



Independent Square



Sri Lanka High Commission, Ottawa
News Letter – August 2024

Assumption of Duties of Mr. U. L. Mohammed Jauhar, as the new High Commissioner



Additional Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U. L. Mohammed Jauhar who has been appointed as the new High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Canada assumed his duties on 18th July 2024. As a senior member of the Sri Lanka Foreign Service over 28 years, Mr. Jauhar brings versatile experience and expertise into his new assignment

Mr. Jauhar's career includes notable positions such as Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the State of Kuwait and Consul General of Sri Lanka in Toronto. He also served at Sri Lanka's diplomatic Missions in Geneva, Islamabad, and Washington, D.C.

Within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he was entrusted with various roles, including in the Administration, Consular and Economic Affairs, and United Nations and Multilateral Affairs Divisions.

Prior to his posting in Canada, Mr. Jauhar served as Additional Secretary for United Nations and Middle East Divisions, where he contributed in advancing Sri Lanka's foreign policy objectives.

Mr. Jauhar holds a Master's degree in Environmental Economics from the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture of the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, and a Bachelor's honours degree in Agriculture from the Eastern University, Sri Lanka.

Annual Tri-City Cricket Tournament brings players and enthusiasts from all communities to Ottawa



The Tri-City annual cricket tournament, hosted by the Sri Lanka-Canada Association of Ottawa (SLCAO) for the 39th time was held in Ottawa with the participation of cricket teams from Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal. The main feature of this year's tournament was introduction of the High Commissioner's Challenge Trophy which was awarded to the Most Valuable Player of the Tournament.

The tournament was won by the Montreal Team.

Gracing the award ceremony of the tournament as Chief Guest, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Canada U. L. Mohammed Jauhar commended the SLCAO for organizing the event for the last 38 years and bringing the community members together. He observed that the tournament continues to serve as an important event for the Sri Lankan community in Ottawa, Montreal, and Toronto, promoting sportsmanship and strengthening cultural ties through cricket. The High Commissioner, President of the SLCAO Sarath Amarakoon and Deputy High Commissioner Anzul Jhan presented the trophies and awards to the teams.

Sri Lanka Takes Part at the Working Group and Implementation Committee Meetings of the Montreal Protocol



A delegation from Sri Lanka's Ministry of Environment attended the forty-sixth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (OEWG46) and the seventy-second meeting of the Implementation Committee under the Non-Compliance Procedure for the Montreal Protocol (ImpCom72).

Sri Lanka's participation underscored the country's commitment to its international obligations including the environmental agreements and collaborative efforts to address global environmental challenges.

Continue to Page 2.....

Emerging Sri Lankan IT Company seeks opportunities in Canada



CurveUp, an emerging Sri Lankan information technology company sought the assistance of the Sri Lanka High Commission in Ottawa to expand its clientele.

The founder of the company Mr. Mohammed Fawaz visited Ottawa and met High Commissioner Mohammed Jauhar recently.

The company which specializes in learning and development through facilitative training, mentoring, and consultation envisages to expand its network was assured of facilitation and support of the High Commission.

Sri Lankan origin youth from Canada Participates at Youth Dialogue



Rinujan Kananasan, a Sri Lankan origin youth from Canada participated at the Youth Dialogue titled "Clicks to Progress: Youth for a Smarter Sri Lanka" held on 21st August 2024, in hybrid mode at the main auditorium of the National Youth Services Council in Maharagama on 21st August 2024. He took part in the round table discussion under the theme "Smart Economic Progress through Smart Leadership and Entrepreneurship".

The thematic dialogues focused on smart economic progress, governance, and society, emphasizing the development of an engagement policy to connect Overseas Sri Lankan Youth with youth in Sri Lanka.



The Youth Dialogue, organized by the Office for Overseas Sri Lankan Affairs in collaboration with the National

Youth Service Council, was held to mark the International Youth Day on 21st August 2024, in hybrid mode at the main auditorium of the National Youth Services Council in Maharagama.

The Dialogue provided a platform for the Sri Lankan origin youth to connect with their Sri Lankan peers and share their experiences.

their trophy was awarded by High Commissioner of Sri Lanka U. L. Mohammed Jauhar. He praised the Association's continues efforts to support education for students in Sri Lanka through its charitable initiative and observed that the sport has the power to go beyond boundaries and to unite communities especially for noble causes. Deputy High Commissioner Anzul Jhan accompanied the High Commissioner.

High Commission of Sri Lanka in Ottawa conducts information sessions through a Radio Interview on Consular Services



Mr. Kumarasamy Kritharan, Counsellor of the Sri Lanka High Commission, was featured in a radio interview on Time FM (Montreal), moderated by Mr. Vasekaran on June 23, 2024.

The discussion focused on the consular services offered by the High Commission, including birth registration, dual citizenship, visas, payment of pension to Sri Lankan pensioners, life certificates, and passport issuance.

Continue to Page 3... ..



The Sri Lankan delegation headed by Mr. B. K. P. Chandrakeerthi, Secretary to the Ministry of Environment also included Mr. W. D. S.C. Weliwatte, Additional Secretary for Natural Resources of the Ministry and Anzul Jhan, Deputy High Commissioner of the Sri Lanka High Commission in Ottawa. The meetings of the Working Group and the ImpCom took place at the International Civil Aviation Organization Conference Centre in Montreal from 08th to 12th July 2024.

Ottawa Cricket Club helps raise funds at its 175th Anniversary



The Ottawa Cricket Club marked its 175th anniversary with a special fundraising cricket match, organized in collaboration with the Peradeniya - Ottawa Chapter (AAUPOC), to raise funds in support of post-secondary students at the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka. This year's challenge trophy was won the Peradeniya Ottawa Chapter Cricket team and

The interview facilitated participation of the audience, where listeners had the opportunity to seek clarifications on various consular issues. The High Commission plans to conduct similar information sessions on a regular basis, including in other provinces, to better serve the Sri Lankan community across Canada.

The interview is available for listening in Tamil via the following link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cl6A-EbBDihj_X908YYzKPMVkeE8w9I2S/view

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs launches online authentication service for birth, marriage and death certificates for the public



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched online authentication process for birth, marriage and death certificates, in partnership with the Registrar General's Department at a ceremony held on September 2, 2024 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

With the new online process, Sri Lankan citizens can apply for the authentication of their birth, marriage, and death certificates through the Consular Affairs Division's online platform. The authenticated certificates will be sent to the applicant via email, eliminating the need for in-person application or collection of the authenticated documents.

The event was attended by Foreign Minister Ali Sabry, Foreign Affairs State Minister Tharaka

Balasuriya, Acting Secretary Foreign Affairs Shanika Dissanayake, Registrar General Samantha Wijayasinghe, Commissioner General of Examinations Amith Jayasundara, Director General of Consular Affairs Sisira Senavirathne, and other senior officials.



In his remarks, Foreign Minister Ali Sabry, emphasized the significance of digitizing document authentication services to enhance efficiency and effectiveness for the public. He noted that the Ministry's journey in online document authentication began with the launch of online verification for GCE O/L and A/L certificates in collaboration with the Department of Examinations, marking a major milestone in the digital transition.



The Minister also highlighted that the introduction of online authentication for birth, marriage, and death certificates issued by the Registrar General's Department, represents another key advancement in the digitalization process. It was also highlighted that educational certificates and birth, marriage, and death certificates together constitute approximately 55 percent of the documents authenticated daily by the Consular Affairs Division.

The Consular Affairs Division has taken further steps to enhance its online document authentication services by integrating its Electronic Document Authentication System (e-DAS) with other key government authorities and entities, which include local universities,

Sri Lanka Medical Council, Sri Lanka Police, the Department of Motor Traffic, TVEC, Department of the Registrar of Companies, British Council, and trade chambers, thereby making document authentication services available to the public effectively.

The procedures for online authentication of birth, marriage, and death certificates are as follows:

- Visit the official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and submit an online application through the portal provided: <https://mfa.gov.lk/online-consular-services/>
- Once the details are submitted, applicants will receive a link to make the required payments. The fees for certificate generation and authentication should be paid online through this link.
- After completing the transaction, the authenticated document (customer copy) will be emailed to the address provided by the applicant. The customer copy needs to be submitted to the relevant foreign missions as required.

For any inquires, the Consular Affairs Division of the Ministry can be reached at telephone number 011-2338812 or 0112-446302, and via e-mail at: authentication.consular@mfa.gov.lk