



PAKISTAN SRI LANKA FRIENDSHIP MAGAZINE February 2010



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

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Over 500,000 tourists visit Jaffna

The number of local and foreign tourists visiting the Northern Province has recorded a remarkable increase and nearly 550,000 local and foreign tourists had toured Jaffna via A-9 road during last week. After 30 years, local and foreign tourists are able to visit Jaffna and other key places in the North freely due to moves taken by the Government to eradicate terrorism, Tourism Minister Achala Jagoda told the Sunday Observer. According to Minister nearly 250,000 pilgrims had worshipped the Nagadeepa Temple last week. In addition, tourists have shown a keen interest to visit other important places in Jaffna and its suburbs. The significant improvement of tourist visits to the North would boost the country's tourism industry. Tourists have selected Sri Lanka as one of the safest countries in the world to travel to after defeat of the three decades old terrorism by the Government under the leadership of President Mahinda Rajapaksa, the Minister said. He said at pre-

sent difficulties have been encountered in providing accommodation and other sanitary facilities to the large number of local and foreign tourists who visit Jaffna and some other parts of the Northern Province. The Government has already commenced water supply scheme and other facilities in the North. Minister Jagoda requests those who visit Jaffna to utilise the available facilities with utmost care and extend their cooperation to protect the environment and natural resources in the province.

A PAGE FROM HISTORY



Deshabandu Dr. F. G. Hudson Silva was the Founder of the International Eye Bank, Tissue Bank and the First President of the Sri Lanka Eye Donation Society, who had worked with Pakistan to donate over 5000 corneas for Pakistani nationals.

Since then, the Sri Lanka Eye Donation Society has gifted over 100,000 corneas to restore the sight of the blind in Sri Lanka and 62 other countries worldwide. He has been honoured by the people and heads of many countries with honorary titles and awards. An Eye Hospital in Pakistan has been named after him. Dr Hudson Silva passed away on 22 Oct. 1999.

PAKISTAN AIR FORCE COMMANDER VISITS SRI LANKA



Pakistan and Sri Lanka Air Forces have developed friendly ties between the two Air Forces over five decades.

The Commander of the Sri Lanka Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Roshan Goonetilleke invited the Commander of the Pakistan Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Rao Qamar Suleman to visit Sri Lanka.

This photo was taken during the recent visit to Sri Lanka.



PCB assists Sri Lanka to build three grounds

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has provided financial assistance for the construction of three cricket grounds in three schools in Sri Lanka and the work on the first project has begun recently. The ground breaking ceremony of the development work of the first cricket ground was held recently at a local school and was attended by Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama as the Chief Guest, Sri Lankan daily, Lanka Times reported on Saturday. The event was also attended by the Acting High Commissioner of Pakistan Mariam Saeed and the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Cricket Board D.S. de. Silva.

The completion period for this project is estimated to be two months which would include construction of grass

While speaking on the occasion the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka appreciated the support by the government and people of Pakistan.



PAKISTAN CRICKET BOARD

turf, ground development and installation of sprinkling system.

The Sri Lanka Cricket Board will be the supervising body for this project which will also contribute a grant for the completion of the project.

He said that the project was a manifestation of the deep rooted friendly relations between the two countries.

The Acting High Commissioner of Pakistan Mariam Saeed informed the participants of the event that the project was a gift from the Government and people of Pakistan for the Sri Lankan public and it would further strengthen the bond of friendship between the two sides.

Sri Lanka confirmed as host for Asia Cup 2010

Sri Lanka will host the next series of the Asia Cup. All the seven matches including the final will be held under flood-lights at Damublla as stated by the Sri Lanka Cricket Board. The matches will be played between June 15-25, 2010. Dambulla International



Cricket Stadium is a 16,800 seat cricket stadium in Sri Lanka. The Stadium is situated in the Central Province, close to Dambulla on a 60 acre (240,000 M) site leased from the Rangiri Dambulla Temple.

The Asia Cup is an international cricket tournament. It was launched in 1983 when the Asian

Cricket Council was created as a measure to promote goodwill among Asian countries. It was

originally scheduled to be held every two years. The International Cricket Council has ruled that all games played for the Asia Cup have official One Day International status.

There is also a move to award World Twenty 20 (T20 World Cup held every second year) to Sri Lanka in 2012 and Bangladesh in 2014. "It is more or less decided that we shall host the ICC World Twenty 20 in Sri Lanka in 2012, however, the final decision will be taken at the ICC Board meeting," the officials of the Cricket Board further added.

In the meantime, Brendon Kuruppu's contract as the team manager has not been renewed. "Anura Tennekoon will be the team manager in World Twenty 20 in West Indies," Kuruppu said. Kuruppu is undecided about accepting the selector's role. "I am seeking advice from a few people whether to accept the new role or not".



UDAWALAWE NATIONAL WILDLIFE PARK SRI LANKA

Udawalawe National Park is located approximately 200km South East of Colombo city and is a major ecotourism destination in



Sri Lanka. The 30,821 hectares dry zone game park has an annual rainfall of 1524mm and an average temperature of 29.4C.

It is most famous for the many elephants that live there (about 400 in total). During a visit, it is usual to see whole herds of adults and young elephants feeding or bathing and playing in the water!

In addition to this main attraction, the park is home to many water buffaloes, water monitor lizards, sambar deer, monkeys and the occasional leopard, as well as being an exciting location for bird enthusiasts.



HISTORY AND THE DESCRIPTION OF THE UDAWALAWE NATIONAL PARK

The Udawalawe national park was established on 30th July 1972. it lies in the lower catchments of Udawalawe Reservoir in the country's Intermediated Lowland region. This area falls



into two administrative districts in two provinces.

The parkland on the right bank of wallowed is within Ratnapura district in the province of Sabaragamuwa and the parkland on the left bank falls within Moneragala district in the province of Uva. This park is located approximately between the latitudes 625'E N and longitudes 80 45'N and 8100'E.

The dry land area of the park is about 119 sq miles or 308 Sqm, approximately 28910 hectares.

62nd NATIONAL DAY OF SRI LANKA CELEBRATED ON 17 FEBRUARY 2010 AT MARRIOT HOTEL ISLAMABAD



The Chief Guest of the Reception was the Federal Minister of Food & Agriculture, Mr Nazar Muhammad Gondal with the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, Air Chief Marshal Jayalath Weerakkoddy.



The Military Officers belonging to the Sri Lanka Army, Sri Lanka Navy and Sri Lanka Air Force , who are Presently undergoing training at the National Defence University of Pakistan with the High Commissioner.



Leader of the Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Mr Chaudhry Shujahat, Addl. Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Masood Khalid with the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka.



Lighting of the Oil Lamp by the Chief Guest along with other Distinguished Invitees.



Muhammad Amir, Fast bowler of the Pakistan National Cricket Team with the High Commissioner and Mrs Kumari Weerakkoddy at the Reception.



Indian and Sri Lankan Military Officials with their Spouses with the High Commissioner.