

Independence Day highlights



President Mahinda Rajapaksa and First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa are welcomed by Prime Minister D M Jayaratne and his wife.



President Rajapaksa hoists the national flag.



Reviewing the guard of honour



First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa, MP Namal Rajapaksa and Yoshitha Rajapaksa.



Children singing Jaya Mangala Gatha.



Prime Minister D M Jayaratne, Chief justice Shirani Bandaranayake, Speaker Chamal Rajapaksa and other guests



Ministers and other dignitaries.



Diplomats and other foreign dignitaries

Sri Lanka celebrated the 64th Independence Day on Saturday. The state Independence Day ceremony was held at Sri Sambuddhathwa Jayanthi Mawatha in Anuradhapura on Saturday under the patronage of President Mahinda Rajapaksa. The theme of this year's ceremony was 'Let's Make the Nation the Wonder of Asia'. This is the first time the Independence Day ceremony was held in Anuradhapura. Over 2,000 invitees, including, Prime Minister D M Jayaratne, Chief Justice Shirani Bandaranayake, Speaker Chamal Rajapaksa, ministers and members of the diplomatic corps based in Colombo participated. Pictures by Sudath Silva, Kamal Jayamanna, Sudath Malaweera and Susantha Wijegoonewardena.



Forces personnel at the ceremony



Dance items



The sixth *Deyata Kirula* national exhibition was inaugurated by President Mahinda Rajapaksa at Oyamaduwa in the Vilachchchiya Divisional Secretariat in the Anuradhapura district yesterday. The exhibition site is located on a 600 acre land. The exhibition will be open to the public until February 10. First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa was also present. Telecommunication and Information Technology Minister Ranjith Siyambalapitiya and NCP Chief Minister Berty Premalal Dissanayake were among the participants. Pictures by Sudath Silva