidential private session. He or she will also help you review your resume, design a cover letter, find training, learn job search techniques, and discover sources of job listings. To make an appointment or for inquires regarding the program, please call (718) 990-0746 for Central Library and (718) 661-1218 for Flushing Library.

The Career Exploration Inventory:

A self-scored, easy to use guide to choosing a career, based on your interest and experiences. A job information librarian will be present to assist and answer question. Registration is required. Please call (718) 661-1200 ext.0 to register for Flushing Library, and (718) 990-0756 for Central Library.