

The *Afghan Post* introduces the Afghanistan – Hidden Treasures exhibition to the growing community of Afghan-Canadians

Le *Afghan Post* présente l'exposition Afghanistan – Les trésors retrouvés à la communauté toujours croissante de Canado-Afhans.



Afghan Post is publishing in Pashto, Dari, English and French Languages

October, 2009 Issue (126) Volume 10



Afghan poll raises ethnic tension fears

With Afghanistan facing a presidential election run-off in just over two weeks, fears are growing in Kabul that the poll will play into the hands of the Taliban by inflaming ethnic tensions. Western attempts to resolve Afghanistan's two-month political crisis have been shaped by the belief that a fresh vote will restore the credibility of a poll marred by the fabrication of hundreds of thousands of votes for President Hamid Karzai. Mr Karzai bowed to intense international pressure this week to accept a run-off with his rival Abdullah Abdullah, due to be held on November 7. Mr Abdullah, the runner-up in the first poll on August 20, also agreed to a second round on Wednesday, saying: "We are completely ready for it." Afghan analysts have given warning, however, that a focus on the quality of the electoral process obscures the political reality that a run-off will draw sharper battle lines between Mr Karzai's Pashtun supporters and Tajiks backing Mr Abdullah. "Afghanistan will be divided into two parts . . . when we go for a second round," said Waheed Mojadah, a political analyst. "Basically, this election is between Pashtuns and Tajiks and will clearly show which of these ethnicities is the most powerful."

Continue on page (27)

AFGHANISTAN
Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul

Canadian Museum of Civilization
Gatineau, Quebec - Ottawa - October 23, 2009 to March 28, 2010

World Teachers' Day

World Teachers' Day, October 5

World Teachers' Day, held annually on 5 October since 1994, commemorates the anniversary of the signing in 1966 of the UNESCO/ILO Recommendation Concerning the Status of Teachers. It is an occasion to celebrate the essential role of teachers in providing quality education at all levels. World Teachers' Day 2009 puts the spotlight on the global teacher shortage and the challenges of being a teacher today.

Hidden Treasures

This acclaimed exhibition showcases treasures that miraculously survived war and chaos in Afghanistan. These stunning objects, from the National Museum in Kabul, were feared stolen or destroyed. But they had been daringly hidden by a group of brave Afghans... and were rediscovered 20 years later. **AFGHANISTAN: Hidden Treasure** features more than 200 artifacts, including exquisite gold jewellery, finely-carved ivory, delicate glassware and superb sculptures. Dating from around 300 BCE to 100 CE, they reveal a rich and diverse ancient culture. The objects drawn from four distinct archaeological sites establish Afghanistan's wealth and

Afghan Election

The real winner of Afghanistan's presidential election will not be Hamid Karzai or his main rival, Abdullah Abdullah. It's a man named Mohammad Qasim Fahim. He is Afghanistan's senior-most military commander, with the lifetime rank of marshal, and was Karzai's running mate during the campaign. Whether Karzai or one of his opponents wins, Fahim will hold and exercise extraordinary influence over the country's military and security apparatus – more so than the elected president. This means the real loser of Afghanistan's presidential election besides the Afghan people --

FRONTIER GANDHI:

Acclaimed director Teri McLuhan's **FRONTIER GANDHI: Badshah Khan, A Torch for Peace** will open the 2009 International Diaspora Film Festival on Wednesday, November 4th at 7pm at Innis Town Hall Theatre. The film was recently awarded the best documentary prize at the Abu Dhabi International Film Festival. This dramatic feature length documentary tells the extraordinary story of the "other" Gandhi, Badshah Khan, a Muslim Pashtun warrior who fought for peace and independence alongside Mahatma Gandhi. Virtually unknown in the West, Khan raised a non-violent army of over 100,000 people and is