



PAKISTAN SRI LANKA

FRIENDSHIP MAGAZINE

January 2011



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

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President Zardari assures Sri Lanka of providing cement & sugar plants



President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday assured Sri Lanka of providing soft term credit facility for the export of Pakistani cement and sugar plants to it. He was talking to a Sri Lankan parliamentary delegation headed by Speaker of Parliament Chamal Jayantha Rajapaksa, that called on him at Governor House. Chairman Senate Farooq H Naek, Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr Fehmida Mirza and Chairman of Board of Investment Saleem Mandviwalla were also present on the occasion. The Sri Lankan delegation included, beside others, Minister for Urban Affairs of Sri Lanka, Mohammad Fowzie Abdul Hameed. President Zardari said that Pakistani entrepreneurs should invest in Sri Lanka and its government must provide incentives, including repatriation of investment to attract investment from Pakistan. He also stressed for enhancing economic cooperation between the two countries, including exchange of gem and stone cutting experts from Sri Lanka to Pakistan and Pakistani experts to Sri Lanka.

He added, "Pakistan can train police and intelligence officers of Sri Lanka". The President underlined the need for increasing export of Sri Lankan tea to Pakistan and said that bilateral trade should be in local currency. Chamal Rajapakse said that Sri Lanka fully supported Pakistan's efforts and role regarding war on terror to curb terrorism in the country and around the world. He highly appreciated Pakistan's support extended to Sri Lankan army for combating against terrorism in the peninsula. The Sri Lankan delegation also showed keen interest in Gandhara and Taxila archeological sites. Sri Lanka is the first country with whom Pakistan signed free trade agreement FTA which has doubled bilateral trade in the last few years to 400 million dollars and both the nations have set a target to take the two-way trade to 2 billion dollars by 2012.

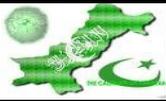
Pakistan Senate body meets Sri Lankan Speaker & Parliamentary Delegation

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit -Baltistan with a six-member Sri Lankan Parliamentary Delegation led by Chamal Rajapaksa, Speaker of the Sri Lankan Parliament was held at Parliament House on Tuesday.

The meeting was presided over by Chairman of the Committee Senator Salim Saifullah Khan and was attended among others by Senators Abbas Khan Afridi, Professor Khurshid Ahmed, Syeda Sughra Imam, Abdul Gaffar Qureshi and Fauzia Fakhar-uz-Zaman Khan, Special Secretary Senate Iftikhar Ullah Babar was also present on the occasion.



Senator Salim Saifullah Khan said that Pakistan enjoys cordial and brotherly relationship with Sri Lanka and the visit will help further strengthen bilateral ties between the two countries, as there is vast scope for investment and enhancement of trade and commercial ties. He laid emphasis on boosting trade contacts between the two countries to explore new avenues of co-operation to take the friendship to new heights, They also appreciated Sri Lankan government's success in rooting out terrorism and hoped that Pakistan will also rid the society of the scourge soon.



Pakistan Sri Lankan parliamentarians for improving mutual cooperation

The parliamentarians of Pakistan and Sri Lanka on Tuesday expressed the hope that cooperation between the two countries would be increased further to the mutual benefit of the peoples. They also underscored the need for encouraging people to people contacts and parliamentary exchanges to learn from each other's experiences as well as appreciated the success of the Sri Lankan government in wining war against terrorism.

A six-member Sri Lankan parliamentary delegation, led by Sri Lankan Parliament Speaker Chamal Rajapaksa called on Senate Chairman Farooq H Naek, opposition leader in the Senate Wasim Sajjad as well as the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign and Kashmir Affairs and held detailed discussions to enhance bilateral trade and exchange of parliamentary delegations.

Sajjad said Pakistan and Sri Lanka should open up new avenues of cooperation as potential existed between the two countries to enhance trade and economic ties.

Members of the delegation said they would welcome an invitation to play cricket in Pakistan as both the countries enjoyed good cricketing relations. The delegation also exchanged views on matters of mutual interests. Later the delegation visited the Senate and National Assembly halls, where they were briefed about the functioning of both houses. Sri Lankan delegation thanked the Senate chairman, deputy chairman and senators for warm welcome and hospitality extended to them and assured all possible help and assistance in consolidating the Pakistan-Sri Lanka relations.

Senators, including Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari, Wasim Sajjad, Professor Khurshid Ahmed, Raja Muhammad Zafarul Haq, Saeeda Iqbal, Semeen Yusuf Siddiqui, Salim Saifullah Khan, Abbas Khan Afridi, Saleh Shah and Senator-in-Waiting Sardar Ali Khan, Abdul Gaffar Qureshi and Fauzia Fakharuz Zaman, were present in the meeting while the Sri Lankan delegation included AHM Fowzie, Minister of Disaster Management Al Haj AHM Azwer, Kamala Ranatunga, Anoma Gamage; Seeniththamby, and Vijayakala Maheswaran.

Hand Woven Pakistan Carpets

Pakistan is amongst the world's largest producers and exporters of hand-knotted and handmade silk carpets that has reached the farthest corners of the world, and now to Sri Lanka at Dwellings, which is proud to boost of an exclusive collection of some of the finest quality Pakistan Carpets that money can buy. The hand knotted carpets and exquisite handi-craft and specialist in Kashmir art, these intricately designed carpets are woven by the expert women weavers in Pakistan North Western Frontier (NWF) and come in different sizes suitable for wall or floor. Speaking to the Sri Lankan media, Pakistan Carpets M Naseer Ullah Khan explained that though the carpets industry in Pakistan is fairly large, the boutique carpet operation in NWF provide countless women a steady income. A number of the Sri Lanka and Pakistan Associations, try to promote Sri Lanka as a favourite Business destination as the people are friendly and always feel safe, warm and welcomed, he said. He also gave thanks to the support handed out by the Sri Lankan High Commission in Islamabad for encouraging him not only to trade carpets, but also import goods to Pakistan from Sri Lanka, which he intends to do.



Sri Lanka Navy Commander's leadership brings World's navies together at Diamond Jubilee celebrations

Eight Naval ships from Bangladesh, China, Iran, India, Pakistan, Russia, and Thailand Navies arrived in Sri Lanka to take part in the Diamond Jubilee celebrations on 11 December 2010.

During the occasion Indian Navy Commander and Pakistan Navy Commander greeted each other. Sri Lanka Navy Commander is also in the picture.



Sri Lanka imports big onion from Pakistan

Sri Lanka Minister of Cooperatives and Internal Trade Johnston Fernando says that the government has decided to import big onion from Pakistan to eradicate the shortage and escalation of prices.



President Mahinda Rajapaksa has granted approval to the decision to import big onion from Pakistan.

The Minister pointed out that around 35% to 40% of the local big onion harvest was destroyed by the recent floods.

The Ministry took measures to import big onion from India to control the price escalation. However, India also suspended export of big onion due to shortage for local consumption.

Meanwhile, the government says that chicken and eggs shipment imported from India will arrive in the country today and they will be ready for distribution by Friday. country within the next few days.

Sri Lankan's Parliamentary delegation visits Taxila Museum

A visiting delegation of Sri Lanka's Parliament led by its Speaker, Chamal Rajapaksa visited Taxila Museum on Tuesday. Talking to APP, the head of the delegation appreciated and thanked Pakistan government for preserving their religious sites.

He said that Pak-Sri Lanka enjoy friendly relations and visit of the his delegation would further strengthen it. He called for frequent visits of dignitaries and people to people contacts between the two countries in this regard. Chamal Rajapaksa said he was very happy to visit Pakistan and thankful to government of Pakistan for giving warm welcome to him and his delegation. He said the Pakistani government is also taking pragmatic steps for preserving Buddhist heritage in the country.

The Director of the Taxila Museum informed the delegation that there are 4000 objects displayed, including stone, stucco, terracotta, silver, gold, iron and semiprecious stones.

"Mainly the display consists of objects from the period of 600 B.C to 500 AD," he said.

"It is an exciting experience to tour Taxila," said delegation members. They said Taxila is like a book on the Buddha.

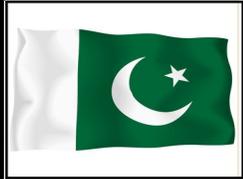
Pakistan-Sri Lanka trade set to touch \$1b mark



ePakistanNews.com

Board of Investment (BOI) Chairman Saleem H Mandviwalla on Saturday termed the president's visit to Sri Lanka very fruitful and stressed his belief that both countries would boost the level of bilateral trade from the current \$300 million to \$1.0 billion within a very short time. According to a statement of the BOI issued here, Saleem H Mandviwalla was part of the delegation that visited Sri Lanka and the trip was meant to remove any hurdles to enhanced commercial and economic cooperation and the possibility of high investments between Pakistan and Sri Lanka. On return from his successful

visit to Sri Lanka, BOI Chairman indicated that Sri Lanka had evinced keen interest in introducing Pakistani agricultural techniques to steadily improve the capacity and present yield of its agricultural sector. A branch of National Bank of Pakistan will start functioning in Colombo on a reciprocal basis, the two countries will identify those areas where cooperation will yield the best results. It is anticipated that cement, sugar, dairy production, textiles, tourism, light engineering, fresh fruits and vegetables, processed goods and pharmaceuticals are potential areas for mutually beneficial collaborative projects. He pointed out that Pakistan is in a position to help Sri Lanka build sugar and cement plants, while Pakistan constitutes a promising market for Sri Lankan produce and manufactured items. He revealed Pakistan has also offered soft credit of \$200 million to Sri Lanka for exports, barter trade and facilitation of business transactions.



THE HIGH COMMISSION OF SRI LANKA IN PAKISTAN WISHES TO INVITE PAKISTANI CRICKET FANS TO VISIT SIR LANKA TO WATCH THE FORTHCOMING 'ICC WORLD CUP 2011'



SCHEDULE OF SRI LANKA MATCH WITH PAKISTAN AND OTHER TEAMS

S.NO	DAY DATE	TIME	TEAMS	VENUE
1	Sunday 20 February 2011	2:30 PM (IST) 14:30 local, 09:00 GMT	Sri Lanka vs Canada	Hambantota
2	Wednesday 23 February 2011	2:30 PM (IST) 14:30 local, 09:00 GMT	Pakistan vs Kenya	Hambantota
3	Saturday 26 February 2011	2:30 PM (IST) 14:30 local, 09:00 GMT	Sri Lanka vs Pakistan	Colombo
4	Tuesday 1 March 2011	2:30 PM (IST) 14:30 local, 09:00 GMT	Sri Lanka vs Kenya	Colombo
5	Thursday 3 March 2011	2:30 PM (IST) 14:30 local, 09:00 GMT	Pakistan vs Canada	Colombo
6	Saturday 5 March 2011	2:30 PM (IST) 14:30 local, 09:00 GMT	Sri Lanka vs Australia	Colombo
7	Tuesday 8 March 2011	2:30 PM (IST) 14:30 local, 09:00 GMT	Pakistan vs New Zealand	Pallekelle
8	Thursday 10 March 2011	2:30 PM (IST) 14:30 local, 09:00 GMT	Sri Lanka vs Zimbabwe	Pallekelle
9	Monday 14 March 2011	2:30 PM (IST) 14:30 local, 09:00 GMT	Pakistan vs Zimbabwe	Pallekelle
10	Saturday 19 March 2011	2:30 PM (IST) 14:30 local, 09:00 GMT	Australia vs Pakistan	Colombo
11	Thursday 24 March 2011	2:30 PM (IST) 14:30 local, 09:00 GMT	Second Quarterfinal	Colombo
12	Tuesday 29 March 2011	2:30 PM (IST) 14:30 local, 09:00 GMT	First Semifinal	Colombo

