

WAPCOS registers progress on Salma Dam at Chist-e-Sharif

On March 16, Energy and Water Minister Ismail Khan and Ambassador Rakesh Sood visited Chist-e-Sharif, approximately 125 Kms east of Herat. They were accompanied by Herat Governor Sayed Hussein Anwari, Police Chief Mohammed Ayub Salangi, Consul General Tirath Singh and other Afghan officials.

At the Salma Dam, which is being constructed by Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS), under a grant of over \$80 million from the Government of India, Additional Chief Engineer A.P. Chowdhury briefed the visitors about the progress made on the project.

The 42 MW hydel project will stabilise irrigation for 35,000 hectares of land and also develop additional irrigation for 45,000 hectares. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2008.

After visiting the dam site, Minister Ismail Khan and Ambassador Sood were welcomed by the people of Chist-e-Sharif who had assembled in large numbers.

Minister Ismail Khan thanked the Indian Government for its assistance and re-affirmed the friendly relations between the two countries. He urged WAPCOS to hire people for construction work from Chist-e-Sharif and neighbouring villages.

Ambassador Sood recalled that the Chisti silsila began from Chist-e-Sharif before developing new roots in India. Its most well-known sites are Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia in Delhi and Ajmer Sharif.

The Ambassador hoped that the Indian help in building Salma Dam will reinvigorate these links. He hoped that the people of Chist-e-Sharif will provide the necessary security and help to the Indian engineers and workers.

After lunch at the newly inaugurated WAPCOS residential complex, the delegation visited the Chist-e-Sharif Mazar and offered prayers for the successful completion of the project. ■



PHOTO ABOVE, Ambassador Rakesh Sood, Minister Ismail Khan (in white salwar kamiz) and Additional Chief Engineer A.P. Chowdhury (in helmet) at the Salma Dam in Chist-e-Sharif on March 16. PHOTO BELOW, Ambassador Sood addressing people at Chist-e-Sharif.



Indian Airlines launches 4th flight on Kabul-Delhi sector

When IC 843 landed at Kabul International Airport on March 30, it marked the completion of the first year of successful operations for Indian Airlines on the Delhi-Kabul sector.

Exactly a year ago, Indian Airlines had re-launched its Afghanistan operations after a nine-year gap.

Two weekly flights were operationalised on the Delhi-Kabul-Delhi sector and they have proved to be extremely popular.

Indian Airlines moved in to exploit the market potential introducing a third flight in August 2005 and a fourth flight in March 2006.

The average load factor during the 12-month period was a phenomenal 77.27 percent. The Indian Airlines flight is an important step forward in building connectivity between the two countries and facilitating business, trade and tourism.

For the international community, the Indian Airlines flight is convenient, making Delhi their primary gateway to flights all over the world. ■



PHOTO LEFT, From left to right, Sumeer Bhasin (GSA, Indian Airlines), Ambassador Rakesh Sood and Surender Kumar (Country Manager, Indian Airlines) inaugurating the 4th flight on Kabul-Delhi-Kabul sector. PHOTO BELOW, Ambassador Sood with the crew of the Indian Airlines flight, Kumar and Bhasin.

