INTERNATIONAL

Herald Tribune

the state of the s



Venus Williams fights to the finish in Doha



Global warming: Suddenly, many golden opportunities



How the thur

A rock, a hard place and a harder war

Afghan outpost is 'bullet sponge' as conflict drags

By C.I. Chivers

COMBAT OUTPOST LOWELL, Afghamistan The small stone castle, sandbugged and bristling with weapons and U.S. soldiers, rises from a rock syrur beside the Landay River. Mountains

lean overhead.

Once a hunting lodge for Muhammad Zahir Shah, Afghanitan's last king, the castle is home for a year for a U.S. cavalry troop, an Afghan in-

fantry company, a U.S. Navy corpsman and two U.S. marines. In the deadly contest for Afghanistan's borderlands, it plays what might seem a singularly unattractive role. The position lies exposed near the bottom of a natural amphitheater deep with intervitory that is beyond sooverment control.



Ch to we

\$586 coul

SHANG huge ec day aim econom helping:

No. 14: The chair that's seated millions

'Never was a better and more elegant design and

a more precisely crafted and practical item created.'











because making war is