

58TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

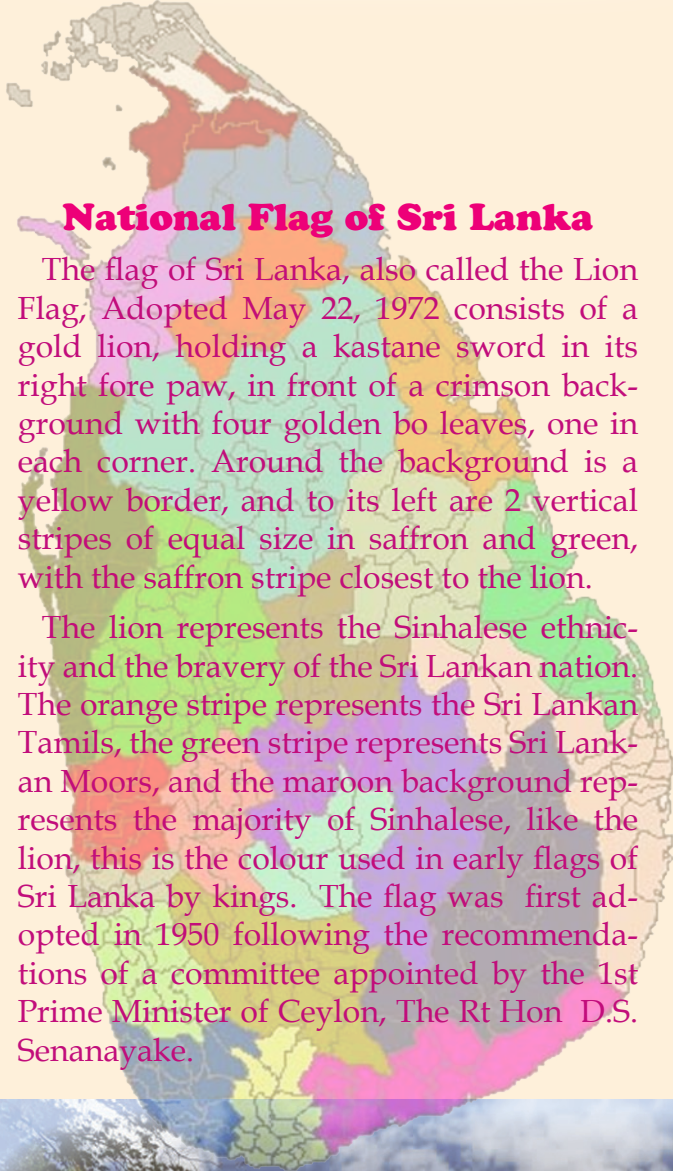
Colombo, Sri Lanka
07-15 September 2012



NEWS BULLETIN

Issue - No.1

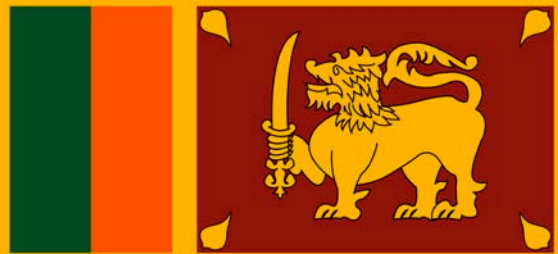
Saturday, 08 September 2012



National Flag of Sri Lanka

The flag of Sri Lanka, also called the Lion Flag, Adopted May 22, 1972 consists of a gold lion, holding a kastane sword in its right fore paw, in front of a crimson background with four golden bo leaves, one in each corner. Around the background is a yellow border, and to its left are 2 vertical stripes of equal size in saffron and green, with the saffron stripe closest to the lion.

The lion represents the Sinhalese ethnicity and the bravery of the Sri Lankan nation. The orange stripe represents the Sri Lankan Tamils, the green stripe represents Sri Lankan Moors, and the maroon background represents the majority of Sinhalese, like the lion, this is the colour used in early flags of Sri Lanka by kings. The flag was first adopted in 1950 following the recommendations of a committee appointed by the 1st Prime Minister of Ceylon, The Rt Hon D.S. Senanayake.



The National Flag of Sri Lanka

Ayubowan

Welcome to Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka Branch of the CPA welcomes delegates to the 58th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.

Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre



Today's Weather

Due to the convergence of southwesterly winds, showery weather is expected in Matara, Galle, Kalutara and Colombo districts particularly during the morning.

There will be showers at several places in the Western, Sabaragamuwa and Central provinces and in the Galle, Matara and Kurunegala districts.

Thundershowers will develop at a few places in the Eastern, North-Central and Uva provinces during the afternoon or evening.

Southwesterly winds can strengthen (up to 60 km/hr) occasionally over the country and surrounding sea areas.



The Parliamentary Complex at Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte

PARLIAMENT OF SRI LANKA

The Parliament building at Sri Jayawardenepura, Kotte was ceremonially opened on April 29, 1982. The glory and the beauty of the Parliament building can be seen on the small islet on the blue waters of "Diyawanna Oya". This 67,800 square metre islet is about 15 km away from Colombo. The building covers 48,000 square metres. Geoffrey Bawa was the chief architect. A Japanese consortium of two Mitsui Companies constructed the building within 26 months.

The six-storied main building is reinforced by solid concrete piles. The finest of steel and teak have been used on the roof. A considerable portion of building material was imported from Japan. Reputed Sri Lankan carpenters supplied all furniture. The Members of Parliament, the staff and the public have their respective entrances situated on the ground floor. The Members' entrance is adorned by a mural carved in mahogany.

The first floor is approached by a broad flight of steps and a walkway flanked by terraced

sloped and ornamental pools.

The ceiling of the verandah is painted with a colour-



The Lotus Pond at Polonnaruwa

ful tile design. The Chamber, the center-piece of the whole building, is gorgeous and a place of sublime beauty. It is rectangular in shape and occupies the height of two floors. Eighteen silver flag-banners add beauty. The giant chandelier of copper, plated in silver gives an oriental touch.

LOTUS POND

The Nelum Pokuna (Lotus

Pond) Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre is a fully equipped performance centre, meant for large scale theatrical

productions. The theatre consists of two venues for performance, which includes the main auditorium and an open air amphitheater.

As this architectural masterpiece is situated in the heart of the Colombo city, it facilitates easy access for both local and foreign producers. The ease of access and the other facilities in the area attract many foreign artistes and producers to

host their productions at the Theatre. Hence, the Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre becomes a solid body for bringing in foreign investment to the economy and will play a vital role in promoting tourism in Sri Lanka.

The five-storied building comprises a main theatre with a seating capacity of 1,288 seats and an open air top floor. The theatre houses a three tier moveable stage. It also comprises two exhibition halls, 13 rehearsal halls and parking facilities for 500 vehicles, library and training facilities. It is equipped with ultra-modern sound system.

BANDARANAIKE MEMORIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HALL (BMICH)

The Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) is a convention center located in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Built between 1970 and 1973 the convention center was a gift from the People's Republic of China in memory of Solomon Ridgeway Dias Bandaranaike, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka (Ceylon) from 1956 to 1959.

The BMICH being the very first purpose built convention centre in Asia combines the best of professional conference facilities.

The construction of the Hall was carried out by a joint Sri Lankan and Chinese workforce with a considerable portion of the exquisite building materials being imported from China.

In 1998 a small Exhibition Centre was built on the grounds, once again a gift from the People's Republic of China it is named the Sirimavo Bandaranaike Memorial Exhibition Centre.

BANDARANAIKE MEMORIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HALL (BMICH)



Please note that small branches programme has been changed as below:

Venue:
Galadari-Galadari Ballroom,
Galadari Hotel

32nd Small Branches Conference

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

09 - 10 SEPTEMBER, 2012

PROGRAMME

Sunday, 09 September, 2012

09:00 Opening Ceremony

- Introduction by the Small Branches Opening Plenary Chairperson – Hon. Jacqueline Petrusma, MLC (Tasmania)
- Welcome by Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa MP, Speaker, Parliament of Sri Lanka & President of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)
- Welcome by Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Executive Committee Chairperson – Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst – (United Kingdom)
- Welcome by Hon. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly (Cayman Islands) Small Branches Member on the Executive Committee
- Welcome by Dr William F. Shija, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
- Vote of thanks by Hon. Dr. Patrick Herminie, Speaker of the National Assembly Seychelles

09:45 Group Photograph

- Small Branches
- Executive Committee Members
- Small Branches & Executive Committee Members together

10:15 Refreshment Break

10:30 1st Plenary Session – Ensuring Adequate Parliamentary Scrutiny of Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Chairperson: Hon. Jacquie Petrusma, MP (Tasmania)
Discussion Leaders: Senator the Hon. Velma Newton (Barbados)
Discussion Leaders: Hon. David Agius (Malta)
Discussion Leaders: Senator Ian Gorst (Jersey)
Rapporteur: Mr. I.L.A. Jabbar (Sri Lanka)

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00 2nd Plenary Session – The Impact of the Informal Economy on Economic Diversification in Small States

Chairperson: Hon. Sharon Halford (Falkland Islands)
Discussion Leaders: Hon. Marlon Penn (British Virgin Islands)
Discussion Leaders: Deputy Alistair Langlois (Guernsey)
Rapporteur: Ms. Anna Harris (Jersey)

15:30 Refreshment Break

15:45 2nd Plenary Session continues

17:00 End of Plenary

Monday, 10 September 2012

09:00 3rd Plenary Session – Strategies to Increase Women's Representation in Parliaments in Small States

Chairperson: Ms. Paula Biggar (Prince Edward Island)
Discussion Leader: Hon. Maria Payet-Marie (Seychelles)
Discussion Leaders: Councillor Anthony Arthur Green (St Helena)
Discussion Leader: Hon. Lovitta Foggo (Bermuda)
Discussion Leaders: Ms. Kemi Ogunsanya (Commonwealth Secretariat)
Rapporteur: Mr. D.D.V.N. Dhammage (Sri Lanka)

10:30 Refreshment Break

10:45 3rd Plenary Session continues

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00 4th Plenary Session – Measuring Progress and Well-being Beyond GDP in Small States

Chairperson: Hon. David De Lisle (Guernsey)
Discussion Leaders: Hon. Claudius James Francis (St. Lucia)
Discussion Leaders: Hon Barbara Webster-Bourne (Anguilla)
Rapporteur: Ms. Arlene Bussette

15:30 Refreshment Break

15:45 4th Plenary Session continues

17:00 End of Plenary



**Hon. Neliswa P. Nkonyeni,
Speaker of Kwazulu-Natal
Provincial Assembly of
South Africa**

TODAY'S PROGRAMME

Friday, 7th September

ALL DAY Arrival of CPA Working Party,
Commonwealth Women
Parliamentarians (CWP) Steering
Committee and Co-ordinating
Committee Members

Lunch

Venue: Hilton - Spices

**19:00-
21:00** Dinner
(for Members of the CPA Working
Party, CWP Steering Committee and
Co-ordinating Committee)

Venue: Hilton - Spices

The Elephant (Mangala Hasthiya) carrying the casket of Dalada Maligawa

The chief tusker of the Dalada Maligawa, who is entrusted the mighty task of bearing the Golden Casket in the Esala pageant, is carefully handpicked from the wild, by the most senior mahout, who hails from the traditional families that serve.

