



## DAWLATĀBĀD

**DAWLATĀBĀD**, name of several localities in Afghanistan that have grown up around civil or military government buildings. Some have never developed into large settlements. For example, a former Nūrzay encampment 72 km northeast of Farāh, formerly a fording place across the Farāhrūd and a toll station on the caravan road between Qandahār and Herat, remains only a village, with a population of about 400 adult males (Central Statistics Office [C.S.O.], p. 1171; Imām Sharīf, p. 220; repr. in *Gazetteer of Afghanistan* II, p. 62). Another village 25 km southeast of Tāšqorġān (Kōlm) contained 200 Arab families in the 1880s and a population of some 300 adult men in the 1970s (C.S.O., p. 882; Maitland, II, pp. 46, 465; repr. in *Gazetteer of Afghanistan* IV, pp. 195, 564). Two other settlements, however, expanded into small towns, both now famous for carpet production.

*Dawlatābād(-e Balk)*. This Dawlatābād, a former stage on the great caravan route between Afghanistan and Bukhara via Keleft (Maitland, II, p. 199), is now a district seat in Balk province and the only town in the northern part of the large **Balkāb** oasis. The population (6,111 inhabitants in 1358 Š./1979) includes a mixture of Turkmen, Uzbeks, and Hazāra (Nāhež, p. 271). Owing to its close proximity to Mazār-e Šarīf (26 km) and its distance from the modern road network, the town has recently entered a period of decay: The cotton gin built in 1316 Š./1937 has closed down, and the once prosperous biweekly *bāzār* (397 shops, mostly specializing in cloth or food and open on Mondays and Thursdays) was reported to be partly inactive in 1357 Š./1978 (Jebens, p. 223), though it remains an important center of trade in embroidered cotton caps of



various styles, including a cheap local type (Jebens, pp. 225-26,409).

Dawlatābād is the center of a densely populated and highly productive district (*woloswālī*) of 864 km<sup>2</sup>, with 65,397 inhabitants in 1358 Š./1979 (for further statistical information, see [BALĶ v](#)). Since the settlement there of Teke Turkmen refugees from the U.S.S.R. in the 1930s (see list of villages in Franz, p. 207), the district has become the most prominent carpet-weaving center in the whole region of Mazār-e Šarīf (Parsons, pp. 78-79); merchants from Mazār-e Šarīf entirely control production.

The district is rich in protohistoric, Achaemenid, Kushan, and Kushano-Sasanian mounds, for example, the unexcavated Dawlatābād Tepe (Ball, p. 87) and the more important mounds near [Delbarjīn](#), 28 km west of Dawlatābād, which were excavated in 1969-77 by a joint Soviet-Afghan team (Kruglikova, 1974-77; idem, 1986; idem and Sarianidi, p. 16 map; erroneously located in Jawzjān province by Ball, p. 91). The so-called “Dawlatābād minaret” of the 12th century is actually located in the village of Zādīān, 14 km northeast of Dawlatābād, where it is known by the name *zīarat-e* Kʿāja (or *Ḥazrat-e*) Šāleḥ (Sourdel-Thomine, pp. 122 ff.; Nāhež, p. 272).

*Dawlatābād(-e Maymana)*. This Dawlatābād is a district seat in Fāryāb province. It evolved from the Turkmen village of Qōzī Bāy Qalʿa, founded soon after 1293/1876 on the right bank of the Šīrīn Tagāw (Tagāb) river by Ersārī immigrants from Panjdeh (Maitland, II, p. 159, partly repr. in *Gazetteer of Afghanistan* IV, p. 68; cf. Peacocke, pp. 289, 293). As the village was exposed to raids by the Sāreq Turkmen, a fort was built there in 1301/1884 and garrisoned with 100 Afghan soldiers (Maitland, II, pp. 156, 159; Peacocke, p. 91, with two plates). This small military post has burgeoned into a thriving new town, owing to three main factors. First was the general rural recolonization of this once depopulated area. Second was the situation of the village at the junction of the main road linking Maymana to [Andkūy](#) (asphalted only between Andkūy and Dawlatābād) with the direct road to Šebergān through the Dašt-e Laylī. Third was elevation to the rank of an administrative center first of a subdistrict (*ʿalāqadārī*), then, in 1343 Š./1964, of a district (*woloswālī*). It has a large biweekly *bāzār* of perhaps 400 shops (Grötzbach, p. 121: only 180 shops and 14 *sarāy*), most open only on Sundays and Wednesdays; there are also four mosques, a military camp, a secondary school for boys and one for girls, and various other administrative facilities (Radojicic, p. 15). Residential quarters (*šahr-e now*) were under construction in 1355 Š./1976, in order to house the growing population of civil servants. According to the preliminary



returns of the [census](#) of 1358 Š./1979, however, the municipal population amounted to only 2,434 inhabitants; most of the shopkeepers and their employees lived in the surrounding villages.

The district of Dawlatābād has an area of 2,599 km<sup>2</sup>. It incorporates two former subdistricts, Dawlatābād proper in the north (originally attached to [Āqča](#) and [Ḳayrābād](#) in the south (administered from Maymana). Their combined populations were put at 650-850 families in 1886, including Turkmen newcomers in Dawlatābād and long-established Uzbek peasants in [Ḳayrābād](#) (Yate, p. 234; Maitland, II, pp. 531, 544; repr. in *Gazetteer of Afghanistan* IV, pp. 69, 392). By 1358 Š./1979 the total population had grown to 26,812 sedentary inhabitants, nearly all concentrated in the Šīrīn Tagāw valley. This tremendous increase can be accounted for by both natural growth and immigration of Pashtun settlers from southern Afghanistan and Turkmen refugees from the neighboring U.S.S.R. (Radojicic, p. 15).

Carpet weaving, originally a specialty of the Turkmen settlements of the district (see Franz, p. 211), has recently been introduced in the more numerous Uzbek villages, where work of lesser quality is produced. It does not seem to have penetrated the remaining Pashtun and Arab villages. Production is now controlled by dealers from Kabul and Andkūy, and the Dawlatābād *bāzār* plays no significant part in the trade (Parsons, pp. 123-24; cf. Klieber, p. 149). That it was once more important is clear from the fact that the typical modern red Turkmen carpet with large blue or black octagonal designs (*fil-pāy*) is still usually called Dawlatābād (O'Bannon, p. 115). Cotton weaving (*alāča, karbās*) was also formerly widespread in the area (Nāhež, p. 274).

For further statistical information on the district, see [FARYĀB](#).

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