



We arranged for the porters to come early the next morning to continue our way on the glacier. On the next day we were at 5,100m, having crossed the whole Gordoghan glacier, when we came before a dangerous net of crevasses hidden by fresh snow. It proved impossible to find a way through these crevasses. We set a second camp at 5,065m near the icefall. Next day we tried to continue but finally turned back and we set a camp at 4,915m and came up with the alternative plan of climbing Gordoghan Zom I (6,240m). At 03:30 on June 9 we set out for Gordoghan Zom I. We followed a cone moraine that leads to an ice gully (N36 08' 40.1"—E72 21'31.9"). The route passes a moraine situated almost at the middle of the length of the Gordoghan glacier, and continues to the West face of Gordoghan Zom III. We left the Gordoghan Glacier behind us and took the ice gully that leads to a big snow-covered slope. The summit is not visible from this point. The peak that can be seen ahead has the Gordoghan Zom I summit behind it and on its left. We continued our way for this peak believing that this was Gordoghan Zom. Finally we reached a slope covered by thick ice between 40° and 50°. From this point we saw that there was a higher peak behind this first one. The last 200 meters were exhausting. At 11:00, Nikolas reached this first peak (N36 08' 59.2" - E72 22' 51.5" at 6,158m altitude GPS reading). This peak is not signed in Japanese 1:150,000 maps so we gave the name Gordoghan Zom III. Gordoghan Zom I is connected with this peak by a very narrow ridge about 300 meters long. This abrupt ridge is formed by eroded rock with some places covered by snow and had been impossible to be passed by a solo climber. Nikolas met me lower on the slope. It was 13:30 when we reached our tent and crawled in with exhaustion. We covered the 1,240 meters to the peak in 6 hours and we needed another 4 hours to come back. The snow condition had not been very good due to the early season. The best time to climb in the Buni Zom mountain range is in August.

GEORGE ZARDALIDIS, *Greece*

*Editor's Note: Gordoghan III has possibly been climbed three times before during attempts on Gordoghan I: in 1965 by Germans, Alfred Koch and Ernst Lainer (climbed to the Main Summit via an unspecified route, though thought to have been the West Face/Ridge), and subsequently by Japanese in 1968 and 1970 (they stopped at this summit during attempts on the Main Peak). However, the Greek ascent is interesting in that the mountains north of Chitral, close to the Afghan border, were considered very much a no-go area for foreigners after the terrorist strikes of 2001. The pair climbed, there also without problem in 2002, when they reached 6,050m on Gordoghan Zom (6,240m and the fifth highest peak in the range).*

## KARAKORAM

### BATURA MUZTAGH

*Sakar Sar, second ascent.* Kunihiko Sato made a solo ascent of the 6,272m Sakar Sar via the southeast ridge. This remote peak, which lies on the Afghan border in the northern Batura Muztagh and is approached via the Chapursan and Sakarjerab Valleys, gained its first and, until last year, only ascent from Miyazawa Akira's four-member Japanese expedition, which climbed the southeast flank, finishing up a snow ridge. It appears that Sato's route was more or less the same.

TAMOTSU NAKAMURA, *Japanese Alpine News*