



# PAKISTAN SRI LANKA FRIENDSHIP MAGAZINE

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## Sri Lanka National Performance Art Theater ready to open soon !

**S**ri Lanka National Performance Art Theater gifted by Chinese Government already completed its construction and within few weeks it will open for Sri Lankan public.

Construction of this National Performing Arts Theatre began in May 2008 and the total cost of the project was Rs 3,080 million.

Forty percent of the total cost of the project was provided by the Chinese government as a grant and the rest is given to the government of Sri Lanka in the form of a soft loan.

This Theatre will provide infrastructure facilities with sophisticated modern hitec knowhow to professional and amateur artistes, researchers, foreign troupes and the public.



This five-storied building complex with a floor area of 14,000 square meters has been designed on the Nelum Pokuna found at the Polonnaruwa architectural site.

The Chinese engineers who conducted the construction explained to President Rajapaksa the facilities available for the viewers and performers at this theatre during his inspection.

The lighting system and the most modern stage facility at the theatre drew the President's special attention.

The President viewed a documentary which showed the step by step construction of the Performing Theatre. Cultural Affairs Minister T B Ekanayake, External Affairs Minister Prof G L Peiris, Chinese Ambassador in Sri Lanka Yang Xiuping, also were present for the observation tour of the Sri Lanka President at National Performance Art Theater in Colombo.

## Sri Lanka donates flood relief to Pakistan

The Sri Lankan Government has donated a consignment of relief items to the flood affected people in Pakistan's Sindh Province.

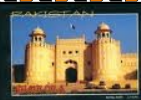
External Affairs Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris on 3rd November symbolically handed over a package of items to Pakistani High Commissioner Seema Illahi Baloch in Colombo. The Ministry has arranged to dispatch the consignment of tea, biscuits, sleeping bags, bed sheets, exercise books and medicines to the flood-affected in Sindh Province.



## President Mahinda Rajapaksa met Pakistani Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani

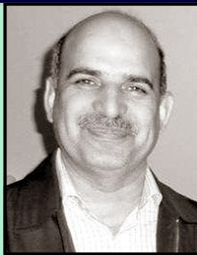
President Mahinda Rajapaksa met Pakistani Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani in Male on 10th November on the sidelines of 17th SAARC Summit and discussed bilateral relations. Both leaders agreed to further expand and strengthen ties in different fields, especially in trade, security, culture and people-to-people contacts.





## Galle Dialogue by Rear Admiral Khan Hasham Bin Saddique

Pakistan Naval officer, Rear Admiral Khan Hasham addressed Galle dialogues on 14 and 15 November 2011. The two-day international conference on maritime security held at the Lighthouse Hotel in Galle.



The Pakistani Naval officer thanked the Government of Sri Lanka, especially, Defence and Urban Development Secretary of Sri Lanka Gotabhaya Rajapaksa and the Commander of Sri Lankan Navy Vice Admiral D. W. S. Disanayake for inviting Pakistan Navy to attend the important gathering of maritime experts.

The Sri Lankan Navi mentioned that "Pakistan being an important player and stake holder will continue to contribute effectively and play its due role in promoting peace and stability in Indian Ocean, of maritime experts".

The Galle dialogue conference successfully completed with remarkable outcome by the seminar. Also Foreign delegates have expressed their gratitude to the Government of Sri Lanka to have such an international conference for them.

## Dengue eradication team honored in Colombo

The Pakistan High Commission in Colombo hosted a reception for the Sri Lankan expert medical team returned from Pakistan after rendering invaluable services to combat the spread of Dengue menace in Pakistan on 12th October, 2011.



The reception was attended by Senior Minister A.H.M. Fowzi, Health Ministry Secretary Rubaro, Director General Dr. P. Palihawadane, Government officials, the expert team members and the officers from the Pakistan High Commission.

The Pakistan High Commission, looking at the growing rate of dengue patients in the Punjab province, requested the Sri Lankan Government to provide trained personnel to visit Pakistan for immediate assistance and training of Pakistani medical and paramedical staff to help combat and control the spread of disease. President Mahinda Rajapaksa assured High Commissioner Seema Illahi Baloch of Sri Lanka's assistance to overcome the disease outbreak.

The Charge d' Affair of the Pakistan High Commission said the people and government of Pakistan are grateful to the Sri Lankan

## Sri Lanka revises Visa fees for SAARC Countries

Sri Lanka has reduced the online visa fee it planned to introduce from next year for the visitors from the South Asian countries, Sri Lanka Tourist Board announced. Accordingly, the Online Visa fee to enter Sri Lanka for SAARC countries has been revised as US\$ 10 and US\$ 20 for other countries with effect from 2012.

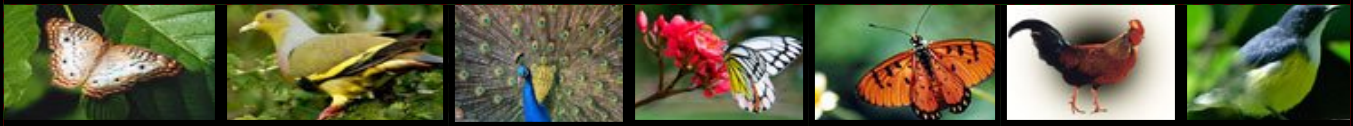


Sri Lanka's Immigration and Emigration Department launched the Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) system last month to grant prior approval for visa via online for foreign nationals from 78 countries. The system is to take effect from January 01, 2012. The previous on-arrival visa system will continue as a reciprocal gesture for people traveling from The Maldives and Singapore, the two countries reciprocating the facility for Sri Lankans.

## Ministry of Higher Education offers 03 Scholarships for Pakistani Students

The Government of Sri Lanka offered three full paid scholarships for Pakistani students to pursue BSC degree in three main Universities in Sri Lanka.

The Higher Education Commission of Pakistan has selected three students under the merit for the University of Moratuwa, University of Sri Jayawardanapura and University of Rajarata for the academic year 2011/2012.



## Sri Lanka launches a National Physical Development Plan to Guide Country's future Development Plans

Hon. Basil Rajapaksa, Minister of Economic Development participated as chief guest at the inauguration ceremony of exhibition which held parallel to launching National Physical Plan of Sri Lanka at the BMICH, last month.

National Physical Plan of Sri Lanka plan will guide Sri Lanka's physical development up to 2030. All physical development activities will be directed by the National Physical Plan and Policy which provides the required guidelines for the development of the country. The national plan was prepared by the National Physical Planning Department in accordance with the provisions in terms of Section 03 of the Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Act No.49 of 2000.



This aims to formulate National Physical Policies, Plans and Strategies and to ensure and monitor the implementation of such National Policies and Plans through regional and local plans with the objective of promoting and regulating integrated planning of economic, social, physical and environmental aspects of land and territorial waters of Sri Lanka.

This is the first National Physical Plan which to be launched after independence. Since 1948 various types of development plans and proposals have been implemented by various governments from time to time. But those governments had prepared several development plans while ignoring the previous development plans and some of those plans clashed with each other.

Hon. Wimal Weerawansa, Minister of Construction, Engineering Services, Housing and Common Amenities, Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, Deputy Minister of Construction, Engineering Services, Housing and Common Amenities also participated at this occasion.



Sri Lanka High Commission in Islamabad participated for the Pakistan Foreign Ministry Annual Charity Bazaar on 13.11.2011



Pakistan Foreign Minister Madam Hina Rabbani Khar has visited Sri Lankan stall in the Charity Bazaar and lighting the traditional oil lamp in the stall. The High Commission officials, officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also present for the event.



Sri Lanka Stall consisting two parts including Ceylon Tea & decoration items and also Sri Lankan Cuisines

