



*Sri Lanka  
shines*

*in Türkiye....*



*News & Events*

*May – June*

*2023*



*Embassy of Sri Lanka*

*Türkiye*

*also accredited to  
Georgia & Ukraine*



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**MAY 2023**

**Celebrating the UN Day of Vesak in Ankara - 04/05/2023**



The Embassy in collaboration with United Nations Türkiye celebrated the United Nations Day of Vesak with the participation of Ambassadors, diplomats, UN staff, Turkish diplomats, academics, and media at the UN office in Ankara.

The General Assembly, by its Resolution 54/115 of 1999, recognized internationally the Day of Vesak to acknowledge the contribution that Buddhism, one of the oldest religions in the world, has made for over two and a half millennia and continues to make to the spirituality of humanity.

Speaking at the meeting, UN Office President Mr. Tom Delrue, recalled nostalgically his time with the ICRC in Sri Lanka in the 1990s, and then read the message of UN Secretary-General Antonio Gutierrez, which highlighted the relevance of the Day and the importance of world peace and harmony between multi-religious communities.

Ambassador Hasanthi Urugodawatte Dissanayake presented an overview of Buddhism with a PPT highlighting the significance of Vesak, various traditions and customs connected to Buddhism in Sri Lanka and in different parts of the world, the ancient Buddhist heritage that exists globally, the contribution it has made to the collective history and, the background of the UN Day of Vesak.

During the presentation, Ambassador requested all the participants observe a 2-minute silence as a tribute to the late Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar, for declaring the UN Day of Vesak in 1999.

Sri Lankan delicacies and Ceylon tea were served to the participants at the end of the event.



**Vesak Day celebrations at the Embassy premises in Ankara - 04/05/2023**





**Embassy of Sri Lanka joins the Spring Bazaar International Day at the Bilkent University East Campus in Ankara – 16 & 17/05/2023**

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ankara organized a Sri Lankan Stall to showcase Sri Lanka’s unique cultural identity with exhibiting a variety of elements, including cuisine, art, handicrafts, batiks, traditional dresses, and photo panels highlighting the nature, culture and Sri Lankan products.



The Sri Lankan stall was visited by students, staff, and family members who delighted in Sri Lankan delicacies and wearing the Traditional Kandyan. This event was a perfect setting for the Embassy to promote cultural exchange between Turkish Nationals and foreigners in Türkiye.

The Sri Lankan stall was visited by students, staff and family members who enjoyed Sri Lankan delicacies, such as kottu, kokis, etc. and Ceylon Tea as well as wearing the Traditional Kandyan saree. Visitors to the stall were mesmerized by the gracefulness of Sri Lankan traditional dresses and cultural elements.



This event served as a platform for the Embassy to strengthen the cultural exchange with Turkish national and foreigners on Sri Lanka; an opportunity to enhance cultural awareness and thereby contribute to promote tourism.

**Ambassador of Sri Lanka, joins the celebration of the European Union Day – 09/05/2023**





**Ambassador-designate of Sri Lanka to Georgia, Ms. S. Hasanthi Urugodawatte Dissanayake presents a copy of her Letters of Credence in Tbilisi, Georgia – 18/05/2023**

Ambassador of Sri Lanka to **Türkiye** is also accredited to both Georgia and Ukraine.



She presented a copy of her Letters of Credence in Tbilisi on 18/05/2023 to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, H.E. Teimuraz Janjalia, which was followed by a brief discussion focused on bilateral relations

**Ambassador-designate of Sri Lanka to Georgia have discussions with Director General/Asia and Pacific and Director General/Consular Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia – 18/05/2023**



Ambassador-designate of Sri Lanka to Georgia had friendly discussions with Director General/Asia and Pacific, Mr. Alexander Nalbandov, and Director General/Consular Affairs, Mr. Giorgi Tabatadze of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. The discussions were focused on focused political, economic, and socio-cultural cooperation, activities to celebrate 25 years of Diplomatic relations between the two countries as well as issues related to Sri Lankan students in Georgia.



**Ambassador of Sri Lanka calls on H.E. Mr. Levan Karumidze, Chairman of the Sri Lanka - Georgian Parliamentary Friendship Group in Tbilisi – 19/05/2023**

**Ambassador of Sri Lanka accredited to Georgia with residence in Ankara, presents Credentials to H. E. Salome Zourabichvili, President of Georgia at the Orbeliani Palace in Tbilisi, Georgia – 19/05/2023**



During the discussions it was agreed that as, in 2023, the 02 countries celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Diplomatic relations, that its time to set up the Parliamentary Friendship Group in the Sri Lankan parliament which could be then followed by visit from the Georgian Group to Sri Lanka.

**Ambassador of Sri Lanka, interacts with the Sri Lankan students at the Tbilisi Medical University – 20/05/2023**



**Ambassador of Sri Lanka delivers the keynote address at the “World Biodiversity Day” Conference at the University of Ankara – 22/05/2023**

The conference was graced by the presence of esteemed members of the diplomatic corps including ambassadors as well as university staff and students, and other notable attendees.

Prior to the Conference, the Ambassador engaged in a brief discussion with Prof. Dr.Necdet Ünüvar, the Rector of Ankara University focusing on exploring potential collaborative efforts between the two countries, particularly in the context of environmental issues and the challenges posed by climate change.



**June 2023**

**Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker of Sri Lanka arrives in Ankara for the inauguration of the Turkish Presidency – 03/06/2023**



Speaker and the Ambassador with the President of Rwanda, President of Togo and other dignitaries.



Speaker and Ambassador with Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).



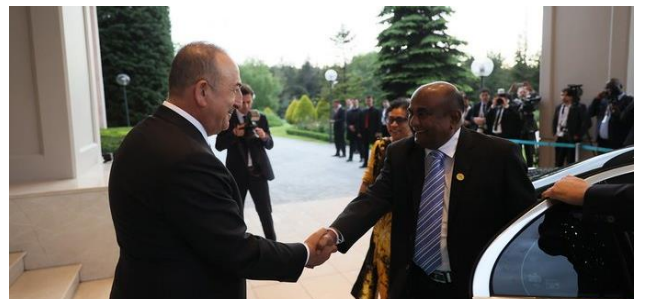
Speaker and Ambassador of SL with Pakistani PM.

**Speaker meets foreign dignitaries at the Presidential Palace - 03/06/2023**

**At the Dinner hosted by the Turkish President at Çankaya Mansion - 03/06/2023**



Speaker and the Ambassador with the President of Bangladesh, his spouse, and the Vice President of Maldives.



Hon., Speaker was greeted on arrival at the Cankaya Palace by the Foreign Minister H. E. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu.



At the dinner Hon. Speaker had an opportunity to interact with the Turkish President, H. E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

### "Sri Lanka Day" at the Antalya Chamber of Commerce and Industry – 13/06/2023



The Embassy organized a "Sri Lanka Day" in collaboration with the Antalya Chamber of Commerce and Industry to present opportunities for collaborations in tourism, trade and investment Sri Lanka for the business community in Antalya region of Türkiye.

Ambassador made welcoming remarks and was followed by remarks by Mr. Ali Bahar, the President of the Antalya Chamber of Commerce & Industry who noted that this event is very important to obtain first-hand information for companies based in Antalya region to expand their business collaborations with Sri Lanka including identifying potential sectors to increase mutually beneficial trade and investment cooperation between Sri Lanka and Antalya region in future.

Ms. Thavishya Mullegamgoda, Minister Counsellor (Commercial) at the Sri Lanka Embassy in Türkiye presented trade, investment and tourism opportunities in Sri Lanka in detail.

The participants were invited to join a business delegation to Sri Lanka to experience and learn more about opportunities to increase bilateral trade and



investment in a mutually beneficial manner.

The business seminar was attended by potential Turkish importers, distributors, manufacturers, exporters, investors etc. based in Antalya region covering a wide range of sectors

Mr. Ali Kamburoğlu, Hony. Consul for Sri Lanka in Antalya and Mr. Idris Tas, President of the Antalya Journalists' Association were also among distinguished guests.

Embassy also organized a display of Sri Lankan products.

During the networking session, participants were able to enjoy Ceylon tea and Sri Lankan ginger biscuits together with Turkish delights. Among the giveaways were pure Ceylon cinnamon sticks and brochures on Ceylon cinnamon, Ceylon tea and tourism.

**Visits by Mr. Aydin Ozu, Advisory Board Member, Penthol Group & Ms. Fatma Ugur, CEO of BETA Food Industry & Trade Inc. – 15/06/2023**



A meeting took place at the Embassy, where H.E. the Ambassador, along with Mr. Aydin Ozu, an Advisory Board Member of the Penthol Group of Companies based in Istanbul, and several other partners of the Group, gathered together to discuss a range of investments projects in Sri Lanka. These projects encompass various sectors such as railway construction and energy.

Later Ms. Fatma Ugur Ersoz, CEO of BETA Food Industry and Trade Inc. based in Adana, Türkiye also joined the meeting to discuss matters related to issues in tea exports from Sri Lanka to Türkiye.

**The 2nd round of Bilateral Political Consultations led by State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya concludes in Tbilisi, Georgia – 19/06/2023**



State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Tharaka Balasuriya headed the Sri Lanka delegation to the 2nd round of bilateral Political Consultations held in Tbilisi.

The first round of consultations took place in Colombo in August 2016.

Georgian Delegation was led by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs H. E. Alexander Khvtisiashvili.

Sri Lanka delegation was comprised of Ambassador of Sri Lanka resident in Türkiye and accredited to Georgia, Ms. Hasanthi Urugodawatte Dissanayake Director, Europe at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, and Mr. Madusanka Jayasinghe.

Meanwhile from the Georgian Foreign Office, the Director & Head of the Department for Asia-Pacific, Ambassador Alexander Nalbandov, the Counsellor at the International Law Department, Ms. Christina Tamoeva and the Counsellor at the Department of Asia-Pacific, Mr. Merab Chachua were associated with the meeting.

Discussions revolved around several agreements and MoUs related to a range of subjects such as tourism, agriculture, culture, shipping, education, and aviation which would pave the way for more effective cooperation in those fields. It was agreed that both sides would expedite the processes within their governments to conclude all the pending agreements at the earliest possible and to deliberate internally on proposed MoU on education.

Opportunities for trade, investment and tourism, education, construction, renewable energy, and the IT sector aimed at bringing mutual benefits were discussed and the way forward was agreed.

Possible training for Georgians in the hospitality sector in Sri Lanka, possible foreign employment opportunities for Sri Lankans in Georgia, increasing opportunities for Sri Lankan students in Georgia,

particularly in the field of medical studies, as well as bringing Georgian collaboration for the education sector in Sri Lanka, joint tourism promotion, and cooperation in multilateral for a were also discussed.

**Hon. Tharaka Blasuriya, State Minister for foreign Affairs meets H.E. Gela Geladze, Deputy Minister of Education of Georgia - 19/06/2023**



Discussions were held on possible collaborations in education and vocational training, issues faced by Sri Lankan university students in Georgia, increasing opportunities for Sri Lankan students in Georgia, particularly in the field of medical studies, collaborations between Sri Lankan and Georgian Universities, etc.

It was agreed that it would be useful to sign an MoU or an Agreement for bilateral cooperation in the education field and the Sri Lankan side provided a draft.

**Meeting with Georgia's Innovation Technology Agency & Georgian National Tourism Administration – 19/06/2023**



Possible collaboration in innovation and technology as well as for joint promotion of tourism was discussed.

**Visiting the state-of-the-art coffee factory of "Meama" Group in Tbilisi, Georgia -20/06/2023**



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