



PAKISTAN SRI LANKA FRIENDSHIP

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

SRI LANKA DEFEATS THE TERRORISM FROM THE ISLAND.

PRESIDENT INVITES PROFESSIONALS TO RETURN TO THE COUNTRY

President Mahinda Rajapaksa urged all Sri Lankans, who left the Country because of the terrorist war to return and serve the Nation. "There are Doctors , Engineers, Accountants and other Professionals who left, and now they could return to help in building the nation", the President added in his address to the Na-



PAKISTAN FELICITATES SRI LANKA ON THE GREAT VICTORY

Pakistan has felicitated the Government of Sri Lanka on the achievement of the "great victory over terrorism". This congratulatory message was conveyed to Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, Hon. Hussein A. Bhaila by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, Hon. Nawabzada Malik Amad Khan who telephoned on 20 May 2009.



Speaking further, the Pakistan State Minister stated that Pakistan has always been a steadfast friend of Sri Lanka and strongly supported the country's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity and re-affirmed his Government's continued cooperation with Sri Lanka in countering terrorism. He requested the Deputy Minister to convey his good wishes and felicitations to President Mahinda Rajapaksa and Foreign Minister, Rohitha Bogollagama. Deputy Minister Bhaila, reciprocating the warm sentiments of his Pakistan counterpart, pointed out that the Government and the people of Sri Lanka have considered Pakistan as a true friend of Sri Lanka, which has always stood by it in times of need. Therefore, he deeply appreciated his Pakistan colleague's spontaneous gesture to telephone and convey the congratulations of the Pakistan Government on the defeat of terrorism in Sri Lanka, which is indeed a great victory for all peace loving people in the country.

PAGE FROM HISTORY



Former Pakistan Premier Madam Benazir Bhutto is being welcomed by Prime Minister Madam Sirimavo Bandaranaike in Colombo, Mr. Anura Bandaranaike Son of Mrs. Bandaranaike also in the picture (July 1997)

SRI LANKAN HIGH COMMISSIONER PAID SINCERE GRATITUDE TO PAKISTAN



High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in Pakistan Air Chief Marshal @ Jayalath Weerakkody briefed the Pakistan Media regarding current situation in Sri Lanka after the Humanitarian operations made by the government forces to rescue civilians, who were kept as the human shield by the LTTE. Also High Commissioner thanked the Government and people of Pakistan regarding the assistance given by them for the war against terrorism in Sri Lanka.



SRI LANKAN PRESIDENT MEETS PAKISTANI INVESTMENT MINISTER IN JORDAN

President Mahinda Rajapaksa met Pakistan's Minister of Investment, Waqur Ahmad Khan at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Amman, Jordan, on 15 May 2009, on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum. During the meeting, Mr. Khan briefed President Mahinda Rajapaksa about the measures taken by Pakistan in countering the menace of terrorism in the country.



He also informed the President of the progress of the investigations with regard to the terrorist attack targeting the Sri Lankan Cricket team during their tour of Pakistan earlier this year.

The discussions also focused on expanding bilateral ties in spheres such as trade and investment.

JINNAH SCHOLARSHIP 2009 CONFERRED ON SRI LANKAN STUDENTS

The annual ceremony of distributing Jinnah Scholarship among deserving Sri Lankan students of A Level, O Level and Bachelors programs (2006-07 results) was held in Colombo recently. The Sri Lankan Minister for Education, Hon. Susil Premajayantha was the Chief Guest on this occasion which was organized under the auspices of the Pakistan High Commission. Under the Jinnah Scholarship scheme the Government of Pakistan is funding studies for deserving and top performing Sri Lankan students. In 2007, during the launch of the scheme, 85 students received their stipends followed by 100 in next year. However, in view of the importance of this project which has served as yet another cementing block for bilateral friendly relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the Government of Pakistan this year has decided to grant Jinnah Scholarship to 158 best Sri Lankan students, in three categories. Separate merit lists for O Level, A Level and Bachelors students are compiled, considering their results. Each successful student is given a Stipend of SL Rs. 24,000/- (twenty four thousand) to assist in their

studies. In addition, Pakistan also offers sixteen scholarships to deserving students every year in Medicine and Engineering to pursue their higher professional education in Pakistan.

SIX SRI LANKAN COMPANIES WOULD PARTICIPATE IN 'MY KARACHI INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION' AT KARACHI EXPORT CENTRE

Under the facility granted by Pakistan Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement there are nearly 4,000 items that could be imported & exported between Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

A High Level Pakistani Trade delegation with 23 members are scheduled to visit Sri Lanka to Promote Bilateral Trade Relations between the countries. The volume of trade has increased in both import & export sectors tremendously, said Sri Lankan Consul General in Karachi Mr. V.S Sidath Kumar and he hopes, through the proposed visit by Pakistan business delegation a fruitful result may be obtained.

THE HIGH COMMISSION OF SRI LANKA CELEBRATES VESAK FESTIVAL IN ISLAMABAD INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE



The High Commission of Sri Lanka organized Vesak Festival in International Buddhist Cultural Centre, Islamabad on 09th May 2009.

Pakistani Government Federal Minister Hon. Raja Roy, Myanmar Ambassador to Pakistan, Sri Lanka Ambassador in Pakistan and their members of the family also participated in the events.



Just one's Cup of Tea

(This Article was published in Daily Dawn of Pakistan on 10 May, 2009 and it is authored by Pakistani Senior Journalist Ms. Munizeh Zuberi, after her recent visit to Sri Lanka. The High Commission of Sri Lanka in Pakistan very much appreciates her true feelings on nature of Sri Lanka.)



There is little one hears of Sri Lanka these days besides ethnic strife and acts of terrorism. But this little island in the Indian Ocean is a treasure trove of paradise of adventure and eco-tourism. With visa on arrival for Pakistani passport holders, it is no doubt one of the best and most economical holiday destinations. And the best part is that because of its tropical climate, it can be visited throughout the year.

While there is a lot to be seen in this island, its most stunning natural beauty is in the Nuwara Eliya district in the centre of the country, popularly known as the 'tea country'. Throughout our six day trip to Sri Lanka which was to culminate in Nuwara Eliya, our most hospitable driver guide - every time we gushed over the scenic beauty of a place - would gesture, 'wait till you get to Nuwara Eliya.'

The three hour drive from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya

made it obvious enough what he meant. Spectacular waterfalls dotted the bendy route; some closer to the road and some in the distance. We couldn't help but be awestruck by lush greenery of rolling tea plantations to the extent of vision. Six thousand, one hundred and twenty - eight feet in altitude, it is hard to believe that the town is only 180km from the capital, Colombo. Built entirely during the 19th century by British, who introduced tea plantations here, it is proudly referred to by the locals as 'Little England' because of its mock-Tudor architecture and picturesque landscape.

Nuwara Eliya district is home of the famous Ceylon plantations, which is about nine percent of the global production share. Highly recommended by our travel agent, our party of eight had been booked into the Tea Factory Hotel. The hotel has been built in a former tea factory which was closed down in 1968 due to its obsolete and uneconomical machinery. The Hethersett Tea Factory, which once produced some of the finest tea in the world, was spotted by a travel company and in 1992 turned into a unique concept hotel and one like no

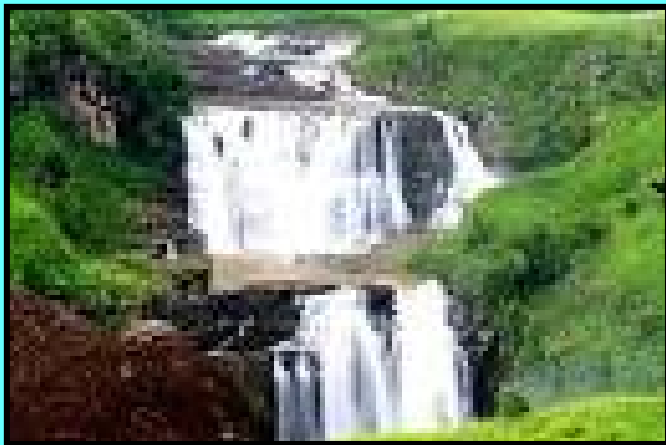


other we had experienced.

It is located about half an hour's drive from Nuwara Eliya town centre, in an area called Kandapola, along a most dodgy stretch of gravel track. But once you get to the tea



factory, originally built in 1935, the anxiety of travelling on this never-ending winding road soon fades away. It is surrounded by hills with tea plantations, referred to by our guide as 'emerald teascape' Its location as a tea factory, one top of one of the tallest



hills in the area at 6,800 feet, had been built specifically so as to catch maximum wind trapped in the valleys. This is why all night gushing winds can be heard and the hotel very considerably provides ear plugs for the fainthearted and light sleepers.

Much of the hotel's interior has been kept in its original condition and some of the machinery of the factory has been incorporated into the décor.



Plaques in the dining room, entrance hall and other communal areas describe how the particular area was used within the tea factory. All 57 rooms are

located where the tea, plucked from the surrounding fields, went through the first stage of manufacture, namely 'withering'. Besides admiring the scenic beauty, there is little to be done in Nuwara Eliya; much of the activity surrounds the hotel, making it a holiday itself.

The highlight of our stay at the hotel was the chance to experience life as a tea picker. For a very economical 400 Sri Lankans were dressed in tea-picker's saris and paired with local Tamil tea-picker ladies, who showed us the tedious processes of tea picking while carrying the baskets slung over the head. Merely half an hour into the tea picking and each of us vowed never again to complain about our respective jobs!

Having collected a nominal amount of tea leaves each, we were taken to the miniature tea factory in the gardens of the hotel, specifically designed to introduce guest to the process of tea manufacturing. Therein, the leaves we had picked were put into the wilting trays so that they could be manufactured overnight for us to take with as a souvenir.



Beside this the hotel also offered guided nature walks, a small golf course, sauna, spa, indoor games and a library/reading room. Needless to say, the entire experience of staying in Sri Lanka's only concept hotel was not extraordinary.