



# PAKISTAN SRI LANKA FRIENDSHIP MAGAZINE - August, 2009



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## Sri Lankan President & Pakistan PM agreed to boost multi-facete bilateral ties

President Mahinda Rajapakse of Sri Lanka and the Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raga Gilani and expressed their strong de-



sire to further strengthen multi-faceted ties and cooperation in various fields including trade, education, pharmaceuticals, engineering, railways, diplomatic training and defense. The two leaders, who met here on the sidelines of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Al-Fateh Revolution, discussed bilateral relations, and other regional and international matters of mutual interest.

It was the fourth meeting between Prime Minister Gilani and President Rajapakse during the past one year, with the latest in Sharm El Sheikh last month following their meetings at SAARC summit and at the Beijing Olympics last year.

## Pakistan Destroyer on Goodwill Mission

Sri Lanka Navy Commander presenting a Memento to Commanding Officer of PNS Zulfiqar Commanding Officer of PNS Zulfiqar Captain Zahid Ilyas, who paid a courtesy call on the Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy Vice Admiral Thisara Samarasinghe at the Naval Headquarters. Defence Adviser of Pakistan to Sri Lanka Colonel Syed Khurram Hassnain Alam participated at the welcome ceremony in Colombo.



The 123 m long Destroyer has a crew of 14 officers and 188 sailors. The Sri Lanka Navy has benefited from training courses offered by the Pakistan Navy.

## A PAGE FROM HISTORY

**HON. T B JAYAH, 'A PROUD SON OF MOTHER SRI LANKA' APPOINTED AS SRI LANKA HIGH COMMISSIONER TO PAKISTAN - 22 February 1950**



Mr Tuan Burhanuddin Jayah was born in Kandy on January 1, 1890. He studied at St. Paul's College, Kandy and S. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia and received his degree from the University of London in 1913 and joined Ananda College as a teacher. In 1921, he was appointed Principal of Zahira College.

During his tenure in Pakistan, he had engaged in several activities to develop bilateral relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Both countries at that time received independence and during the first stage of the development of the nations, Mr T B Jayah's contribution was valuable, even today, all Sri Lankans respect him as a great leader of Sri Lanka.

## Air Blue flights to Sri Lanka

Pakistan 2nd biggest Airline is scheduled to fly to Sri Lanka to develop bilateral air links between both countries.



Presently only Sri Lankan Airlines fly to Karachi twice a week.

**Government of Pakistan wishes to arrange direct flight between Pakistan Sri Lanka through Air Blue Airline.**

**The passengers from both countries can access both capitals and other cities for business and leisure trips to Sri Lanka through Blue Air Flight.**

The plan to recommence the air link comes amid Sri Lanka's efforts to carry out an ambitious tourism plan after the end of the 30-year-old war with the Tamil Tiger rebels



## SRI LANKA TO TRAIN PAKISTANI ARMY

The Army Commander of Sri Lanka says he will be happy to give military training to members of its Pakistani counterpart.

It says a request for this has come from Islamabad because of Sri Lanka's military success in defeating the Tamil Tiger rebels, a process which was completed in May with the announcement of the end of the decades-long war.

The new commander of the Army, Lt-Gen Jagath Jayasuriya, told the BBC that Pakistan had already asked if it could send its military cadets to the island for training with a focus on counter-insurgency operations.

Specialist courses

He said the Sri Lankan military envisaged specialist courses lasting up to six weeks, directed towards small groups from interested armies.

Gen Jayasuriya said there was external interest in how the military had defeated the rebel group in practical terms.

The army now wished to construct a written military doctrine in English.

He said Sri Lanka had offered similar training, through diplomatic channels, to other countries including the United States, India, Bangladesh and The Philippines.

He dismissed reports that the Pakistanis might receive military training in newly recaptured parts of northern Sri Lanka, saying it would be more likely in the south-east.

But he does say new permanent military bases will be set up in those northern areas including the rebels' former headquarters, Kilinochchi.

Sri Lanka and Pakistan have long enjoyed warm relations.



## Sri Lanka Railway orders oil wagons

Sri Lanka's state-owned Railway has ordered wagons to transport petroleum products from Pakistan as it seeks to increase freight transport by rail to reduce congestion on roads, a senior official said.

General Manager Sri Lanka Railways P P Wijesekera said the wagons will be used to transport petroleum products for the state oil refinery, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC).

"We're getting 15 petroleum transportation wagons from Pakistan," he said. "They will take about a year to be delivered."

Many CPC storage facilities are located near rail tracks or have access to the national rail system. Petroleum was transported by rail many years ago, but the system gradually fell into disuse as transport by bowsers became popular.

But bulk transport of petroleum products by rail can be cheaper than by road.

Wijesekera said the railway was trying to do more freight transportation in order to both increase revenue as well as to reduce traffic on the island's congested roads.

The railway service has been making heavy losses in recent years and has not been allowed by government to raise fares to cover costs because of opposition by passengers.

## Sri Lanka plans to open up Colombo port

The Ports Authority plans to open a second gate in the Colombo port for the first time in a decade, aiming to boost traffic after the end of a 25-year war, a top port official said



on Thursday. "We will be opening the north gate in a couple of days," Sri Lanka Ports Authority Chairman Priyath B. Wickrama told Reuters. "This will help to improve our vessel turnaround time and we can accommodate more ships." The port handled a record 3.68 million TEUs (Twenty-foot equivalents) last year. Wickrama said he expected vessel turnaround time to improve by 6-7 hours because of the change. Port officials said the north gate had been shut for 10 years due to security threats from the Tamil Tigers rebels, who were wiped out in May.



## Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage in Sri Lanka

Pinnawela Orphanage is situated Northwest of the town Kegalla, halfway between the present capitol Colombo and the ancient royal kingdom of Kandy in the hills of Central Sri Lanka.

It was established in 1975 by the Sri Lanka Wildlife department. This 24 acres large elephant orphanage is a also breeding place for elephants, twenty elephants were born since 1984, and it has the greatest herd of elephants in captivity in the world. The difference between the elephant orphanage in Pinnawala and 'Ath Athuru **Sevena**' Transit Home at Uda Walawe, is that at the Transit Home these baby elephants once cared for are released to the wilds when they reach a certain age.

- 1975: 5 baby elephants
- 1978: 12 elephants, of those 5 babies.
- 1997: 56 elephants,
- 1998: 63 elephants
- 2000 70 elephants,
- 2003 65 elephants,
- 2008 84 elephants

### History

The Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage was started in 1975 by the Department of Wildlife on a twenty five acre coconut property on the Maha Oya river at Rambukkana. The orphanage was primarily designed to afford care and protection to the many baby elephants found in the jungle without their mothers. In most of these cases the mother had either died or been killed. In some instances the baby had fallen into a pit and in others the mother had fallen in and died. Initially this orphanage was at the Wilpattu National Park, then shifted to the tourist complex at Bentota and then to the Dehiwala Zoo.

From the Dehiwala Zoo it was shifted in 1975 to Pinnawela. At the time it was shifted the orphanage had five baby elephants which formed its nucleus. It was hoped that this facility would attract both local and foreign visitors.

The income received by the visitors as entrance fees would help to maintain the orphanage.

There are only a few elephant orphanages in the world. Pinnawela has now become one of the bigger orphanages and is quite well known world wide.

In 1978 the Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage was taken over by the National Zoological Gardens from the Department of Wildlife and a captive breeding program launched in 1982. When the zoo took over there were twelve animals, five of whom were babies. In time more baby elephants were added to the original herd of five. It was observed that though older females could be added it was not possible to add older males to the herd.



In 1997 there were 52 animals of which 10 were babies under 3 years of age.

There were five mahouts for the twelve elephants when the orphanage was taken over in 1978, and now there are twenty mahouts. This number is inadequate to manage the increasing and growing number of elephants.



## Daily activities

At Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage, an attempt was made to simulate, in a limited way, the conditions in the wild.

Animals are allowed to roam freely during the day. The babies are fed on milk in the mornings and allowed to range freely on the 12 acres large grassland. At 10.00 each morning and afternoon



14.00 the animals are walked 400 meters to the river Maha Oya for a two-hour bath. Between 16.30 and 1800 in the evening the animals are taken to their stalls and tethered for the night.

They are then given their evening feed which is milk again for the babies and leaves for the older ones. Plenty of food and water are available.

The leaves are mainly Coconut leaves (*Cocos nucifera*), but also branches from Jackfruit (*Artocarpus integrus*), leaves, branches and logs of Kitul palm tree (*Caryota urens*). There is no stress or threat to the animals.

The elephants are stall fed. There is very little food material that they can gather from the premises of the orphanage except grass. Large quantities of food are brought in daily. Jackfruit, coconut, kitul, tamarind and grass form the bulk of the food given to the elephants at Pinnawela

Each animal gets approximately 75 kg of green matter a day and in addition each gets 2kg of a food mixture containing maize, rice bran, powdered gingelly seed and minerals. They have access to water twice a day from the river Maha Oya that runs by the Orphanage.

There is one female named **Sama** which was brought in from the northern part of the country, where there is an ethnic conflict, with the lower part off its front foot blown off by a land mine. This animal is growing up and is coping with that leg about six inches shorter than the other.

## Breeding history

The conditions at Pinnawela are conducive to breeding. Initially the breeding animals consisted of males Vijaya and Neela and females Kumari, Anusha, Mathalie and Komali.

Upto the middle of 1998 there have been fourteen births, eight males and six females at Pinnawela, with one(1) second generation birth in early 1998.

The father of the first three calves born at Pinnawela was Vijaya. It was not possible to determine the father of the next calves since many males used to mate with the females in oestrus. Now through DNA fingerprinting the fathers of three have definitely been identified. Vijaya and Kumari have produced three calves at intervals of five and four years.

The first birth at Pinnawela was in 1984, a female, to Vijaya and Kumari who were aged 21 and 20 years respectively at the time of the birth. In 1993 Vijaya and Kumari were 30 and 29 years respectively.

Dear Readers,  
Now you all have an opportunity to visit and see the Elephant Orphanage in Pinnawela with natural beauties of Sri Lanka. It would be a wonderful lifetime experience for you and your family.