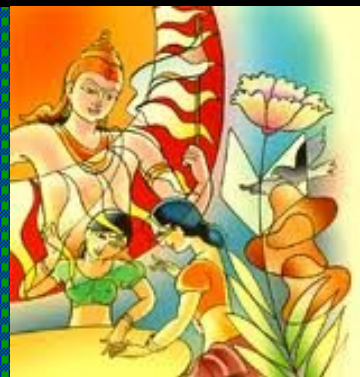


The High Commission of Sri Lanka in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

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The High Commissioner and the Staff of the Sri Lanka High Commission in Pakistan wish you all a Happy and Prosperous Sinhala/ Hindu New Year 2011



Sri Lankan and Hindu People Celebrate Sinhala & Tamil New Year 2011

'Pakistan greatly values its relations with Sri Lanka': State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan

The celebration of Sinhala & Tamil New Year was motivated by various religious influences in Sri Lanka, namely Buddhists and Hindus. However, it is believed that the celebration of New Year has existed long before the religions came into the scene. These religions have somehow penetrated the core of Sri Lankan culture and associated their rituals to thanksgiving after harvesting agricultural produced in mid April of the year. However, most of the mythological background of the festival has a touch of religions. Sri Lankans also connect the date and timing of the festivity during the mating season of a bird endemic in the region – Asian Koel. The signature “koo-ooo” call of the male Koel bird dominates the tree-saturated portion of the country signaling the bird looking for a mate.



President Mahinda Rajapaksa greets the Sri Lankans and felicitates as follows

“I extend my heartfelt thanks to all persons who remain at their positions to ensure protection, especially to the members of the Armed Forces and the Police who continue their great sacrifices for the country and the people during the festive season.”

Pakistan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar received the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, Air Chief Marshal Jayalath Weerakkody on 8 April 2011.



During the courtesy call the Minister of State and the High Commissioner had discussed matters of mutual interest to both countries.

They agreed that President Zardari's recent visit to Sri Lanka had laid the foundation for further strengthening bilateral relations, especially through mutually beneficial economic relations.

They agreed on the holding of Foreign Secretaries Level Consultations and the 10th Session of Joint Economic Commission in the near future.

The Minister of State expressed her satisfaction at the level of cooperation between the two countries.

Pakistan greatly values its relations with Sri Lanka based on mutual trust and shared interests for maintaining regional peace, security and stability.



Sri Lanka / Pakistan Groups will develop ties

A joint association has been formed to build on the good relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka by bringing the communities in Dubai closer together.



Organizers of the Overseas Pakistanis and Sri Lankans Society (OPSS) plan to hold talks with representatives from the governments of both nations to look at ways to develop the society.

"The two countries have a unique relationship that dates back more than 50 years but it's one that not many people are aware of," said Mubisher Rabbani, one of the founders of the society and its first president.

Pakistan & Sri Lanka Seek Closer Military Ties

A High Level Pakistan Army delegation led by Pakistan Inspector General of Training & Evaluation, Lt. General Muzammil Hussain who visited Sri Lanka has met Sri Lankan Army Commander Lt. General Jagath Jayasuriya on 6th March, 2011.



During the meeting the two officials discussed various bilateral issues. The Sri Lankan Army Commander Lt. General Jagath Jayasuriya expressed his deepest appreciation to the Pakistani Army for its unconditional assistance throughout its operations against the LTTE. It is the next high level defence related visit from Pakistan after the Chief of Staff of Pakistan Army visited Sri Lanka in January this year.

Pakistan delegation participates in SACOSAN in Colombo, Sri Lanka

A delegation from Pakistan attended the inaugural Ceremony of the Fourth Asian Conference of Sanitation (SACOSAN IV) in Colombo, Sri Lanka in March 2011. SACOSAN



was inaugurated under the theme of "Sanitation Enhances Quality of Life" and about 450 delegates from Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives and Afghanistan participated in this Conference. Pakistani delegation was led by Engineer Shaukat Ullah, Minister for States and Frontier Regions comprising Parliamentarians, Federal, Provincial, AJK, GB Officials and representatives from donors and community organizations.

Pakistan looks for revival on own soil

On 3 March 2011, Pakistan marked the second anniversary of a deadly attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team and expressed hope that international cricket will soon return to the country.

Officials from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) laid floral tributes to the victims of the attack in which armed militants opened fire and threw grenades at the Sri Lankan team bus as it made its way to a match.

Seven Sri Lankan players and their assistant coach were injured and eight Pakistanis killed during the violence in the eastern city of Lahore.

Mrs. E.A.S.W Ediringsinghe, a member of the Sri Lankan Foreign Service assumed duties at the Sri Lanka High Commission as First Secretary on 4 April 2011.

Previously, Mrs Edirisinghe has worked in the Sri Lanka Embassy In Warsaw, Poland. She has also served in the Ministry of External Affairs of Sri Lanka since 2003 in the Overseas Administration Division, Public Communications Division, Middle East and Consular Affairs Divisions.

The High Commission wishes a fruitful tenure in Islamabad



Pakistan Youth Delegation experienced the Sri Lankan youth empowerment strategies & approaches

A 17 Member Pakistan Youth delegation from Abbotabad Regional Youth Club visited Sri Lanka recently to study the Sri Lankan strategies, approaches and modes of delivery in the field of youth empowerment. The National Youth Services Council of Sri Lanka, as the host organization, organized this youth exchange program between Pakistan and Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Sri Lankan High Commission in Pakistan.

The main intention of this program was to create a platform for youth in both countries to share their values, strengths, experiences and cultural norms etc. Within the overall program structure, there were study visits, experience sharing sessions, social activities organized for this youth.

During their visit in Sri Lanka, they were given a greater opportunity to study on the General Education system, Technical & Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system, Youth Empowerment strategies in Sri Lanka with exposure visits to gain practical experience as well. Courtesy calls also were arranged for them to meet Honorable Dallas Alahapperuma, Minister of Youth Affairs and Skills Development and Honorable Duminda Dissanayake, the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs & Skills Development. Pakistan youth were able to discuss with the Hon. Ministers on policy matters in Youth Development and youth empowerment initiatives in Sri Lanka.

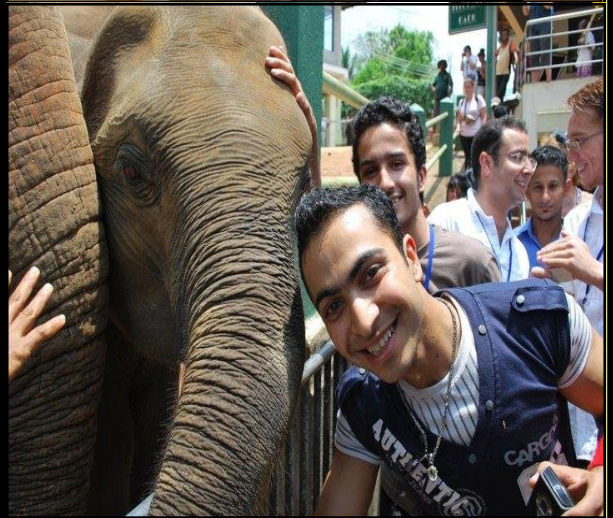
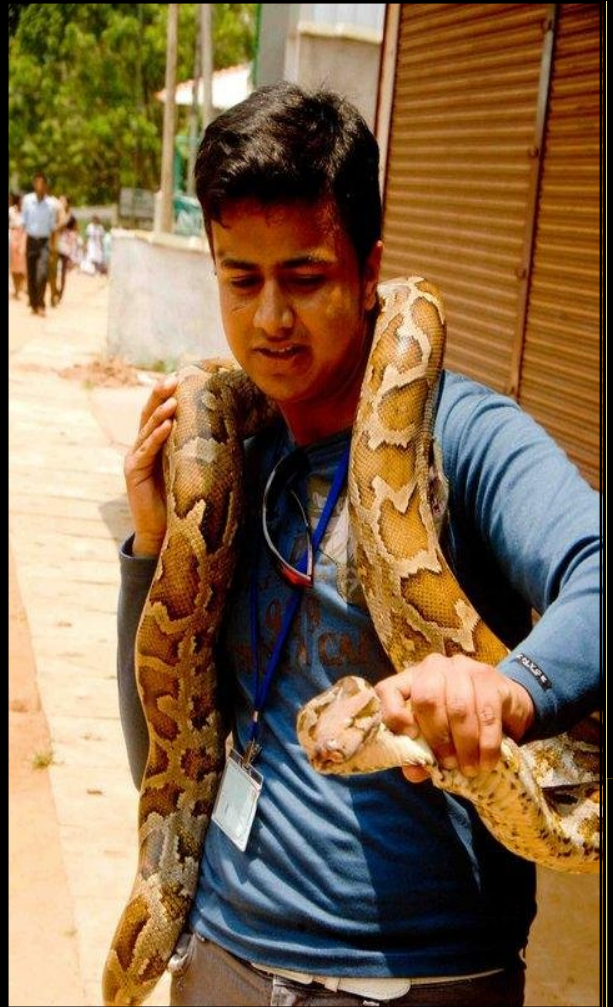


PHOTOS OF PAKISTAN YOUTH DELEGATION ACTIVITIES IN SRI LANKA

The visiting Pakistan Youth Delegation has visited various places in Sri Lanka, including the National Youth Center in Maharagama, National Institute of Education in Maharagama, Dharmapala College in Pannipitiya, Parliament of Sri Lanka. They also visited the Elephant Orphanage in Pinnawela, the Royal Botanical Gardens in Peradeniya, Kandy and Belwood Aesthetic TrainiCenter in Kandy, Vocational Training Center in Aruppala, Kandy. (Photo caption 1— Visit of youth delegation to Aruppala Vocational Training Center. Photo caption 2—the Lunch hosted by Hon. A H M Fowzie, Senior Minister of Urban Affairs, the Pakistan High Commissioner in Sri Lanka, H.E. Ms Seema Baloch Ilahi also participated at the event).



Please Visit the Photo Website Named 'Pakistan Sri Lanka Friendship site' on flicker



The visiting Youth Delegation has witnessed the ICC World Cup Cricket Match between Sri Lanka and England on 26 March 2011 with the Sri Lankan Youth Club Members at the Premadasa Stadium. During the field visit to the Elephant Orphanage in Pinnawela, the delegation expressed their happiness and enthusiasm as the photos reveal.