



PAKISTAN SRI LANKA FRIENDSHIP MAGAZINE

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

HAPPY SINHALA & TAMIL NEW YEAR !



Sri Lanka President Mahinda Rajapaksa meets the Soldiers, who are in the Northern Battlefield during the Sinhala and Tamil New Year (Picture by Sudath Silva)

DUTY FREE ACCESS FOR 4,000 PRODUCTS

Sri Lankan exporters now enjoy duty free access for about 4,000 products to the Pakistan market from Sri Lanka under the final phase of trade liberalization of the Pakistan-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (PSFTA). Pakistan granted immediate duty free access for Sri Lankan products such as Tea (under a Tariff Rate Quota - TRQ), Betel leaves (TRQ), coconut products, natural rubber, spices, paper boards, articles of aluminum.



An additional 4,000 products such as Fish and Meat products, Vegetable and Vegetable products, foliage and plants, sugar and sugar confectionery (biscuits), pastry and cakes, mineral products, fiber boards, leather and leather based products, footwear, gems and Jewellery, value added copper products, electrical. Pakistan has become the second largest trading partner for Sri Lanka in the South Asian region.

PAGE FROM HISTORY



Sri Lankan Prime Minister Madam Sirimavo Bandaranaike who maintained excellent bilateral relations with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan has invited the Pakistan Prime Minister Field Marshal Mohamed Ayub Khan on 09 December 1963. The photo shows the un breaking bond between The two Countries which Enjoying over Six decades: (Photo courtesy, Information Department Sri Lanka)



The High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, Air Chief Marshal Jayalath Weerakkody has opened the Multimedia Centre in "Modern age College Abbotabad on 20th April, 2009. The High Commissioner visited the College on an invitation by the Administration.



Mr. Gotabaya Rajapakse, Secretary Defence Sri Lanka called on General Tariq Majid, Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi

Sri Lankan Doctor APS Abi Suriya to set up free eye bank in Sialkot, Pakistan

Sri Lankan eye specialists will set up the Eye Bank, an international standard hospital, at Sialkot for providing free treatment including the transplantation of Cornea to poor, said Dr APS Abi Suriya

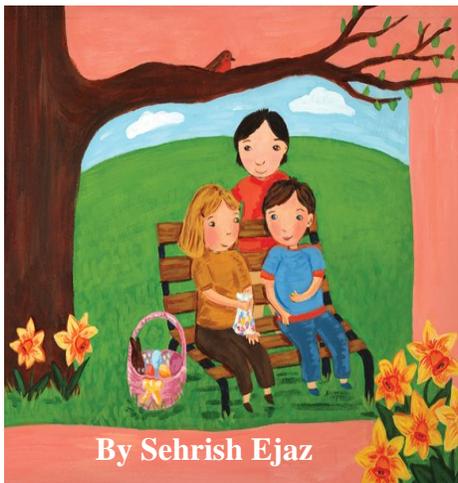
Dr Suriya, a leading eye specialist, was talking to newsmen after inaugurating the free cornea transplantation camp at Aleem Welfare Hospital.



Professor Dr Donald, Dr Humayoun Sheikh and other doctors were also present on this occasion. Dr Suriya said that the Eye Bank would be established in Sialkot by the end of December and the Sri Lankan donors would directly donate the eye cornea to the hospital.

The corneas would be available locally instead of their import from Sri Lanka. He said that it would be a great facility for the local patients who would get their eyes transplanted free of cost.. TBSF firing victim laid to rest: Waheed Ahmad, the man shot dead by Turkish Border Security Forces (TBSF) while crossing border, was buried in his native graveyard in village Bhaagowal amid sobs and tears. He was the father of five children and the only bread earner of his family

‘The sound of a breaking heart’
 The Pakistani School girl who had written the Article to Sri Lanka Newspaper ‘Daily News’ on her heartfelt thoughts



By Sehrish Ejaz

Sri Lankan Cricket team under attack in Pakistan”, headlines screamed. “Mumbai terror visits Lahore.” It broke my heart like never before.

In the Land of the Pure, every child is born with religion, cricket and politics infused in his blood- in that order. From the litter-stricken slums to the narrow streets to the green belts, every village and town and city thrives with the sport

All of us dedicate a significant portion of our lives playing it or watching it or talking about it. I was no different till I swore off cricket after the 99’ World Cup. By the time I was nine, I had my own Fantasy Cricket League.

I broke the oath several times, sometimes to see the Sharjah Cup, sometimes to steal glances at the latest

I was almost going to go watch the Test Match to remind me of the passion that had coloured my childhood.

And that is how hard it was to come to terms with the tragedy in Lahore. The Sri Lankans were our guests, they were goodwill ambassadors, they were all that is so great about the holy sport. They played in our land when other teams refused to. Most importantly they offered us something we are all parched for. They offered us hope. And yet someone riddled their van with bullets.

God Bless ! the Sri Lankan team, for their love, their faith and their friendship. God Bless the policemen who risked their lives. God Bless the policemen who died. God Bless us all.

(The writer is a seventeen-year-old Pakistani student who is living in Islamabad)



The Students who are perusing ‘South Asia Studies’ of Punjab University have visited High Commission of Sri Lanka in Islamabad and discussed Sri Lanka Pakistan relations on 07th April,2009.

'Adam's Peak': The Symbol of inter-faith Harmony in the World

Sri Pada, popularly known in English as Adam's Peak, is a conical mountain 7,360 feet above sea level, soaring clear above the surrounding mountain ranges. However, the altitude is no damper to the thousands of pilgrims who climb the mountain in endless procession during this time of year.

It is not only a Buddhist pilgrimage. There are Hindus, Christians and Muslims too who join the white-clad devotees and brave the chill night mountain air, singing hosannas to the Buddha and the deities, climbing through the dark hours to see the miracle of sunrise from the top of the mountain.

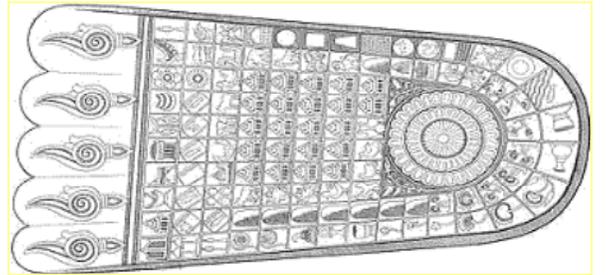
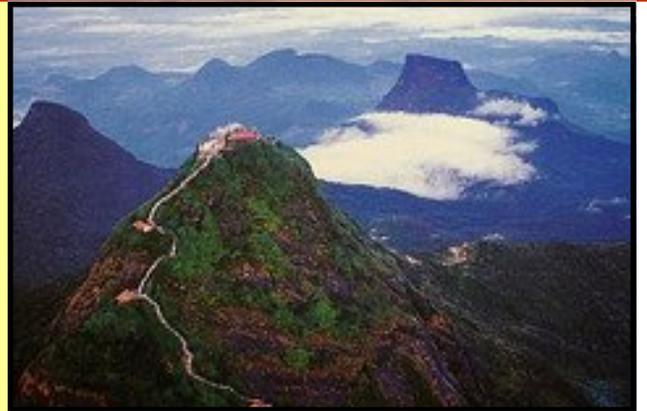
Sri Pada is known as the only mountain in the world considered sacred by the followers of the four major faiths in the world – Buddhists, Hindus, Christians and Muslims. To Buddhists, the imprint at the summit of the mountain is the hallowed footprint of the Buddha, hence the name "Sri Pada". To the Hindus, the footprint is that of God Shiva.

To the Christians, it is the footprint of St. Thomas, and to Muslims, it is the foot print of Adam, hence "Adam's Peak". Another name for the mountain by the Sinhalese is "Samanala Kanda" meaning Butterfly Mountain due to the endless flocks of butterflies that wing their way to the mountain with the start of the season.

The Sri Pada pilgrimage is punctuated with tradition. It is customary for first time climbers to bathe at the stream call Seetha Gangula and to pile white cloth on their heads. At Indikatu Pana (place of the needle), pilgrims stop to hang a threaded needle on a shrub on the wayside, marking a spot where the Buddha is said to have stopped to mend a tear in his robe.

It is taboo to talk about how long it takes to climb to the top. When pilgrims meet, they always exchange greetings "karunawai" - "peace". Some groups of pilgrims reduce the monotony of the climb by singing folk songs. Every pilgrim is expected to toll the huge bell at the summit - once for each time they visited. As the deep and solemn peals resonate, the pilgrims become ecstatic.

According to the Mahavamsa, the Great Chronicle of the island, the first person to ascend the holy mountain Sri Pada was King Vijayabahu I (1058-1114), having come to know that atop the mountain is seen the footmark of the Buddha. The story goes he had gathered the information from the pious woman Manimekhala.



A more colourful story is that the king had seen, in the early hours of one morning, angels plucking flowers in his garden. When questioned, one of them had said "We are plucking flowers to worship the footmark of the Buddha atop the Samanalakanda."

The sacred foot print that Dr. John Davy saw in 1817, was ornamented with a single margin of brass and studded with a few gems. These are now not to be seen. He says, "The cavity of the footmark certainly bears a coarse resemblance to the figure of a human foot but much oversized. Whether it is really an impression is not very flattering, if not for its huge size. There are little raised partitions to represent the interstices between the toes, to make it appear a human foot."

The 'cetiya' situated at the foot of Sri Pada is the peace pagoda erected by the Japanese Buddhists to spread the message of peace throughout the world from which begins the arduous climb to the summit of the Adams Peak. History records that many distinguished persons, like Ibn Batuta the Arab traveler, and Marco Polo have climbed Sri Pada.

Dear Friends, you are also invited to visit this incredible place for worship as your faith. You all are welcome to Sri Lanka.

By Rajika Jayatilake