



PAKISTAN SRI LANKA FRIENDSHIP MAGAZINE

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

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Minister of External Affairs of Sri Lanka paid courtesy call on the President of Pakistan

President Asif Ali Zardari said that Pakistan values its relations with Sri Lanka which are based on mutual respect, shared civilizational heritage and shared perceptions on host of issues. He said that

there was a need to translate this equation into economic terms and take advantage of each other's



economic expertise and opportunities. The President was talking to External Minister of Sri Lanka Prof. G L Peiris, who called on him on 15 July 2011 at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. He was accompanied by High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, Air Chief Marshal @ Jayalath Weerakkody and Minister Counsellor, Mr M. H. M. N. Bandara.

Pakistan side included Secretary General to the President M. Salman Faruqi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir, Chairman Board of Investment Salim H. Mandviwala and other senior officials besides Spokesperson to the President Farhatullah Babar. The currency swap agreement was thus proposed to reduce pressure on foreign exchange reserves of the two countries.

Prof G. L. Peiris thanked the President for meeting and hoped that the mutual cooperation and bilateral relations would be further strengthened with each passing day.

Pakistan sponsors state-of-the-art school building

The Government of Pakistan has sponsored the construction of a three-storied state-of-the-art school building in the Gampaha district to support the education sector developmental drive of the Sri Lankan government.

Pakistan High Commissioner in Sri Lanka handed over a cheque for the construction of the building at Pasyala in Gampaha to the Economic Development Minister Basil Rajapaksa at the Presidential Secretariat.

FTA with Sri Lanka: Pakistan advised to seek export of broken rice & onions

A study of the Ministry of Commerce on Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Pakistan and Sri Lanka has recommended that the Pakistani authorities should

seek access to Sri Lankan market for supplying broken rice, onions, maize, ceramic sinks and ethyl alcohol which are currently on Sri Lanka's 'No Concession List'.



Sources told Business Recorder that the Ministry of Commerce has drafted a working paper on 'Evaluation of Trade Agreements--A case study of Pakistan-Sri Lanka FTA', written by Pakistan Institute of Trade and Development (PITAD) research team.



The Buddhist Relics were handed over at the Bodhiyana Asapuwawa temple in Kaduwela by the Pakistani Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Seema Ilahi Baloch

Pakistan agrees to look into high tariff structures

The Ministerial Level (trade) meeting between Sri Lanka and Pakistan, held after a six year period, took place on July 4-5, in Islamabad.

During the state visit of Asif Ali Zardari, President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Sri Lanka from 27-30 November 2010, Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa agreed to hold the 10th session of JEC in the first quarter of 2011 to be co-chaired at Ministerial Level. Thereafter, in March 2011 a high powered official Pakistani delegation arrived for a pre-JEC meeting to finalise the agenda for July JEC. Consequent to this, a 14 member delegation led by Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry and Commerce left Colombo on Saturday July 2 to Islamabad.

Sri Lankan Minister of Industry and Commerce Rishad Bathiudeen who led the high powered Sri Lankan delegation, began bilateral discussions with Pakistani Minister of Foreign Affairs, Finance and Economic Affairs Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, who led the Pakistan team. Minister Bathiudeen apprised Minister Rabbani Khar of Sri Lanka's new growth phase and the resulting positive investment climate. Minister Bathiudeen's request to invest in industries and infrastructure development, including pharmaceutical manufacturing sector in Sri Lanka has also been well received.

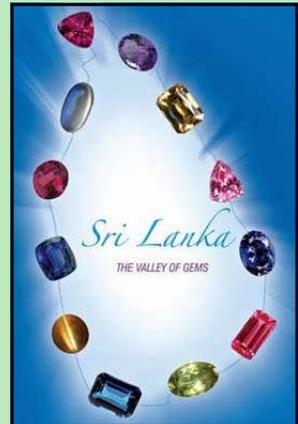
Sri Lanka Delegation Meets With Pakistan Corps Commander

Air Commodore H M S K B Kotakadeniya, head of a delegation of Sri Lankan Command and Staff College, along with 24-member entourage visited the Corps Headquarters, where he met Lahore Corps Commander Lieutenant General Rashid Mehmood. Later, the Sri Lankan Command and Staff College delegation visited Pakistan Naval War College Lahore. Upon arrival, they were received by Naval War College Commandant Rear Admiral Syed Bashir Ahmad. The honourable guests visited various syndicates of the college and were apprised of various courses being run at Pakistan Naval War College.



Gem and Jewellery show of Sri Lanka FACETS to be held in September 2011

Sri Lanka's only International Gem and Jewellery show FACETS Sri Lanka 2011 will be held from September 8-11 at the Sirimavo Bandaranaike Memorial Exhibition Centre in Colombo for the 21st consecutive year.



FACETS Sri Lanka is organized by the Sri Lanka Gem and Jewellery Association (SLGJA) with the objective of showcasing Sri Lanka's Gem and Jewellery products to the global market and to communicate Sri Lanka's position as a leading supplier of Gems and Jewellery to the international market.

FACETS is well known among the global gem industry, particularly in the US, Europe and Japan as the only international Gem and Jewellery exhibition in Sri Lanka. SLGJA is now trying to promote the show more in BRIC countries too.



Pictorial Focus of the recent visits of the Minister of External Affairs & Minister of Commerce & Industry of Sri Lanka to Pakistan



Prof. G L Peiris, Minister of External Affairs of Sri Lanka called on President Asif Ali Zardari at President's House (left) and Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani at Prime Minister's Office (right) of Pakistan on 15 July 2011



Minister of Commerce & Industry called on Prime Minister

MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SRI LANKA PROF. G. L. PEIRIS CALLED ON CHAIRMAN SENATE MR. FAROQ H. NAEK, AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE ISLAMABAD ON JULY 15, 2011.



Hon. Minister of Commerce & Industry of Sri Lanka had bilateral meeting with Hon. Minister of Commerce of Pakistan (left) and Hon. Minister of Economic Affairs of Pakistan (right) on 5 July 2011.



Kandy Esala Perahera

The oldest culture pageant of Asia

Will Start on 31.07.2011

Considered one of the most colourful religious pageants in Asia, Kandy's ten-day Esala Perahera is one of Sri Lanka's most spectacular festivals.



The perahera (procession) is held to honour the sacred tooth enshrined in the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic.

According to Sri Lankan legends, when the Buddha died, his body was cremated in a sandalwood pyre in India and his left canine tooth was retrieved from the funeral pyre. A belief grew that whoever possessed the Sacred Tooth Relic had a divine right to rule that land; wars were fought to take possession of



the relic.

After many wars and many deaths, a royal couple disguised themselves and set sail to Sri Lanka with the relic hidden as a hair ornament. It is claimed that Sri Lanka was chosen as the new home for the tooth relic because the Lord Buddha had declared that his religion would be safe there (in Sri Lanka) for 2,500

years. At the time of the royal couple's landing, the king of Sri Lanka, King Kirti Sri Megavanna, was overjoyed that the Sacred Tooth Relic was in Sri Lanka and received it with great veneration.

As time went on, the land was threatened with foreign invasions and the location of the kingdom was moved from city to city. Upon each change of capital, a new palace was built to enshrine the Relic; finally it was bought to Kandy, where it is at present, in the Temple of the Tooth.

The ten days festival begins on 31 July with the Kap Tree Planting Ceremony, during which cuttings from an Esala tree (Jak or Rukattana are accepted), are planted in the four devales. The perahera actually comprises five separate processions, which follow one another around the city streets: one from the

Temple of the Tooth and one from each of the other four devales.



The perahera is traditionally held over the last nine days of the lunar month of Esala, finishing on Nikini Poya day. This usually falls during late July or early August though the exact dates vary according to the vagaries of the lunar calendar; the authorities sometimes opt for slightly different dates depending on practical and astrological considerations. Filled with brilliant colours, dances and traditions, the essence of Sri Lankan history is captured in the annual Kandy Esala Perahera.

The High Commission of Sri Lanka in Pakistan cordially invites Pakistan Friends to visit Kandy, Sri Lanka to see the Historical Kandy Perahera in July 2011. For details of hotel bookings, visas and flight information, please send a request to www.slhcpakistan.org or email to srilanka@dsl.net.pk