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Afghan Foreign Minister Rangin Dadfar Spanta visits India

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, Dr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta, with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on June 29. (Photo: Press Information Bureau)

India has reaffirmed its commitment to the goal of a democratic and stable Afghanistan and reiterated its determination to assist in all possible ways the country's economic reconstruction.

The pledge came during meetings visiting Afghan Foreign Minister Rangin Dadfar Spanta had with the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs Anand Sharma and Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran, an official spokesman said.

Spanta who arrived in India on a three-day state visit from June 29 to July 1 — his first to India since assuming office — met the Prime Minister in New Delhi on June 29.

The two leaders discussed measures to increase security for the nearly 2,000 Indian nationals working on development projects in Afghanistan, as well as the security and political situation in the Afghanistan, officials said.

Accompanying Spanta were Afghan Foreign Ministry Senior Advisor Davood Moradayan, Director Amanullah Jayhoon and Spokesperson Sultan Ahmad Bahin, who was earlier Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai's advisor on international affairs.

Spanta met Sharma and Saran on June 30.

Sharma hosted a lunch for the visiting dignitary.

"During the extensive discussions with the Indian leadership, the entire gamut of India-

During Afghan Foreign Minister Rangin Dadfar Spanta's three-day state visit from June 29 to July 1, India reaffirmed its commitment to the goal of a democratic and stable Afghanistan and reiterated its determination to assist in all possible ways the country's economic reconstruction.

Afghanistan bilateral relations was discussed as also regional and international issues of mutual concern," an External Affairs Ministry spokesman said.

"It was agreed that there would be regular foreign office consultations between India and Afghanistan," the spokesman said.

In this context, Saran will visit Kabul, he added.

"Spanta conveyed his personal condolences over the recent attacks on Indians in Afghanistan. He also took the opportunity to personally thank the Prime Minister for the supportive role played by India for Afghanistan's entry into the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)."

The Foreign Minister briefed the Indian leaders on his visit with Afghan President Hamid Karzai to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and to Beijing and meetings with United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

"He also conveyed that President Karzai looked forward to visiting India in November for the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan," the spokesman said.

On the issue of growing concerns over drug trafficking, Spanta sought India's help in tackling the problem and said the two countries could also cooperate in eliminating terrorism from the region.

Continued on page 2