



Insight

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Sri Lanka Tea A taste like no other



Tea Estate and plantation in the central region hill country

Tea is an infusion made by steeping processed leaves, buds, or twigs of the tea bush, *Camellia sinensis*, in hot water for several minutes. The processing can include oxidation, heating, drying, and the addition of other herbs, flowers, spices, and fruits. The four basic types of true tea are black tea, oolong tea, green tea, and white tea. The term "herbal tea", usually, refers to infusions or tisane fruit or herbs that contain no *Camellia sinensis*.

Tea is one of the most widely-consumed beverages in the world, second only to water. It has a cooling, slightly bitter, astringent flavor. It has almost no carbohydrates, fat or protein. Tea is a natural source of the amino acid theanine, methylxanthines such as caffeine and theobromine, and polyphenolic antioxidant catechins.

The word *tea* came into the English language from the Chinese word for tea (茶), which is pronounced *té* in the Min nan spoken variant. The British English slang word "char" for "tea" arose from its Mandarin Chinese pronunciation "cha" with its spelling affected by British English arhotic.

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Kingdom's Envoy meets President



COLOMBO – H E President Mahinda Rajapakse, received His Excellency Mr Abdul Aziz bin Abdul Rahman Al-Jammaz, who presented his credentials as the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Sri Lanka

During the audience they discussed the relationship between the two countries and the means to further strengthen ties in various fields.

H E the President of Sri Lanka applauded the strong relationship between the two countries and expressed his best regards to the people and the Government of Saudi Arabia.



Fowzie meets Haj Minister

Jeddah - A high-level delegation, led by Petroleum and Petroleum Resources Minister, A H M Fowzie, visited the Kingdom recently at the request of the Haj Minister Dr Fouad Al Farsy in order to discuss the increase of the Haj quota for Sri Lankan pilgrims.

The Saudi minister said that the request will be considered favorably to allow more pilgrims to visit the holy cities. "There is a remarkable increase in the number of pilgrims this year," the Sri Lankan Minister said, adding that his government has not laid any restrictions on the number of pilgrims.

Fowzie pointed out that the Government provides Lankan pilgrims with adequate foreign exchange and other facilities.

Accompanying the Ministerial delegation were, Western Province Governor Alavi Mowlana, Leaders of the Haj Travel Group and Managing Director of The Traveler, Rismi Reyah and senior officials from the Colombo Islamic Affairs Department, Sri Lankan Ambassador A A M Marleen and Consul General A L M Lafeer.

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KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA Ministry of Higher Education King Saud University Prince Sultan bin AbdulAziz International Program for Distinguished Research Scholarships

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Introduction:

Prince Sultan bin AbdulAziz International Program for Distinguished Research Scholarships aims to attract the best MALE graduates from within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and from abroad to join postgraduate studies through scholarships in research and development in the areas on engineering, computer science, health sciences, food sciences, and agriculture

Objectives:

1. Enhancing the Kingdom's central humanitarian role by providing distinguished graduates worldwide with scholarships
2. Securing international reputation for the University through optimal exploitation of its potentials in supporting and developing post-graduate programs
3. Creating the proper research environment for post-graduate students to enhance scientific research
4. Providing the opportunity for distinguished university graduates to pursue their studies and invest their creative potentials to secure a qualified work force in all areas of specialization for the community.

Admission Requirements:

1. A BA degree from an accredited university (for class B researchers)
2. An MA degree from an accredited university (for class A researchers)
3. Mastering written & spoken English

4. Filling in the scholarship program application form on the university website available at <http://www.ksu.edu.sa>
5. Enrolment is for MALES only.

Benefits:

1. A yearly contract with a fixed monthly stipend of SR 3,000 for class A and SR 2,000 for Class B
2. Housing allowance equal to a three-months salary (ie SR 9,000 for Class A and SR 6,000 for Class B per annum)
3. Possibility of completion of post-graduate studies at King Saud University as stipulated in the Deanship of Higher Education regulations, pending MA or Ph.D
4. Yearly return airfares of candidate and four of his family members
5. A two-month vacation per annum
6. Full medical coverage at King Saud University Hospital

Jeddah School ... from page 3

Principal Fareeda Wahab, said she received only five nominations and the Election Committee rejected two applications since they did not comply with the requirements of the Ministry of Education. M/s Wahab said that the election process was initiated by Sri Lankan Ambassador A A M.Marleen, who was keen on setting up a new Board of Management.

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The formal launch of the newsletter was held in June at the mission premises in the presence of leading community members. Ambassador Marleen said that he has plans to publish this newsletter in Arabic to reach out to the people in the Arab World.

The publication is prepared by an editorial board comprising honorary members, M.C. Rasooldeen, Fazli Sameer, Sabarullah Khan, Sarath Kumara and Yasantha de Silva. The colorful four-page maiden issue carries a message from the islands Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollgama, and articles of Interest pertaining to tourism, business opportunities in the Kingdom and Saudi contributions to Sri Lanka.

Petroleum and Petroleum Resources Minister A.H.M. Fowzie described it as a commendable effort to project the right image of the country

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hussein Bhaila, said that the newsletter will reach a new clientele of readers who could be partners to the Island's development.

Saudi Ambassador in Colombo, Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman Al Jammaz said this is welcome news to Saudis as well as Sri Lankans.

Deputy Chief of Mission of the Saudi Embassy in Colombo, Riyad Al Kheneini said that Ambassador Marleen's initiative to release a monthly newsletter will be appreciated by all concerned people and It provides an ideal platform for the Saudi Government to highlight its contributions to the national development of Sri Lanka".

A.M.J. Sadiq, Director General Public Communications at the Foreign Ministry in Colombo, said the newsletter will definitely be valuable in strengthening bilateral relations.

Sponsored by Mohammed Hilal in association with Heladiv

Tea... from page 1

dialect pronunciation. The Arabic word for tea, "Tshai", is also derived from this root.

Tea plantation in Sri Lanka was started during British Colonial rule when a blight destroyed the then flourishing coffee plantation industry and a British planter decided to experiment with tea.

Sri Lanka is renowned for its high quality tea and is one of the biggest tea producing countries, globally. The total extent of land under tea cultivation has been assessed at approximately 187,309 hectares.

New SFD Projects

His Excellency A A M Marleen, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia met with Eng. Yousef I Al Bassam, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Saudi Fund for Development in Riyadh, on 23 June 2008, at the head office of the SFD.

Ambassador Marleen extended his profound thanks and appreciation to the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah and the Saudi Government, for SFD's assistance to the Government of Sri Lanka in the infrastructure development of the country. He stated that the Government of Sri Lanka is looking forward to more financial assistance in development in other fields.

The Managing Director stated that the SFD is willing to strengthen the bilateral relations existing between both our countries through its financial assistance and is also looking forward to widen their assistance to other similar areas as well apart from ongoing and completed projects.

The Ambassador pointed out that the development of infrastructure in the field of education at University level or the establishment of new Universities is a long felt need of the Government of Sri Lanka, and requested that due consideration be given to this area. The other areas pointed out by the Ambassador were, micro economic development, rural development, and agricultural projects.

Jeddah School Elects New Board

A three-member Board of management was unanimously elected by the parents of the Sri Lankan International School in Jeddah on Friday July 4 .Announcing the names of the new members M.L.M.Imran, Susantha Subasinghe and M.T.M.Muzammil, Musthafa Hersi, senior official from the Foreign Education Department of the Ministry of

Education said that in the absence of a contest three qualified nominees have been declared elected as new members to the Board.

In his speech, Hersi said that the new members will take over the school only after the summer vacation and stressed that he hoped for a swift transfer from the previous to the present Board. The school premises will be shifted from the present location to Bani Malik area in Jeddah following the summer holidays.

The Election Commission was headed by the Principal, Mrs F. H. Wahab and the other members included. Mr. Mosfer Ghambi, Asst Director for International Education - Makkah Region, Mr Musthafa Hersi, Official from the Ministry of Education, Mr. Mohamed Zakariaah, Representative from the Embassy in Riyadh, Mrs. Azmiya Feroze, representing the administrative staff, Mr. Harsha Walpita from the academic staff and two parent representatives, Mr. S. Maheson and Mr. Imthiyaz Haniffa. Detailing the process of nominations received by the Election Commission

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SL Embassy launches Insight Newsletter



I-r: Fawzan Fareid, Sri Lankan Airlines Manager, Sarath Kumara and Sabarullah Khan of the SL Embassy, Fazli Sameer, Ambassador A.A.M.Marleen , Zawfir Ziard, CEO Unique Choice & sponsor of the June issue, Commercial Secretary Yasantha de Silva & M.C.Rasooldeen - are seen at the launch of the INSIGHT newsletter in Riyadh

The Sri Lankan Embassy in Riyadh launched a monthly newsletter titled INSIGHT to highlight Sri Lanka Saudi relations among Saudis and Lankans.

This is the first time the mission is publishing a newsletter to reach out to target markets to project Sri Lanka as a country that has plenty of opportunities to offer, A.A.M. Marleen, the islands Ambassador said that it will be a monthly publication which is funded by sponsors from Sri Lankan managed business organizations, both here and abroad.

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Riyadh School Awards Night



The students of Sri Lankan International School,Riyadh after receiving their Certificates at the Graduation Ceremony.

RIYADH: The Sri Lankan School in Riyadh celebrated its Annual Graduation Day, on June 22 2008 at Sitteen Palace Hotel, with His Excellency the Ambassador for Sri Lanka to Saudi Arabia, A A M Marleen as the Chief Guest.

In his address, Mr Marleen stated that he had forsaken a valuable invitation to attend a conference on Energy in Jeddah, where a large number of important delegates from across the globe were attending, to be present at this event since he had accepted this invitation first and his priority was with the community. He went on to say that he was truly awed at the manner in which this year's Graduation ceremony was organized and it reminded him of his own, many years back.

The Ambassador stressed that it was important for parents to allow their children to choose their vocations in life rather than impose on them to follow specific goals and objectives. It is the duty of the parents to support their children in choosing their future professions, he exclaimed. He also explained how he had raised his own children in all humility and support in order to guide them to their future professions. In closing he advised the students to make best use of their parents' support and work hard for their betterment. He finally thanked the school management and academic staff for the wonderful achievements and also organizing this grand event.

Principal, Mr M E M Farook, in his address, spoke at length on the advancement of knowledge and development of character. One cannot call himself an educated person unless one has learned to think and live amicably with others, he said. Development of character is based on meaningful discipline. He finally requested the students to be loyal to their Alma Mater and also be patriotic to their motherland. The Chairman, in his address mentioned that this Graduation ceremony was a long felt need for the school and commended the staff for its success. The function concluded with the singing of the national anthems of Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka.

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"Faces and People"



Saudi Media Journalists who will travel to Sri Lanka

The Sri Lanka Embassy in Riyadh, in cooperation with the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau and Sri Lankan Airlines has initiated a media familiarization tour to the island to enable a group of Saudi electronic media journalists to project Sri Lanka in their "Faces and People" program in the Saudi TV.

The team will produce a documentary on Sri Lanka for telecast through the Saudi Arabic TV Channel #1 which will bring Sri Lanka to every home in the Kingdom. The program, to attract Sri Lanka as a tourist destination, will be broadcast in 3 episodes of 20 minutes each. It will show the beauty, people, culture, development, heritage and landscape of Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau has agreed to arrange for hotel accommodation and travel arrangements for the media group in Sri Lanka while, Sri Lankan Airlines has provided free air tickets for their travel.

The Media Group, consisting of Mr.Alotaibi Faisal Shadid, TV Director, Mr Alotaibi Mubarak Mohamed, TV Producer, Mr.Assaleh Taha Mosa, Cameraman, and Mr.Khaleddiya Al Dagestani, Translator, have planned to leave Riyadh for Sri Lanka, on 23rd July 2008, and will stay in the island for one week during which time they will visit Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Sigiriya, Wadduwa and Galle.

Amana Securities visit KSA

RIYADH - A leading Shariah-compliant financial services provider in Sri Lanka has called on Saudi corporate clients to invest in the Colombo Stock exchange for attractive dividends.

Mohammed Riyas, Director of Sales and Business Development of Colombo-based Amana Securities Limited, said that he had come to offer unique services to Saudi clients to identify and trade in companies complying with Islamic Law based on the parameters prescribed by internationally accepted Shariah scholars.



Mohammed Riyas, left, and Ayman Uwise at the Sri Lankan Embassy in Riyadh following a presentation held on Thursday.

"Our unique portfolio of services will include a white list of stocks that comply with Shariah parameters and provide access to local and foreign funds that require Shariah-complaint investment avenues"

Riyas said that Amana Securities Limited has displayed a clear vision and leadership by launching the DJIM Amana Sri Lanka Index, a pioneering distinction that brings global exposure and a wider vista of investment opportunities.

The Lankan bourse has 235 listed companies representing 20 business sectors. The market capitalization in March was 835.3 billion Sri Lankan rupees (SR28 billion) and the CSE recorded its highest daily turnover of 33.4 billion Sri Lankan rupees (SR1.151 billion) on April 1. It is one of the top performing markets in Asia, with an average annual index growth rate of 27 percent.

Riyas said that the island with a population of 24 million enjoys a 92 percent literacy rate, second to Japan among the ASEAN countries. "Its per capita income is \$1,61, next to Maldives in the region".

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'Kids Go Free' During Holiday Season

Residents of the Middle East have more reason to look forward to the holiday season this year, as their kids can travel free with SriLankan Holidays.

In this latest initiative to promote tourism to Sri Lanka, SriLankan Holidays will give away a free holiday package for each child under the age of 12 accompanying an adult who has purchased a special SriLankan Holidays package to the tropical island between June and August.

The "Kids Go Free" special offers are SriLankan Holidays trade mark all inclusive offer, which includes economy class airfare, star class accommodation for two nights and three days, with an international buffet breakfast, hotel transfers and fuel surcharge, with attractive lead prices for travel from Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

Holidaymakers can opt for a shopping spree in Colombo or head down south for some sun, sand, surf and serious water sports or take the cultural route and head inland to Kandy for their vacation.

SriLankan Holidays' General Manager, Amith Sumanapala said, "We have tied up with 3 trade partners namely Connaissance De Ceylan, Jetwing Travels and Walkers Tours to give holidaymakers a world of memories on the island holiday." In addition to the standard packages on offer, there are also carefully prepared tour programs that would appeal to the families as well to add a touch of class to their holiday. In these packages too, kids would be able to holiday for free in Sri Lanka.

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