

# President's state visit to Kazakhstan



President Mahinda Rajapaksa, Kazakh President and First Lady Shirantheni Rajapaksa lighting the traditional oil lamp to inaugurate the cultural show

President Mahinda Rajapaksa visited Kazakhstan on a three-day state visit on an invitation extended by his Kazakh counterpart President Nursultan Nazarbayev. The President, First Lady Shirantheni Rajapaksa and the rest of the delegation also attended a cultural show organized to mark 20 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries. External Affairs Minister Prof G L Peiris, Uva Province Chief Minister Sashindra Rajapaksa, Sajin de Vass Gunawardena MP and Secretary to the President Lalith Weerathunga accompanied the President.

*Pictures by Sudath Silva*



President Mahinda Rajapaksa and Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev arriving for the cultural show



President Mahinda Rajapaksa being greeted by President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev on arrival to attend a cultural show organized to mark 20 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries.



President Mahinda Rajapaksa introducing First Lady Shirantheni Rajapaksa to the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev



The President's son, Yoshitha Rajapaksa being introduced to the President of Kazakhstan



A variety of Lankan cultural dances had the audience spellbound



A Sri Lankan cultural item added more splendour to the show



Kandyan dancers performing



The President and his Kazakh counterpart applaud at the cultural show



President Mahinda Rajapaksa meeting the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Serik Akhmetov



President Mahinda Rajapaksa, First Lady Shirantheni Rajapaksa and President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev pose for a photograph



A performance by dancers from Kazakhstan



The Chairman of the Senate of Kazakhstan Kayrat Mami meeting President Mahinda Rajapaksa



President Mahinda Rajapaksa visiting the Beterec memorial in the Centre of Astana city on an inspection tour on the final day of his visit.



The two Presidents watching the military parade



The guard of honour



President Mahinda Rajapaksa inspecting a military guard of honour accorded to him at the Presidential Palace.



Uva Province Chief Minister Sashindra Rajapaksa being introduced to the President of Kazakhstan. External Affairs Minister Prof. G L Peiris and Secretary to the President Lalith Weerathunga are also in the picture



A Memorandum of Understanding on bilateral trade promotion was signed between the two countries. The MoU is also aimed at promoting commercial, industrial and service sectors between the two countries



President Mahinda Rajapaksa posing for a photograph with Lankan and Kazakh business delegations