



# PAKISTAN - SRI LANKA FRIENDSHIP MAGAZINE September - 2009



The High Commission of Sri Lanka in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan . Comments:, slhislamabad@gmail.com

## Sri Lanka Army Celebrates 60th Anniversary with a Mega Exhibition !

Sri Lanka Army - Defenders of the Nation, opened up its 60th Anniversary celebrations with a mega exhibition in Colombo on 3rd October after a colorful ceremony at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall. The Chief Guest President Mahinda Rajapaksa inaugurated the Ceremony and the Defense Secretary Gothabaya Rajapakse, Chief of Defense Staff Gen. Sarath Fonseka, Army Commander Lt. Gen. Jagath Jayasuriya, Navy Commander Thisara Samarasinghe, Air Force Commander Roshan Gunathilake, Inspector General of Police Jayantha Wickramarathna, Minister Rishard Bathiutheen, Tharunyata Hetak Movement Chairman Namal Rajapakse and several other distinguished celebrities also participated.



## Sri Lanka Ranks high in Human Development among the Asian Region

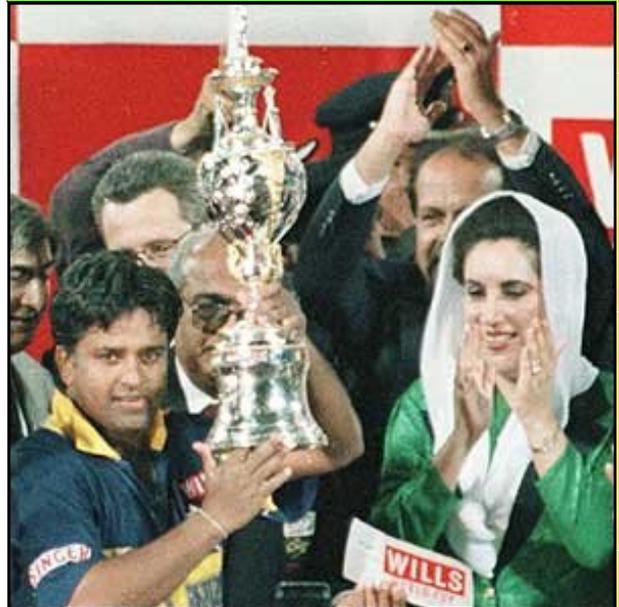
Sri Lanka ranked highest in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index 2009.

Human Development Report 2009 placed Sri Lanka at the 102nd position in the medium human development category for the quality of life of its citizens. In the South Asian region only Maldives fared better than Sri Lanka at the 95th position.

Sri Lanka has obtained many victories in the fields of gender equality, high literacy rate, women's contribution in the economic force



## A PAGE FROM HISTORY



Sri Lanka won the 1996 Cricket World Cup with cheers of the Pakistani Cricket Fans after beating Australian Team by 7 wickets in the final match at Lahore. Late Prime Minister of Pakistan Madam Benazir Bhutto presented the World Cup Trophy to Arjuna Ranatunga, Captain of Sri Lanka cricket team. The event boosted the Sri Lanka Pakistan Friendship.

## Karachi Stock Exchange (KSE) receives fresh foreign investments

The Karachi Stock Exchange (KSE) witnessed fresh buying worth \$235 million by foreign investors during the first quarterly in the current



fiscal year 2009. According to statistics issued by National Clearing and Settlement Company, scripts worth \$123 million were sold by the foreign investors during the first quarterly last year at Karachi stock market. We wish the Pakistan economy would continue its progress.



## Sri Lanka's Largest International Conference Hall Will Open In 2010

Construction work on the country's largest international conference hall similar to BMICH is in progress in the Hambantota District with Korean assistance.



This International Conference Hall will be a massive support for the proposed Commercial Urban Complex in Hambantota, due to be initiated today (07th).

The conference hall which is of international standard will have all modern facilities including lodging facilities for both local as well as foreign delegations.

The main auditorium of the conference hall has a seating capacity for 1,500 improvement on BMICH. It will also comprise open air exhibition booths and 10 committee rooms with seating facilities for 250 each.

### 2nd Footwear & Leather Fair 2009, 6th–8th November 2009, BMICH, Colombo, Sri Lanka

The Export Development Board of Sri Lanka will organize the 2nd Footwear & Leather Fair 2009, Grand Exhibition at the BMICH from 6th to 8th November 2009. The Sri Lankan manufacturers will proudly present their world renowned garments, leather and shoe products during this exhibition.



The Export Development Board cordially invites Pakistani Leather, Footwear and Garment producers to attend this exhibition. The details of the exhibition are available in Sri Lanka High Commission, Islamabad (Tel: 051 2828723) and Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Karachi (Tel: 021 5857471)

## Regaining Paradise - Amazon Ride

Some locals wave to competitors from several countries taking part in the cycle segment of the Amazon Ride endurance race in Sri Lanka's north central town of Dambulla. Some 120



Women, mostly from France, Switzerland, Czech Republic and Sri Lanka, are taking part in the six day event that tests participants in disciplines ranging from cycling to trekking. The race takes place in one of Sri Lanka's former historic cities of Dambulla and Sigiriya.

### A conference and an exhibition in Jaffna after 30 years

Arrangements have been made to conduct a conference and an exhibition in Jaffna after 30 years, Governor of the Northern Province Major General G.A Chandrasiri said at a media conference held at the sub-office of the Governor at Battaramulla. According to a news release by the Governor's Secretariat in Northern Province this event will be organized by the Ministry of Provincial Local Government with the assistance of the Ministry of Provincial Councils and Local Government of the Central Government. It will be monitored by the Northern Province Governor.



## Farewell

Group Captain Ajantha Silva, Defence Adviser and Mr Abdul Rasheed, First Secretary of the Sri Lanka High Commission have left Islamabad after completion of their tour of duty.



The High Commission wishes them All Success!





## Sigiriya

**Sigiriya** (Lion's rock) is an ancient rock fortress and palace ruin situated in the central Matale District of Sri Lanka, surrounded by the remains of an extensive network of gardens, reservoirs, and other structures. A popular tourist destination, Sigiriya is also renowned for its ancient paintings (*frescos*), which are reminiscent of the Ajantha Caves of India. The Sigiriya was built during the reign of King Kassapa (AD 477 – 495), and it is one of the seven World Heritage Sites of Sri Lanka. Sigiriya may have been inhabited through prehistoric times. It was used as a rock-shelter mountain monastery from about the 5th century BC, with caves prepared and donated by devotees to the Buddhist Sangha. The garden and palace were built by King Kasyapa. Following King Kasyapa's death, it was again a monastery complex up to about the 14th century, after which it was abandoned. .

The Sigiri inscriptions were deciphered by the archaeologist Senarath Paranvithana in his renowned two-volume work, published by Oxford, *Sigiri Graffiti*. He also wrote the popular book "Story of Sigiriya".

interpretations have the site as the work of a Buddhist community, with no military function at all. This site may have been important in the competition between the Mahayana and Theravada Buddhist traditions in ancient Sri Lanka.

## History

The earliest evidence of human habitation at Sigiriya was found from the Aligala rock shelter to the east of Sigiriya rock, indicating that the area was occupied nearly five thousand years ago during the Mesolithic period.

Buddhist monastic settlements were established in the western and northern slopes of the boulder-strewn hills surrounding the Sigiriya rock, during the third century B.C. Several rock shelters or caves had been created during this period. These shelters were made under large boulders, with carved drip ledges around the cave mouths. Rock inscriptions are carved near the drip



ledges on many of the shelters, recording the donation of the shelters to the Buddhist monastic order as residences. These have been made within the period between the third century B.C and the first century A.D.

In 477 A.D, prince Kasyapa seized the throne from King Dhatusena, following a coup assisted by Migara, the king's nephew and army commander. Kasyapa, the king's son by a non-royal consort, usurped the rightful heir, Moggallana, who fled to South India. Fearing an attack from Moggallana, Kasyapa moved the capital and his residence from the traditional capital of Anuradhapura to the more secure Sigiriya. During King Kasyapa's reign from 477 to 495 A.D, Sigiriya was developed into a complex city and fortress. Most of the elaborate constructions on the rock summit and around it, including defensive structures, palaces and gardens, date back to this period.

Kasyapa was defeated in 495 A.D by Moggallana, who moved the capital again to Anuradhapura. Sigiriya was then turned back into a Buddhist monastery, which lasted until the thirteenth or fourteenth century. After this period, no records are found on Sigiriya until the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, when it was used as an outpost of the Kingdom of Kandy. When the kingdom ended, it was abandoned again.

In 1831 Major Jonathan Forbes of the 78th Highlanders of the British army while returning on horseback from a trip to Pollonnuruwa came across the "bush covered summit of Sigiriya". Sigiriya came to the attention of antiquarians and, later, archaeologists. Archaeological work at Sigiriya began on a small scale in the 1890s. H.C.P Bell was the first archaeologist to conduct extensive research on Sigiriya. The Cultural Triangle Project, launched by the Government of Sri Lanka, focused its attention on Sigiriya in 1982. Archaeological work began on the entire city for the first time under this project.



## Water Gardens

The beautifully and elaborately landscaped water gardens, contain a complex network of underground water distribution system, which provides water to the Royal baths, the many little moated islands & fountains, some fountains still work during the rainy season! A superb view of the Gardens could be had from halfway up the rock.



## Frescoes - The Sigiriya Damsels

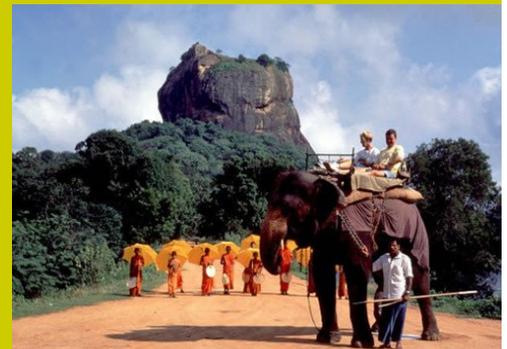
About halfway up the rock is a sheltered gallery of frescoes painted on the sheer rock face. The 'Heavenly Maidens' are similar in style to the paintings of Ajantha in India. Some of them are still in remarkably good condition. Only 22 out of an estimated 500 pictures now remain. Flash photography is not allowed at this site.



## The Mirror Wall with Graffiti

Beyond the fresco gallery, the pathway circles the the sheer face of the rock, and is protected by a 3m high wall. This wall was coated with a mirror-smooth glaze, in which visitors over 1000 years ago noted their impressions of the women in the gallery above. The graffiti was mostly inscribed between the

The graffiti are a great source for the scholars to study the development of the Sinhala language and script



## Lion Platform

The Northern end of the rock the pathway emerges to a platform, from which the rock derives its name Sigiriya (the Lion Rock). At one time a gigantic brick lion sat at the end of the rock, and the final ascent to the summit was between the lions paws and into it's mouth! Today the lion has disappeared, only the paws and the first steps are visible.



Dear Readers,

Now you all have an opportunity to visit the natural beauties of Sri Lanka. It would be a wonderful lifetime experience for you and your family members!

High Commission of Sri Lanka  
Islamabad