



PAKISTAN SRI LANKA FRIENDSHIP MAGAZINE July, 2009



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

Pakistani Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani met with Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa and expressed the resolve to continue making efforts against terrorism

Prime Minister of Pakistan Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani met with Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa and expressed the resolve to



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continue making efforts against terrorism and to make sure that regional peace and prosperity are not hindered by militancy.

Condemnation: Both men condemned the acts of terror that were disturbing regional peace and underlined the need for its eradication. Gilani said Pakistan and Sri Lanka enjoyed a close and cooperative relationship, based on mutual respect and shared perceptions over the regional and international issues of common interest.



The Sri Lanka - Pakistan Business Council, which was incorporated on August 30, 1991, has been affiliated to the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce since its inception. The Business Council has worked very closely with the Chamber and the Pakistan High Commission in Colombo. The Council focuses on promotion of trade, Investments, Joint Venture bilateral relations, services and tourism between the two countries.

PAGE FROM HISTORY



Bodhi Tree

THIS BO SAPLING IS A LINEAL DESCENDANT OF THE ACTUAL BO TREE AT BOOH GAYA UNDER WHICH LORD BUDDHA ATTAINED ENLIGHTENMENT. A SHOOT OF THIS SACRED TREE WAS BROUGHT TO CEYLON IN THE 2ND CENT. B. C. BY SINGHAMITTA, THE DAUGHTER OF EMPEROR ASOKA AND WAS PLANTED AT ANURADHA PURA. A SHOOT FROM THIS TREE WAS GIFTED BY THE CEYLONESL PRIME MINISTER TO FIELD MARSHAL MOHAMMAD AYUB KHAN THE PRESIDENT OF PAKISTAN DURING HIS STATE VISIT OF CEYLON IN DECEMBER, 1963. THE SAPLING WAS PLANTED HERE BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF PAKISTAN MR. ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO ON THE

Field Marshal Muhammad Ayub Khan, former Prime Minister of Pakistan who visited Sri Lanka as a State Guest in 1964, received a special gift of a plant of the Bodhi Tree, by the late Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Madam Sirimao Bandaranaike. **The Bodhi Tree** is nearly 2,500 years old. The **Bodhi Tree** was planted around the garden of Taxila Museum in Pakistan.

SRI LANKA RANKED AMONG TOP 20

The consulting giant, A.T. Kearney's Global Services Location Index (GSLI) has identified the top 50 countries for outsourcing globally. The Global Services Location Index (GSLI), first established in 2004, analyzes and ranks the top 50 countries as the best destinations for providing outsourcing services, including IT services and support, contact centres, and back-office support

Sri Lanka is ranked number 16 in the index in 2009 compared to the number 29 position held in 2007. This is a significant jump of 13 positions and only one or two other countries had this upgrade in ranking. The report was compiled with 2008 data prior to the war ending. Relatively unknown locations today may be important destinations tomorrow. The number of countries competing for the outsourcing business steadily expands and the different niche markets that countries serve multiply. Location decisions are not as straight forward as they used to be.



Pakistan was prepared to share vital commercial intelligence with Sri Lanka

Director General of Pakistan's Trade and Development Authority (TDAP), Nusrat Iqbal Jamshed, said they believed in the theory that whatever was good for them should be shared with other stakeholders.



"We have done extensive studies on commercial intelligence and are prepared to share vital information with a friendly country such as Sri Lanka."

In keeping with TDAP's new strategies, it's looking at product and marketing issues. This involves upgrading the produce base and also creating new products. The marketing aspect includes the enlistment of new exporters, who are able to secure hitherto unexplored import avenues, he said.

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).

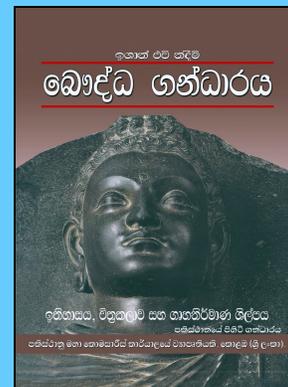
Sri Lanka's relations with Pakistan vital - PM

Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka said the friendship between Sri Lanka and Pakistan is vital at this stage as both countries are prone to terrorism and as neighbours had stood together in hard times. He was addressing a seminar on Buddhist Gandhara heritage of Pakistan recently in Colombo.



The Prime Minister said Pakistan helped Sri Lanka at a time when others were forcing us to lay down weapons.

"Pakistan has increased the number of flights



from Colombo from 3 to 14 per week to Sri Lankans to visit Pakistan through Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad .

The Pakistan High Commissioner distributed copies of Sinhala translation of the world famous books "Gandhara Art" and "Buddhist Gandhara - History, Art and Architecture" written by Prof. Emeritus Ahmad Hassan Dani and Ihsan H. Nadiem.



KANDY ESALA PERHERA

Esala Perahera is the grand Festival of Esala held in Sri Lanka. It is very grand with elegant costumes. Happening in July or August in Kandy, it has become a unique symbol of Sri Lanka. It is a Buddhist festival consisting of dances and richly-decorated elephants.

There are fire-dances, whip-dances, Kandyan dances and various other cultural dances.

The elephants are usually adorned with lavish garments. The festival ends with the traditional 'diya-kepeema'.



The Esala Perahera in Kandy is believed to be a fusion of two separate but interconnected Peraheras (Processions) - The Esala and Dalada. The Esala Perahera which is thought to date back to the 3rd century BC,

was a ritual enacted to request the gods for rain-fall. The Dalada Perahera is believed to have begun when the Sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha was brought to Sri Lanka from India during the 4th Century AD.



The Modern Perahera dates back to the reign of the Kandyan King Kirthi Sri Rajasinghe (1747-1781AD).

During these times, the Tooth Relic was considered private property of the King and the public never got a chance to worship it. However, King Rajasinghe decreed that the Relic be taken in procession for the masses to see and venerate.



After the Kandyan Kingdom fell to the British in 1815, the custody of the Relic was handed over to the Maha Sanga (the Buddhist Clergy). In the absence of the king, a lay custodian called the "Diyawadag Nilame" was appointed to handle routine administrative matters.

The Kandy Esala Perahera begins with the Kap Situveema or Kappa, in which a sanctified young Jack tree (*Artocarpus Integrifolius*) is cut and planted in the premises of each of the four Devalas dedicated to the four



guardian gods Nata, Vishnu, Katharagama and the goddess Pattini. Traditionally it was meant to shower blessing on the King and the people. For the next five nights, the "Devale Peraheras" take place within the premises of the four Devalas with the priest of each Devale taking the



pole every evening, accompanied by music and drumming, flag and canopy bearers, spearman and the Ran Ayudha, the sacred insignia of the Gods.

On the sixth night, the Kumbal Perahera begins and continues on for five days. Initially, the Devale Peraheras assemble in front of the Sri Dalada Maligawa (or Temple of the

Tooth, which is Sri Lanka's most important Buddhist Shrine and where the Buddha's Sacred Tooth Relic has been kept since the 16th Century) with their insignias placed on the ransivige (a dome-like structure) accompanied by the Basnayake Nilames (the lay custodians of the Devales).



The relic casket, which is a substitute for the Tooth Relic, is placed inside the ransivige affixed to the Maligawa Elephant, a tusker.

At about 8pm, the Maligawa Perahera joins the awaiting Devale Peraheras and leads the procession. Whip-crackers and fireball acrobats clear the path, followed by the Buddhist flag bearers. Then, riding on the first elephant, is the official called Peramuna Rala (Front Official). He is followed by Kandyan Drummers and Dancers who enthrall the crowd, and are themselves followed by elephants and other groups of musicians, dancers and flag bearers. A group of singers dressed in white heralds the arrival of the Maligawa Tusker carrying the Sacred Tooth Relic. The Divawadana Nilame (traditionally required to do everything in his power to ensure rain in the correct season) walks in traditional Kandyan-clothed splendor after the tusker.

The second procession is from the Natha Devale, which faces the Sri Dalada Maligawa and is said to be the oldest building in Kandy, dating back to the 14th Century. The third is from the Vishnu Devale (Vishnu being a Hindu god), also known as the Maha Devalein from of the main gate of the Natha Devale.

The fourth procession is from the Katharagama Devale (dedicated to the God of Katharagama, identified with the warrior god Skanda) which is on Kot-tugodalle Vidiya (a street in Kandy). This procession includes Kavadi, the peacock dance, in which the pilgrim-dances carry semicircular wooden contraptions studded with peacock feathers on their shoulders. The fifth and final procession is from the Pattini Devale (Pattini being a goddess associated with the cure of infectious diseases and called upon in times of drought and

famine), which is situated to the West of the Natha Devale. This is the



only procession that has women dancers.

The following important times are announced by the firing of cannonballs, which can be heard all across Kandy.

1. The commencement of the Devale Peraheras
2. The placing of the casket on the tuskers back
3. The commencement of the Dalada Perahera
4. The completion of the Perahera

The Randoli Perahera begins after five nights of the Kumbal Perahera. Randoli refers to palanquins on which the Queens of the ruling Kings traditionally traveled.

After a further five nights of the Randoli Perahera, the pageant ends with the Diya Kepeema, which is the water cutting ceremony at the Mahaweli River at Getambe, a town a few miles from Kandy. A Day Perahera is held to mark the ceremony.

The rituals connected with the Tooth Relic are conducted by Monks of the Malwatte and Asgiriya Chapters of the Buddhist Clergy in Sri Lanka. It is the duty of the Diyawadana Nilame to organize the Perahera and thus he summons the large number of officials of the Sri Dalada Maligawa and entrusts them with various ceremonial duties connected with the conducting of the Perahera. He first gets the auspicious time from the Nekath Mohottala, the advisor on astrological matters.