



President Mahinda Rajapaksa participated in several opening ceremonies at Buddha Gaya on the invitation of the Maha Bodhi Society. The President also visited several places of worship including Maha Bodhi and Buddha Gaya temples. A special Bodhi Pooja was also organised at the Maha Bodhi temple to bless the President. The President also unveiled a golden fence at the Buddha Gaya temple. The golden fence was constructed around a sapling of the ancient Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi, Anuradhapura. The President also laid the foundation stone for the Maha Bodhi cultural centre and a foundation stone for a pilgrims rest at Buddha Gaya. The Maha Bodhi Society also organised an event to present school uniform material to 1,000 students. President Rajapaksa also met chief incumbents of temples in Buddha Gaya constructed by Buddhist countries. The President also met other religious leaders during his two day visit. First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa, Secretary to the President Lalith Weerathunga, President's Chief of Staff Gamini Senarath and Parliamentarian Sojin Vas Gunawardena accompanied the President.

*Pictures by Sudath Silva*

