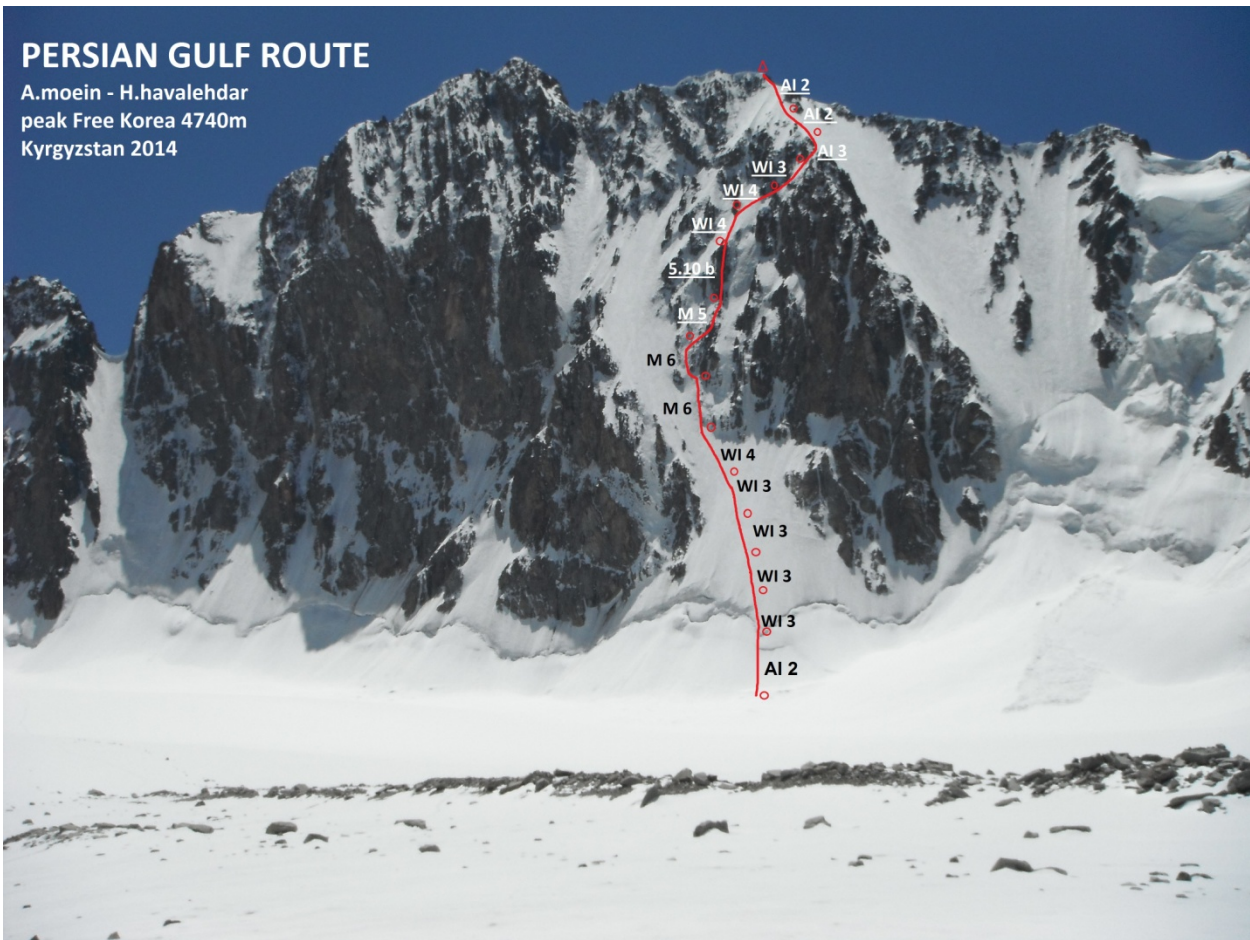


PERSIAN GULF ROUTE

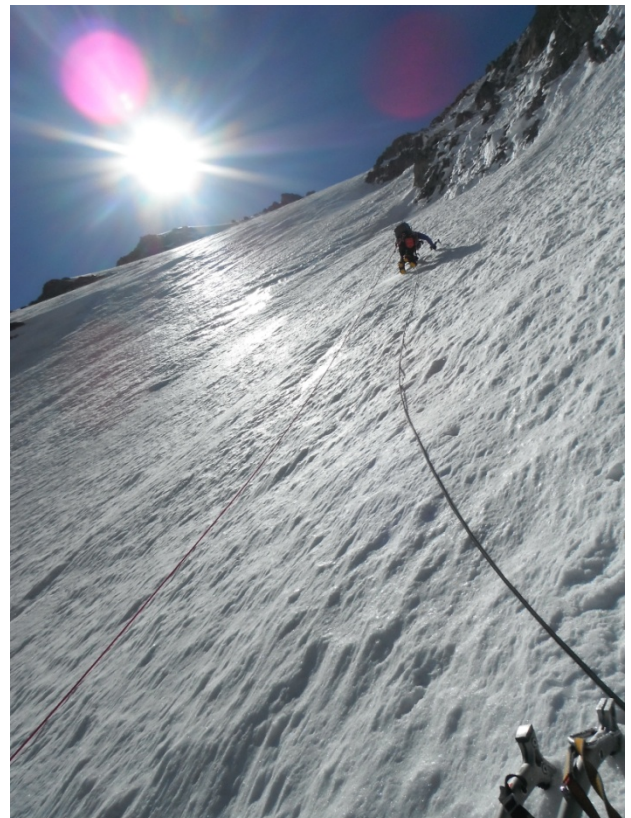
A.moein - H.havalehdar
peak Free Korea 4740m
Kyrgyzstan 2014



During 5-15 Jul 2014 an Iranian team with 2 climbers (Amin Moein and Hamed Havaleh dar) Mrcould ascend a new route on north face of peak Free Korea 4740m in Ak-sai glacier Ala-Archa Kyrgyzstan. The program named Mountain Spirit was managed with KAC (Kyrgyz Alpine Club) and was attended by climbers from Korea and Taiwan it's purpose was to share experience between the Asian mountaineers.

Day 5th

We left the camp at five o, clock in the morning and it takes one hour for us to reach the route. As we get closer to the giant wall it seemed awesome and extremely impressed us. Final check of the climbing devise is started.



Pitch 1: the route started with a snowy steep of 60 degree which increased to 70-75degree after 50 meter of climbing. The route was covered with a strand of ice crystal about 5cm depth which made the condition difficult. As on the one hand, the setting of using ice axe and crampons is not exactly known and on the other hand we must remove the snowy layer for putting ice screw and belaying which is time consumer. We use a 9.1mm lead rope and a loop of 9.1mm as a tag line. Falling of rock and ice are enormous and exceeded what we anticipated, and we saw them dropping from time to time.



Pitch 2 and 3 was climbed and, while Hamed was ascending follower in pitch 4, an ice avalanche fallen. Although we had taken shelter, a piece of ice hit Hamed,s lip and inflicted a wound. After reaching the belay we made some rest and then continued our intended route when Hamed,s nose bleeding is stemmed.

We ascend **pitch 5** on glacier to the east while rock and ice drops.

Pitch 6 is fairly severe mix with a belay station on a small ledge.

We traversed **pitch 7** first by 10 meters and continued the route through a couloir mix of rock and ice. Belay setting and pros due to thin ice and unstable rocks are unsafe.

We climbed **pitch 8** to the west and ascended a mix arete by 50 meter.

We continued the arête in **pitch 9** with pros of ice and rock till we reached to a small ledge. Over the ledge there is a vertical rock route and an ice fall on the right side. We chose the stony route to climb. Rocks are very unstable and the settings of Protections are unsuitable and the situation of climb at the end of the route became worse. The difficulty of this pitch put severe stress on us and took two hours to finish it.

By finishing **pitch 10** we got to a ledge which is located among a couloir. The snow fall begins and the wall became colder. Thirst is other obvious problem which is very bothersome due to severe activity. We have some water but that is reserve for descending.

We traversed the **pitches 11- 14** to west through the couloir by 70 degree steep. Due to the distance between the pros the route is difficult and stressful.

After finishing pitch 14, we got a point that we could see the divide of the peak, which has a slope and soft deep snow therefore we climbed about 100 meters, and a few meter traverse until we reached to the divide at the end of the route. Though we are very happy, but it is very late, the time is 9 pm and we must find a place for bivouac before sunset. The descending route is a divide edge leading to an ice couloir. We were very tired and due to poor vision we were not. Also we don't sure we could descend this route.

At last we could find a ledge 50x100cm after half an hour. We laid the ropes and wore what we had. We put our packs in back to keep warm and covered our face and used a protruding stone as belay so we started this bivouac marathon waiting dawn.

Our clothes became wet due to contact with snow and ice that made trouble for us. Ropes, strips and all things got frozen and we had to keep shaking them.

Day 6th

We got warmed by sunrise and after taking some pictures and filming we continued to descend.

We reached to the stone tower of the peak and started to survey the route. We concluded that the south face traverse with its intended slope couloir needs more effort and more time, perhaps a day and a night bivouac, so we intend to choose the second route. This route continues from the right side of the peak and near seracs and massive ice towers. By **direct descending of 10 pitches** from this point on ice and 1 pitch traverse to the west we could reach on a massive snowy cornice. We used Abalakov all anchors during descending route which was safe according the nature of the ice. We descend this route by means of a snow mushroom anchor and descending down for more 50 meter, lead us to the bottom of glacier on the remain of an old avalanche through the crevasse of the wall. When freeing the rope from mushroom belay it sticks, and Amin ascend with jumar by fixing the other side of the rope. After 5 meter ascending, the rope cut the mushroom belay fell hanging down like



a pendulum through the crevasse below the wall. Miraculously, he did not get hurt and Hamed descend down the glacier with the other end of rope. Around 4 pm we reached to the shelter and welcomed by the Russian team and other climbers at camp. We feel very satisfaction and our exhausted body needs rest and nutrition.