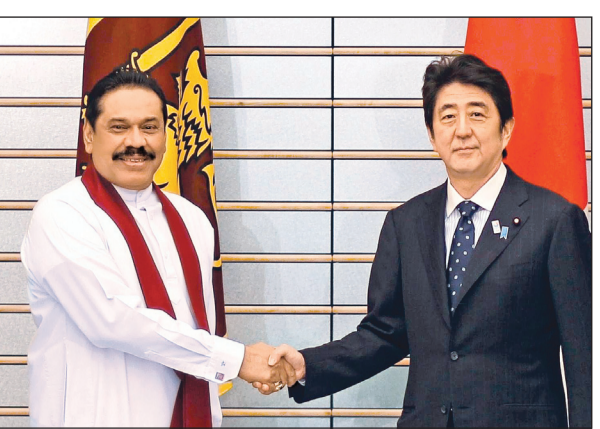


# President's Official Visit to Japan



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe greeting President Mahinda Rajapaksa



Deputy Prime Minister of Japan Taro Aso paying a courtesy call on President Mahinda Rajapaksa.



Japan's Foreign Affairs Minister Fumio Kishida having talks with President Mahinda Rajapaksa.



Japan's Member of the House of Representatives and Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs Katsuyuki Kawai paying a courtesy call on President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa concluded a successful four-day official visit to Japan where the leaders of both countries pledged to work towards strengthening the partnership beyond the 60th anniversary of Diplomatic Relations, between the two countries. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe welcomed the high level interaction as a platform to promote policy dialogue. Both leaders decided to utilize wide ranging visits and dialogue to further reinforce bilateral cooperation. External Affairs Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris, Irrigation and Water Resources Management Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva, Monitoring MP for Ministry of External Affairs Sajin de Vaas Gunawardena, Secretary to the President Lalith Weeratunga, Central Bank Governor Ajith Nivard Cabraal and a business delegation accompanied the President on his official visit. *Pictures by Sudath Silva*



President Mahinda Rajapaksa and First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa having an audience with Emperor Akihito and Princess Michiko at the Imperial Palace. The Japanese Emperor hosted a lunch in honour of President Rajapaksa and the First Lady.



President Mahinda Rajapaksa and First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa participating in religious observances at the Sri Lankan Embassy in Tokyo.



Chief Incumbent of the Lankaji Buddhist Temple in Japan Ven. Banagala Upatissa Thera invokes blessings on President Mahinda Rajapaksa.



President Mahinda Rajapaksa inaugurating the Sri Lanka Business Forum. Senior Urban Affairs Minister AHM Fowzie, External Affairs Minister Prof GL Peiris, Irrigation and Water Resources Management Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva, Secretary to the President Lalith Weeratunga and Sri Lanka's Ambassador in Japan Admiral (Rtd.) Wasantha Karannagoda were also present.



President Mahinda Rajapaksa and Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe sign the joint statement that would among other aspects, expand maritime cooperation between the two countries.



President Mahinda Rajapaksa and First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa being received by two Sri Lankan children on arrival at the Haneda International Airport in Tokyo. Japan, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs in Japan Minoru Kiuchi, Sri Lanka's Ambassador in Japan Admiral (Rtd.) Wasantha Karannagoda and Japanese Ambassador in Sri Lanka Nobuhito Hobo are also in the picture.



First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa who visited the Bancho kindergarten school in Chiyoda Ku, Tokyo posing for a photograph with the children and Principal of the kindergarten Tsuneko Tadokoro



Sri Lanka's Ambassador in Japan Admiral (Rtd.) Wasantha Karannagoda and Japan's Ambassador in Sri Lanka Nobuhito Hobo sign an agreement that would provide development assistance totaling 43.8 billion Yen to Sri Lanka to be used in areas including infrastructure development and disaster prevention. President Mahinda Rajapaksa and Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe witnessed the signing.



President Mahinda Rajapaksa meeting leaders of Japan's corporate and industrial sectors.



President Mahinda Rajapaksa meeting Japanese Defence Minister Mr. Itsunori



Central Bank Governor Ajith Nivard Cabraal addressing the audience about the economic climate prevailing in the country as well as areas of opportunities for potential investors.



First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa with members of the Asia Pacific Ladies Friendship Society