

Celebration of 60th anniversary of India's Independence



Ambassador Rakesh Sood reading the President's address to nation.



A music concert on at India House in Kabul.

Marking the 60th anniversary of Independence Day of India, the traditional flag-hoisting ceremony was held on August 15 at the premises of the Indian Embassy in Kabul.

Ambassador Rakesh Sood unfurled the national flag and read out the President's speech delivered on the eve of Independence Day.

Around 250 persons, including officials of the Indian Embassy, a number of Indians working on various public and private sector projects in Afghanistan enthusiastically took part in the programme.

Later in the evening, Ambassador Sood hosted a reception at India House. Several dignitaries including the Chairman of the

Mesharano Jirga (Upper House) and of the Commission for Peace and National Reconciliation Pir Hazrat Sebghatullah Mojadeddi; former president Prof. Burhanudin Rabani; Commerce Minister Dr. Mohammad Amin Farhang; Agriculture Minister Obaidullah Ramin; Defence Minister Gen Abdur Rahim Wardak; Finance Minister Dr. Anwar-ul-Haq Ahady; Higher Education Minister Dr. Azam Dadfar; Information and Culture Minister Abdul Karim Khurram; Mines and Industries Minister Eng. Ibrahim Adel; Public Works Minister Dr. Sohrab Ali Saffary; Women's Affairs Minister Dr. Hassan Banu Ghazanfar; Urban Development Minister Eng. Yusuf Pashtun; Martyrs, Disabled,

Labour and Social Affairs Minister Noor Mohammad Qarqeen; number of Deputy Ministers, Members of Afghan Parliament, Afghan businessmen and members of Diplomatic Corps numbering around 400 attended the reception at India House.

A musical concert to the accompaniment of the tabla, dilruba and rabab was held in the evening.

The local Afghan musicians singing Sufi songs and ghazals, enthralled the gathering, as the audience lapped up each rendition.

The Indian Consulates General in Herat, Jalalabad, Kandahar and Mazar-e-Sharif held similar functions, which were attended by a number of local dignitaries and Indian citizens. ■