

# Lotus Pond blooms



President and Vice Chairperson Zhang Meiying unveiling the memorial plaque. Prime Minister D M Jayaratne and First Lady Shiranthy Rajapaksa are also present.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa and Vice Chairperson of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference of the People's Republic of China Zhang Meiying on Thursday opened the country's first state-of-the-art Performing Arts Theatre, The Lotus Pond Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre, gifted by the People's Republic of China. Prime Minister D M Jayaratne, External Affairs Minister Prof G L Peiris, Minister of Culture and Arts T B Ekanayake, Secretary to the President Lalith Weeratunga and Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Yang Xiuping were among those who attended the opening ceremony. Pictures by Sudath Silva.



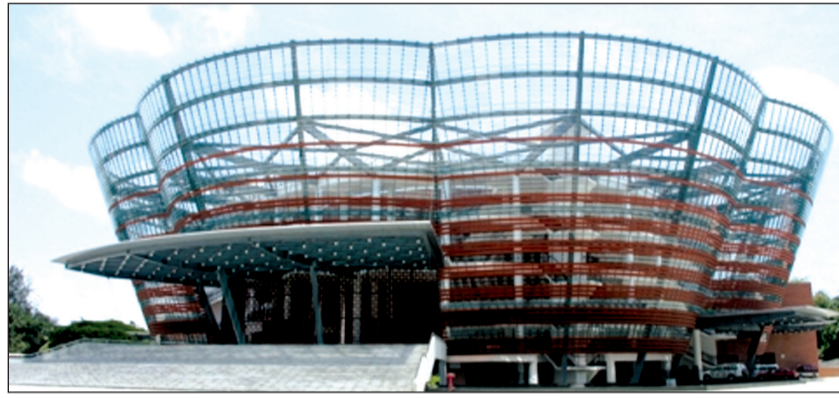
President Mahinda Rajapaksa entering the theatre premises with the First Lady and other distinguished guests



President Mahinda Rajapaksa addressing the inaugural ceremony



President Rajapaksa and First Lady Shiranthy Rajapaksa with Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Yang Xiuping, Prime Minister D M Jayaratne, Vice Chairperson of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference of the People's Republic of China Zhang Meiying, Speaker Chamal Rajapaksa, Culture and Arts Minister T B Ekanayake and External Affairs Minister G L Peiris with their spouses.



The Lotus Pond Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre



Performers



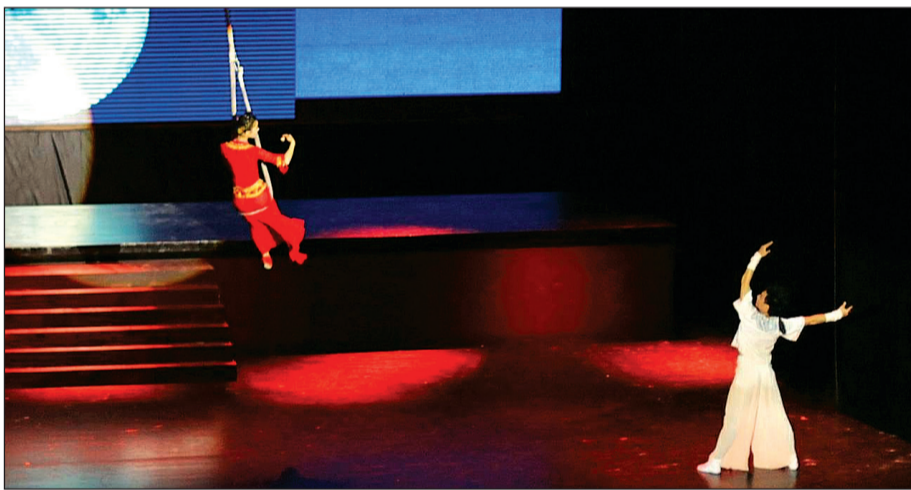
Sri Lankans performing



President Mahinda Rajapaksa and First Lady Shiranthy Rajapaksa enjoying the performances with Vice Chairperson Zhang Meiying and Ambassador Yang Xiuping



Stilt walkers performing



A performance by Chinese artistes



President Rajapaksa with the Sri Lankan and Chinese dance troupes



A performance



A performance by a Sri Lankan dance troupe



Chinese performers



A performance



Some performers