



President Mahinda Rajapaksa at the inauguration ceremony. Commonwealth Secretary General Kamalesh Sharma, Speaker Chamal Rajapaksa and Commonwealth Parliament Association's Executive Committee Chairman and British MP Sir Alan Haselhurst are also in the picture.



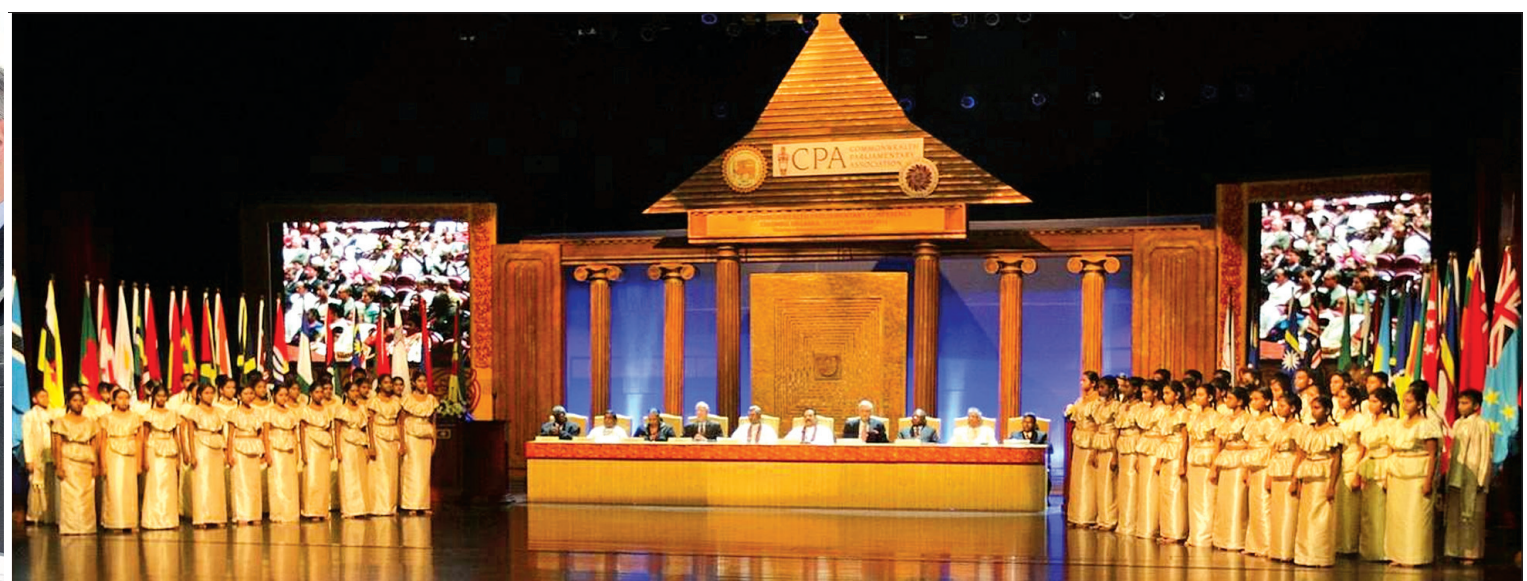
President Mahinda Rajapaksa posing for a group photo with representatives of the Commonwealth countries who participated at the inauguration of 58th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. Pictures by Sudath Silva

President inaugurates 58th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference

President Mahinda Rajapaksa officially inaugurated the 58th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference at the Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre yesterday. The Conference brings together 850 Parliamentarians and staff from 54 countries. This will be the biggest event to be held in Sri Lanka since the end of terrorism and an opportunity for the country to showcase first hand the progress made to global policy makers. During the sessions 'The impact of the informal economy on economic diversification in small states', 'Strategies to increase women's representation in Parliaments in small states' and 'Measuring progress and well-being beyond GDP in small states' were discussed. The sessions will be held until September 15.



Speaker Chamal Rajapaksa receiving the Chief Guest President Mahinda Rajapaksa on arrival for the 58th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.



President Mahinda Rajapaksa making the inaugural address at the 58th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.



Opposition Leader Ranil Wickremesinghe greeting President Mahinda Rajapaksa



President Rajapaksa being conducted to the venue



A new postage stamp was issued to mark the inauguration of 58th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Colombo. Here, the First Day Cover being presented to President Mahinda Rajapaksa by Postal Services Minister Jeevan Kumaratunga



President Mahinda Rajapaksa being received on arrival by officials of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association



First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa with delegates of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association