

Cultural emblem

RASIKA SOMARATHNA and SANDASEN MARASINGHE

As the drums throbbed non stop, over a period of ninety minutes, fluid, supple and graceful movements of male and female dancers coupled with melodies and rhythms of local folk songs depicting twenty five centuries of Sri Lankan culture unfolded on the Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapaksa theatre stage on Monday night to enthral 1200 participants consisting Parliamentarians and staff from 54 Commonwealth countries, local legislators and other dignitaries.

For the participants of the 58th Commonwealth Parliamentary conference in Colombo the time stood still for 90 minutes and the thunderous applause at the end of every event showed the magnitude of their appreciation.

The cultural show started with the traditional 'Pooja Narthana' and was followed by Gajaga Wannama a dance form created to depict the majestic gait of the elephant, next was the tea plucker's dance followed by 'Sath Samudura' depicting the ebb and flow of the ocean.

This was followed by the 'Angam Pora' which showcased the invincible might of the ancient fighting techniques of Lankan ancestors. Next was the 'Peacock dance' and 'Wadiga

Patuna' and the enthralling melodies of Lankan folk songs.

The 'Naga Raksha' and Gurulu Raksha dance was next in line with 'Thelme' dancers been the next on stage.. The 'Kolattam' and 'Wes Natum' dances followed. The last was the 'Drum Orchestra' featuring all forms of drums which brought the show to its climax.

The Sri Lankan artistes on this historic day were able to give the visiting parliamentarians and staff of Commonwealth nations, a glimpse of the country's ancient culture..

After the show the Speaker and the CPA Chairman Chamal Rajapaksa hosted all participating members to dinner at the adjoining 'Green Path' road.



Speaker and the CPA Chairman **Chamal Rajapaksa**



Noeline Hunter and Ravindra Randeniya



Cultural items. Pictures by Mahinda Vithanachchi



Audience