

Rare surgery by Indian Medical Mission at Mazar-e-Sharif

The Indian Medical Mission in Mazar-e-Sharif on May 22 undertook a complicated and rare surgical operation on a 60-year-old hypersensitive lady suffering from massive swelling of the thyroid gland due to goitre over the past 12 years. She approached the Indian Medical Mission for assistance after denial of admission in all hospitals in the Northern Provinces due to the risks involved with the surgery, including difficulty in intubation, thyroid crisis and death on the operation theatre (OT) table.

After discussions with Afghan and International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) surgeons, the case was taken up for surgery under the overall supervision of Dr. A.K. Baral, team leader and anaesthesiologist of the Indian Medical Mission.

The surgery was conducted over five hours with a team of six Indo-Afghan and ISAF anaesthesiologist and surgeons as well as three OT technicians. A mass of approximately two kilograms of thyroid was removed. The operation was applauded by the medical fraternity at Mazar-e-Sharif.

The Indian Medical Mission, under the administration of the Embassy of India in Kabul, has been operating in Mazar-e-Sharif since 2002.

Several thousand major surgical operations have been performed by Indian and Afghan doctors until now. Recently, due to the high degree of professional competence and quality medical care provided, Norwegian surgeons and anaesthesiologist, Dr. Per and Dr. Klunt of ISAF have also been teaming up with the medical team in major and critical cases.



A 60-year-old lady suffering from massive swelling of the thyroid gland due to goitre over the past 12 years was operated on by the Indian Medical Mission in Mazar-e-Sharif on May 22.

Afghan diplomats return from India after taking part in a special course

As part of its capacity-building programme in Afghanistan, New Delhi has been conducting various training programmes for Afghan officials in India since early, 2002.

The fourth batch of 20 Afghan diplomats returned from India after participating in a special course — 'Foreign Policy and Diplomacy Programme', which was designed for them and conducted by the Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, from April 3 to May 3. A total of 80 diplomats have so far been trained in India.

The diplomats were nominated from various departments of the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs — Political, Consular, Finance, Information, Protocol, International Cooperation, Human Resource, Service and Archives.

The Foreign Policy and Training Course had various modules, including the basic concepts of International Law, Foreign Policy and Diplomacy, Crisis Management, International Terrorism, Energy Diplomacy, U.N. Reforms, SAARC and current international issues.

The programme also provided focus on India's polity, foreign policy, economy and society. Eminent retired and high-ranked



The fourth batch of 20 Afghan diplomats, who returned from India after participating in a special course, at an appraisal meeting at the Indian Embassy in Kabul on May 24. Seen in the picture are the diplomats with Ambassador Rakesh Sood and other Indian diplomats.

serving diplomats and civil servants, and other outstanding professionals from Indian public life, conducted several workshops/simulation exercises and panel discussions. The diplomats were also given familiarisation visits to Indian cities of Agra, Ajmer and Jaipur.

An appraisal meeting was held on May 24 at the Indian Embassy in Kabul for the diplomats, on their return from India, to gauge their impressions and feedback.

Tor Achkezai, Director of the Afghan Institute of Diplomacy, and other officials from the institute were also present at the event. The

diplomats emphasised that the training was very useful and that they had gained a lot professionally and personally. The focus on economic issues was welcomed. Moreover, the training had been unique in the sense that no other regional country had provided such training before. It was also maintained that the response received by the Afghans throughout their interactions and visits in India had been extremely positive, which had brought to the fore the main aspects of the India-Afghanistan relationship — the human element and the historical spirit of cooperation.