



News & Views



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NEWS LETTER OF THE SRI LANKA HIGH COMMISSION IN OTTAWA, CANADA.

May 2010

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VESAK DAY MESSAGE FROM HE THE PRESIDENT MAHINDA RAJAPAKSA



The The Vesak Full Moon Day which marks the birth of Prince Siddhartha, His Enlightenment and Parinibbana is the noblest religious event for all Buddhists. We can spend this day meaningfully by engaging in Buddhist ritual and practice.

We who observe the five precepts do not approve killing, bloodshed and torture. It brings joy to celebrate this Vesak after closing the sorrowful chapter of 30 years of bloodshed and destruction of life. It is fortunate that Buddhists now enjoy the freedom and a secure atmosphere necessary for that purpose. We must enter a spiritual and virtuous way of life in order to sustain that joy.

Sri Lanka High Commission, Ottawa, Canada.

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A path of love, compassion, sympathetic joy and equanimity should be followed. Ours should be a nation which is not short-sighted but farsighted and committed to achieve consolation through patience as taught by Buddha. If delays in the past obstructed our path to Nibbana, we should learn to avoid such delay.

Yo cha pubbe pamajjithva – paccha so nappamajjathi

*So imang lokang pabhasethi – abha muththova chandima – **Dhammapada***

If one was heedless in the beginning but is not so afterwards, he will illuminate this world as the moon emerges through the cloud," thus Buddha taught.

Those who live virtuous lives will not see the faults of the past and grieve in the present. Let us resolve during this Vesak Day to follow the wholesome path of Buddha with determination and relentless efforts to build a virtuous nation. May the Triple Gem bless you!



HIGH COMMISSION OF SRI LANKA CELEBRATES VESAK

On the eve of the Vesak the residence of the High Commissioner was decorated in keeping with Vesak festivities.

To commemorate the Vesak the High Commission has organized a Dharma Sermon by Ven. Saranapala Thero, Western Buddhist cultural Center, Toronto and a lecture on "the Significance of Vesak and its relevance for modern society" by Prof. Noel Salmond, Associate Professor, Carlton University on Saturday, 19th June 2010 at 1500hrs at the Centrepointe Chamber, Ben Franklin Place, 101, Centrepointe Drive, Ottawa.



The High Commission invites the members of the Sri Lankan community, friends and well-wishers.



TAMIL DIASPORA MEETING IN TORONTO



“The High Commissioner Ms Chitranganee Wagiswara met a group from the Tamil community in Toronto on 9th May 2010.

The participants at the meeting extensively discussed issues and concerns with the High Commissioner pertaining to the resettlement of the internally displaced Tamils in the aftermath of the conflict, proposals of the Government of Sri Lanka on political, economic and social integration, and what the Diaspora Tamil community could do to assist in the peace building efforts in Sri Lanka.

The High Commissioner thanked the group for inviting her and stated that such frank discussions encourage building trust between the communities and that she hopes to build on the proposals and discussions at the forum.

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The High Commissioner was accompanied by Mr H M B Herath Actg. Consul General Toronto and Ms Anzul Jhan, Counsellor of the High Commission in Ottawa.



IDPs BENEFIT FROM CASH FOR WORK



Cash for Work Program has been initiated to provide an income to returning Internally Displaced People by the Emergency Northern Recovery Project (ENRP) with Australian Government aid.

Under this program, 50 days of employment is guaranteed and Rs 500 will be paid per day to the returnees. Under the program the first 10 days allocated to clean and repair their own households and private property, and next 40 days to clean common places such as schools and hospitals.

At present the program has now reached about 17,000 households and the program hopes to cover 43,000 households. The Australian Government has donated Rs12 million for this programme.



LAUNCH OF NATIONAL WEB PORTALS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND ICT AND ELECTRONIC SECTORS

The Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB) has launched www.srilankaserviceexport.com to promote Sri Lanka as a destination for quality Professional Services and www.srilankaictelectronics.com to showcase the capabilities of Sri Lankan companies engaged in producing products and services in the ICT and Electronic Sectors.



The portal gives an overview on the key professional service sectors illustrating Sri Lanka's position, capabilities/skills etc.



COMMONWEALTH STUDENTS MEET THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

Representatives of the of the National Students Commonwealth Forum called on HE Ms Chitrangane Wagiswara on 4th May 2010. This years Commonwealth Forum was held from 2nd to 7th May 2010 and the theme of the forum was "Health and Wellbeing ". The two students had been selected for role playing for the Sri Lankan delegation. The High Commissioner briefed the students on the developments in Sri Lanka in the fields of health and education, since independence and recent political and economic developments in the country.



INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE SIXTY -FIFTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL

The Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in New York will provide an opportunity for young people with good intrapersonal skills to serve as interns (non remunerative) from 1st September to 30th December 2010 during the forthcoming Sixty -Fifth Session of the General Assembly.

Internships are open to all Sri Lankan citizens and dual citizens of Sri Lanka above 21 years with an undergraduate degree or pursuing

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postgraduate degree in any academic field. For further information and application forms see <http://www.slmission.com>. Closing date of applications: Friday, 2nd July 2010



SCOUTS JAMBOREES IN JAFFNA AFTER TWO DECADES

The First Scouts Jamboree of the Northern Province and the Second National Cubs Jamboree were ceremonially inaugurated by the Governor, Northern Province, Hon. GA Chandrasiri and Hon. Douglas Devananda MP, Minister for Traditional Industries and Small Enterprise Development at the Old Park Grounds in Jaffna.

The Scout Jamboree has been held for the first time after two decades in Jaffna. A large number of students representing district level Scouts contingents including Cubs from all over the country participated in the Jamboree from 15 to 17 May 2010.



SRI LANKA HIGH COMMISSION AT THE WATERCAN 2010

On 7th May 2010 the Sri Lanka High Commission participated in the WaterCan Embassy Gala Dinner. This annual event is organized to raise funds for clean water projects throughout Eastern Africa. Over \$138,805 dollars were collected this year. WaterCan is a leading Canadian charity dedicated to fighting global poverty by helping the world's poorest people gain access to clean water, basic sanitation and hygiene education.

The High Commission set up a stall and served Sri Lankan food to the participants.



SRI LANKANAIRLINES "ALL FEMALE FLYING CREW"



The Sri Lankanairlines Captain Anusha Siriratne, UL 4, Senior First Officer Roshani Jinasena, Senior First Officer Chamika Rupasinghe and Junior First Officer Madini Chandradasa has revolutionized the out look of Sri Lanka aviation with an "all female flying crew". Capt. Anusha Siriratne, at present is the only lady Captain at SriLankan, and has been flying since 1998. She has flown aircraft such as the Lockheed L1011 Tristar, Airbus A320, A330, and A340.

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All four lady pilots had been trained in SriLankan's Cadet Pilot Training Programme, which has launched the careers of hundreds of pilots over the last three decades who have gone on to distinguish themselves both at the National Carrier and in other airlines throughout Asia and the Middle East.



COLOMBO THINGS TO DO MAGAZINE LAUNCHED

Online guide Colombo Town.com has launched the a "Luxury lifestyle" magazine named **Colombo Things To Do** which includes professional reviews and features on the best places to dine, shop, stay, get entertained and holiday.





**Sri Lanka High Commission
in Canada**

invites

*the Members of the Sri Lankan diaspora
friends and well wishers to*

Commemorate Vesak

Dharma sermon
by Ven. Saranapala Thero
Western Buddhist Cultural Center, Toronto

**Lecture on "The Significance of Vesak and
its relevance for Modern Society"**
by Prof.Noel Salmond
Associate Professor, Carleton University

on
Saturday, 19th June 2010
at 1500 hrs
at
the Centrepointe Chamber
Ben Franklin Place, 101, Centrepointe Drive, Ottawa

