

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

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National Assembly speaker to attend Colombo conference

Dr Fehmida Mirza, Speaker National Assembly visited Colombo to attend the 3rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's Asian Regional Conference being held from 11th to 16th February at Colombo, Sri Lanka. She was accompanied by a five-member Parliamentary delegation.

The CPA Regional Conference was being hosted by the Sri Lankan Parliament. The Conference was inaugurated by Sri Lankan Prime Minister. Apart from Pakistan Parliamentary delegation, delegates from Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka participated in the Conference.

The Conference pondered upon variety of subjects that affect the region commonly. Poverty alleviations, climate changes and mother and child healthcare were the topics for discussion at plenary level. The Pakistan Parliamentary delegation comprised of MNAs Jamila Gilani, Azeem Daultana, Dr Mahreen Razaque Bhutto, Tahira Aurangzeb and Karamat Hussain Niazi, Secretary National Assembly.

Speaker of the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Dr. Fehmida Mirza and the delegation paid a courtesy call on President Mahinda Rajapaksa at Temple Trees on 12th Feb. Speaker Chamal Rajapaksa, Secretary to the President Lalith Weerunga and High Commissioner of Pakistan to Sri Lanka Mrs. Seema Illahi Baloch were also present.



Pakistan-Sri Lanka strategic partnership to benefit both countries

Air Chief Marshal Jayalath Weerakkody, the Sri Lankan High Commissioner said that the strategic partnership with Pakistan would benefit mutual advantage of both the nations in a meeting with Dr. Fehmida Mirza, Speaker National Assembly in Parliament House on 2 February 2011.

He further said that Sri Lankan government wants to take Pakistan-Sri Lankan relationship to "new heights", encompassing a multi-sectoral engagement. Talking to the Sri Lankan High Commissioner, Speaker National Assembly said that Pakistan greatly valued its close relationship with Sri Lanka and that both countries always stood by each other in turbulent times and shared commonality of views on regional issues.

Air Chief Marshal stated that his country was keen to initiate new joint venture projects with Pakistan in the areas of cement, sugar, dairy production, chemical plants, textiles, tourism and pharmaceutical as potential areas of mutually beneficial collaborative projects for the mutual good of the two peoples. He also reiterated that Sri Lanka will always support Pakistan on regional and international forums.





Pakistan Army chief 's visit to Sri Lanka

Pakistan Army Chief General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani officially visited Sri Lanka on an invitation extended by the Commander of the Sri Lanka Army to "strengthen bonds of friendship" between the Armies of the two countries.



General Kayani, the Chief of Army staff (COAS) also visited the Defence Services Command and Staff College during his visit in Sri Lanka. Gen. Kayani addressed the students there and also formally inaugurated the Quetta Association formed by Sri Lankan students of the Command and Staff College, Quetta.

The Prime Minister's office issued a statement quoting General Kayani as saying that Pakistan was a country that had helped Sri Lanka in its fight against terrorism and the time had now come to strengthen the existing ties further, which includes economic ties that exist between the two nations at present.

Meanwhile, Pakistani Army Chief General Kayani met his local counterpart Lieutenant General Jagath Jayasuriya for talks at Army Headquarters. Sri Lanka had sought more opportunities for its personnel to be trained in Pakistan.

The Army Chiefs of the two countries explored the possibilities of sharing military knowledge with each other at a meeting where talks centered largely on military matters of mutual and regional interest.

Sri Lankan High Commissioner calls on Pir Aftab Jilani

Federal Minister for Culture, Pir Aftab Hussain Shah Jilani said that there has been great cooperation between Pakistan and Sri Lanka in the field of art and culture. He said that Sri Lanka has rich cultural heritage and deep relations with Pakistan.



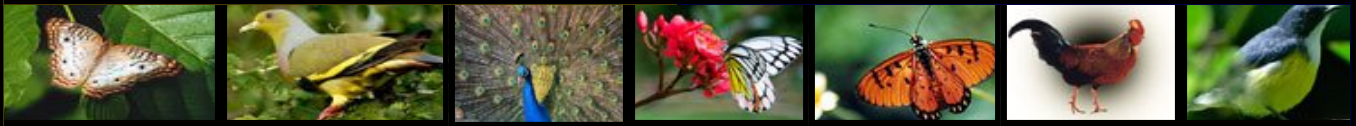
He made these observations while talking to the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, H.E. Air Chief Marshal Jayalath Weerakkody.

Federal Secretary Culture, Moin-ul-Islam Bukhari and senior officers of the ministry were also present on the occasion. The minister welcomed the Sri Lankan envoy and informed him that Pakistan considers Sri Lanka a close friend adding that both countries have excellent brotherly relations.

He expressed the hope that promotion of cultural ties between the two countries would result in bringing the two nations further close.

The Minister agreed with the proposal of the High Commissioner to hold an exhibition of Buddhist Art of Gandhara in Colombo as was already offered by the President of Pakistan during his recent visit to Sri Lanka.

Air Chief Marshal Jayalath Weerakkody the High Commissioner thanked the Minister for his keen interest in promotion of cultural relations and said that the Buddhist people of Sri Lanka would greatly cherish the exhibition of Gandhara Relics.



President assures support to Sri Lankan people in this hour of distress

President Asif Ali Zardari called Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa and expressed his deep sympathies and concerns over the devastation caused by the recent floods in Sri Lanka.



Pakistan Government donated a consignment of aid for the flood victims in Sri Lanka. Pakistan High Commissioner Mrs. Seema Ilai Baloch handed over the first part of the consignment to Minister Basil Rajapaksa at the Katunayake Airport .

The Pakistan High Commissioner Seema Ilahi Baloch handed over the emergency relief items such as tents, blankets and dry foods worth over Rs 11.2 million, to Law and Justice Minister Rauf Hakeem for flood victims.

Abbottabad Modernage Youth Group – Visit to Sri Lanka—Youth Exchange Program

A 17 member Youth Group from Modernage Abbottabad is scheduled to visit Sri Lanka on the invitation extended by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Skills Development from 22 to 29 March 2011.

The Youth Group will visit the National Youth Services Council and Parliament of Sri Lanka. The Group will also stay in Kandy with Sri Lankan Youth Group and be involved in various youth development activities.

PIA flights to Colombo resume to promote bilateral ties

The inaugural PIA flight from Karachi, which resumed after three years, arrived here at the Bandaranaike International Airport Saturday night, aimed at promoting bilateral ties.

The flight was received by Pakistani High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Seema Ilahi Baloch.

“Sri Lanka and Pakistan have close friendly ties and the initiation of the PIA flights from Karachi will help further enhance these ties,”



Seema pointed out that the bilateral trade between the two countries is to the tune of 300 million dollars and there is scope of further enhancing it.

She said Pakistan can export more fruits, vegetable and cement etc to Sri Lanka and that there is also scope for the small and medium enterprises.

This will also help enhance tourism as many of the Sri Lankans also wish to visit Taxila and other places in Pakistan.

International Conference – “Gandhara – The Cradle of Buddhist Civilization

The Society of Asian Civilization of Pakistan has invited four Sri Lankan Scholars to present papers at the International Conference scheduled to be held in Islamabad on 19 March 2011.

Leading Sri Lankan scholars namely, Prof. Nimal De Silva, Ven. Godamune Pan-naseeha, Prof. B D Nandadeva and Rev. Akuratiye Nando Thero will participate at the event.



ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP 2011



ICC Cricket World Cup
2011

Lasith Malinga recorded his second World Cup hat-trick

Lasith Malinga recorded his second World Cup hat-trick and a career-best 6/38 to spark Sri Lanka's crushing nine-wicket win over Kenya in the initial match.

The 27-year sling-action bowler, who missed Sri Lanka's opening two matches due to a back strain, trapped Tanmay Mishra (nought) lbw with the last ball of his seventh over.

At the start of his next, he bowled Peter Ongondo and Shem Ngoche in successive balls to complete his hat-trick, finishing the innings at 142 in 43.4 over's, by bowling Elijah Otieno (0) to complete a four-wicket burst off six balls.

The 1996 champions, who won their first match against Canada by 210 runs, now have four points from three games.

Malinga's previous best of 5/34 was recorded against Pakistan at Dambulla last year.

His hat-trick is the seventh in all World Cup matches and came just a day after West Indian Kumar Roach took three-in-three against the Netherlands in New Delhi.

With Malinga firing all cylinders, four of the last seven batsmen failed to score.



Pallekele, another feather in Lanka's cap

This World Cup has provided Sri Lanka with superb opportunity to showcase their latest cricket infrastructure. While Hambantota on February 20 revealed the Mahinda Rajapaksa Stadium, Pakistan-New Zealand game will provide ODI cricket with its latest venue-the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium, which is situated in a hilly region close to Kandy.

Like the stadium in Hambantota, this one too pops out of nowhere amidst a green, hilly stretch.

Fittingly, since it is in Kandy, the home town of Sri Lanka's favourite cricketer-Muttiah Muralitharan, the structure was named after the legendary off spinner. Kandy was a regular Test venue till 2007, and would host its games at the Asgiriya Stadium. Due to certain local problems there, Sri Lankan cricket decided to abandon that ground and build a new facility of its own.

