



May/June

# PAKISTAN SRI LANKA FRIENDSHIP MAGAZINE



2011

## The High Commission of Sri Lanka in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

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### Pakistan sends Lord Buddha's relics to Sri Lanka

In order to present the richest Buddhist historical legacy to the Sri Lankan people, Pakistan has sent the most sacred relics of the Lord Buddha to Sri Lanka. These relics arrived in Sri Lanka on 3 June 2011 for a limited period and were exhibited at Colombo Museum during the month of June.



The honourable Speaker to Sri Lanka Chamal Rajapaksa received the sacred relics at the airport along with the High Commissioner of Pakistan Seema Ilahi Baloch and officials of the Pakistan High Commission. Dr. Paul Bhatti, Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Minorities Affairs and a high level team of archeology Department of Pakistan



brought these relics to Sri Lanka. The relics are valuable part of the archeological heritage of Pakistan and depicts the rich Buddhist history of Pakistan. The President of Sri Lanka Mahinda Rajapaksa inaugurated the sacred relics at Maligakanda Temple in Colombo for the public exposition. The exhibition in Colombo displayed these high quality cultural assets from the Gandhara region of Pakistan and encompassed four sacred artifacts/relics. The artifacts/relics consist of the collection of Peshawar and Taxila Museum, of Pakistan.

After the conclusion of the successful exhibition these relics were taken back to Pakistan on 21 June 2011.

### Pakistan Business community can help contain terror: Sri Lankan HC

High Commissioner of Sri Lanka Jayalath Weerakody stated that business community of Pakistan could play an important role in containing terror as it was also linked to the overall economic situation. He said his country had faced sectarianism and terrorism for decades and they can share expertise with Pakistan to help combat terror. "My country is ready to do anything to ensure stability in Pakistan." He was talking to a delegation of FPCCI that included SVC Diplomatic Affairs FPCCI Kanwar Outbuddin, Chairman Media and PR, FPCCI Malik Sohail, President Women's Chamber Samina Fazil, Adnan Mirza and leading exporter Kulsoom Khan.



### Pakistan awards Jinnah Scholarships to 107 Sri Lankan students

The government of Pakistan, through its High Commission in Colombo, recently awarded scholarships to the value of SL Rs.2.6 million to 107 Sri Lankan students who had passed the GCE Ordinary and Advanced Level examinations. The scholarships were awarded under the Jinnah Educational Scholarship Programme. The award ceremony was held at Ananda College Colombo. The Chief Guest was Justice Minister Rauf Hakeem. The High Commissioner of Pakistan Seema Ilahi Baloch, Embassy officials and other officials participated in the ceremony. Pakistan has been awarding the Jinnah Educational Scholarships since 2005 and so far over 800 Sri Lankan students have benefited from the scheme.



## Sri Lanka elected as Chairman

**S**ri Lanka was elected Chairman of the Asia Region Committee of the United Nations Habitat for the next two years at the 23rd sessions held in Nairobi, Kenya recently.

Construction, Engineering Services Housing and Common Amenities Minister Wimal Weerawansa who led the Sri Lanka delegation to the Sessions said that it was vital to find a common solution for regional housing issues.

Pakistan assured its fullest cooperation to Sri Lanka's stand. A common housing policy will be implemented in the SAARC region countries in the future. When Sri Lanka delegation drew the attention of the United Nations Human Settlement Commission's Executive Dr. John Crooze on its housing and human settlement program the latter expressed his willingness to provide assistance after studying on Sri Lanka's housing and settlements development program.

## Vesak CelebrationS

in International Buddhist Cultural Center, Islamabad  
on 17 May 2011

**T**he High Commission of Sri Lanka in Islamabad celebrated the 2600th Sambuthdhatwa Jayanthi religious festival at the International Buddhist Center in Islamabad on 17 May 2011. Hon Federal Minister of Pakistan Mr Raja Tridiv Roy, the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in Pakistan Air Chief Marshal Jayalath Weerakkody and Ambassador of the Republic of Myanmar, Ambassador of Royal Thai Embassy, Ambassador of Indonesia, Ambassador of Vietnam, Deputy Head of Mission of Nepal and other Sri Lankan community based in Islamabad participated at the event.



## (PIA) is looking at possibilities to have code share and space agreements

**P**akistan International Airlines (PIA) is looking at possibilities to have code share and space agreements with SriLankan Airlines in the future.



PIA Sri Lanka Country Manager Aqueel Siddiqui said due to the political uncertainty in Pakistan, they have not been able to have an immediate dialogue with Sri Lankan aviation officials on the present situation. "However, we are optimistic that there will be more understanding and mutual co-operation between Sri Lankan aviation officials and PIA in the future," he said.

PIA is also committed to promote religious and education tourism between Sri Lanka and Pakistan and will be engaging in increasing routes profitability and frequencies globally in the years to come.

## Sri Lanka-Pakistan Business Council holds AGM

**T**he Sri Lanka-Pakistan Business Council which functions under the aegis of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce held its 18th Annual General Meeting recently at the Board Room of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.

High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka Seema Illahi Baloch was the chief guest.

Addressing the Members the High Commissioner congratulated the Council for completing 20 years and emphasized that by optimizing Pakistan-Sri Lanka FTAs, both countries could enhance trade relationships.

Merchant Lanka (Pvt) Ltd Managing Director Rohitha Thilakaratne was elected as the President of SLPBC for the year 2011 - 2012.

The two Vice Presidents are Segga Nagendra of CML-MTD Construction Ltd and Zahara Cader of Tallman Tours Ltd.



# SRI LANKA YOUTH DELEGATION VISIT TO PAKISTAN

## YOUTH DELEGATION ACTIVITIES IN PAKISTAN

As invitation given by the Modernage Public School in Abbottabad, a 17 member Sri Lankan youth delegation arrived at Pakistan on 30 May 2011. They were engaged in various activities in Islamabad, Abbottabad and Peshawar during their tour. The Deputy Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan hosted a lunch to honour the Sri Lankan delegation on 1 June 2011 at the Parliament of Pakistan.



**DEPUTY CHAIRMAN SENATE MIR JAN MUHAMMAD KHAN JAMALI EXCHANGING VIEWS WITH THE MEMBERS OF SRI LANKAN YOUTH DELEGATION AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON JUNE 1, 2011.**





The activities of the youth delegation during their visit are shown in the above pictures. The Co-Principals of the Modernage College Mr Abdul Wahid Mir and Mrs Sameera Wahid have successfully organized the event. During the visit they participated in the program in Mangal Camp, Peshawar University, Para gliding training in Chakwal, field visit to Taxila and Kakul Military Academy. Team Leader of Sri Lankan delegation has mentioned that it was one of the very successful youth exchange programs with a foreign country by the National Youth Services Council of Sri Lanka.