

NEWS LETTER 11

APRIL 2026



Visit to Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research

Ambassador Dr Arusha Cooray, and Head of Chancery, Ms. Priya Nagarajah, paid an official visit to the Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR), where they met with H.E. Dr. Sultan Mohammed Al-Nuaimi and senior researchers of the Centre. The discussions focused on expanding avenues for collaboration in research, knowledge exchange, and policy-oriented initiatives that support both countries' shared priorities.

The meeting highlighted opportunities for joint studies, expert dialogues, and capacity-building programs aimed at deepening understanding of regional developments and strengthening evidence-based policymaking. Both sides expressed their commitment to continued engagement and future cooperation.

Meeting the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps

The Ambassador, Dr Arusha Cooray, and Head of Chancery, Ms. Priya Nagarajah, held a courtesy meeting with H.WE. Francisco J. Chacon Hernandez, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Costa Rica to the United Arab Emirates. During the discussion they exchanged views on bilateral relations with the United Arab Emirates and shared values.



Ambassador Reaffirms Sri Lanka's Support in Meeting with UAE Minister of State

Dr Arusha Cooray, Ambassador of Sri Lanka and Head of Chancery, Ms. Priya Nagarajah, met with the Minister of State, H.E Khalifa Shaheen Al Marar, to convey Sri Lanka's continued friendship and readiness to support the United Arab Emirates if needed. During the discussion, the Ambassador reaffirmed Sri Lanka's commitment to remaining in contact as both countries advance shared priorities.

The meeting highlighted the strong bilateral ties and the importance of ongoing dialogue between the two nations.



i-Film Festival Awards Night

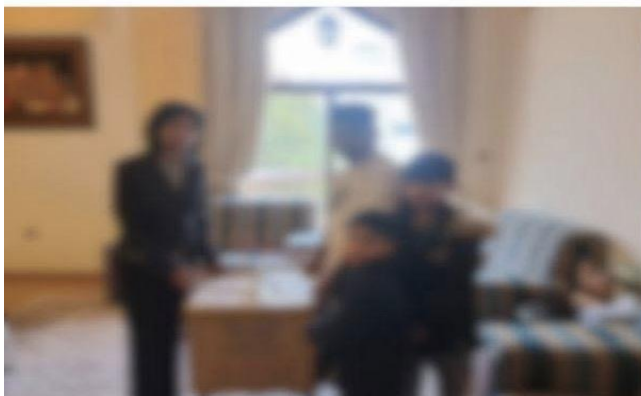
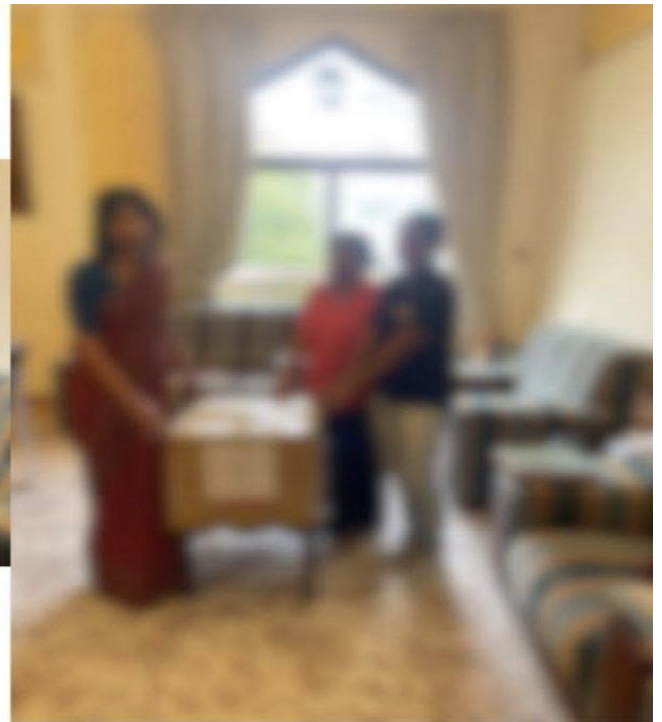
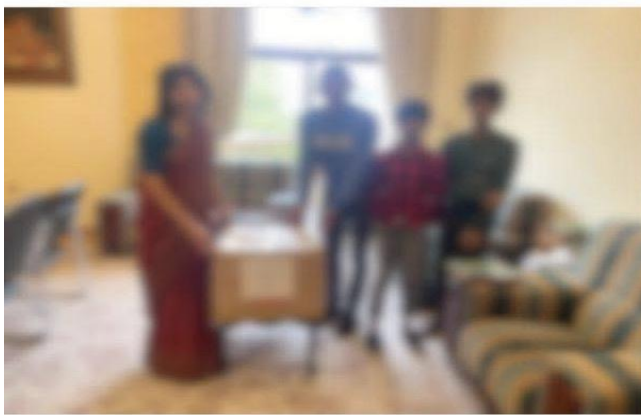
The Ambassador of Sri Lanka, Dr. Arusha Cooray, was invited as Guest of Honour to the i-film festival on 10 April 2026. The i-film platform fosters collaboration between filmmakers, industry leaders, and cultural institutions from around the world.



Food distributed by Business Council

The Embassy of Sri Lanka handed over dry food items sponsored by the Sri Lanka Business Council UAE, to ten Sri Lankan families currently facing economic difficulties.

The Embassy extends its appreciation and gratitude to the Sri Lanka Business Council UAE for its generous support and continued commitment to uplifting the Sri Lankan community.



Sinhala and Tamil New Year Celebration by Embassy Staff

Staff members at the Embassy celebrated the Sinhala Tamil New Year together with a variety of Sri Lankan traditional dishes, highlighting the rich culinary heritage of the community. The event was a wonderful opportunity to connect, reflect on the past year, and start the new one with a shared sense of appreciation and togetherness.



Visit by Al Ain Farms to Embassy

Ms. Andrea Falconi, Director of Exports and Co-packing, Mr. Shyamal Perera, Senior Analyst Sales and International Markets and Ms. Zhe Liu, Senior Specialist international Markets visited the Embassy to explore potential for collaborating with Sri Lanka.



Visit by Descon Engineering to Embassy

Mr. Khan and Mr. Budhari of Descon Engineering visited the Embassy to discuss potential for collaboration with Sri Lanka.



Ambassador Attends the 8th International Date Palm Conference

Ambassador Dr. Arusha Cooray attended the 8th International Date Palm Conference and award ceremony under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Presidential Court, the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, affiliated with the Earth Zayed Philanthropies Foundation at the UAE Presidential Court, and in collaboration with United Arab Emirates University, held in Abu Dhabi.



Lifecare Award Ceremony

The Ambassador, Dr Arusha Cooray attended the Lifecare Hospital Labour Hero Award Ceremony held in celebration of International Labour Day, where one of our very own Sri Lankans was recognised for his exceptional contributions. This ceremony commemorated the dedications and contributions of the workforce that shapes our community.





The Government of an Incubator for Tolerance

Head of Chancery Ms. Priya Nagarajah attended the 'Government as an Incubator for Tolerance' held under the theme 'A Cohesive Family' under the patronage and presence of H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mabararak Al Nahayan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence.

The Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Dubai Promotes MICE Tourism through Grand International Wedding in Hambantota

The Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Dubai facilitated an International Wedding Reception from March 26–30, 2026, at Shangri-La Hambantota Golf Resort and Spa as part of an initiative to promote MICE tourism in Sri Lanka. More than 800 foreign guests attended the wedding reception, positioning Sri Lanka as a destination for International Wedding Receptions.

SL draws high-spending guests for landmark destination wedding



The couple with some guests

Sri Lanka hosted one of its largest international destination weddings this month, bringing more than 800 foreign guests to the Shangri-La Hambantota Golf Resort & Spa in a four-day event seen as a boost to the country's high-end tourism segment.

The wedding of entrepreneur Mujtaba Shaikhani and Mumbai-based aesthetic medicine specialist Dr. Hafsha Merchant, held from March 26 to 29, drew visitors from South Asia, the Middle East and Europe, with guests staying between five and seven nights, a duration that significantly lifts per-visitor tourism earnings compared with average arrivals.

The event highlights Sri Lanka's growing positioning as a destination for large-scale luxury weddings, a niche that tourism stakeholders have been actively promoting to drive higher-value inflows rather than volume alone.

Shaikhani is known for his leadership in the global insulation industry through Gulf-O-Flex, a brand with a footprint across multiple international markets, while Merchant has built a reputation in Mumbai's aesthetic medicine space.

The union brought together business and medical communities across regions, adding to the event's international profile.

Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Dubai Explores Digital Media Partnerships to Boost Tourism and Investment

Alexi Gunasekera, Consul General of Sri Lanka to Dubai and Northern Emirates accompanied by Subhashini Silva, Counsellor met with Hussein Alatoli, the CEO of the New Media Academy and Amer Al Rawas, Director of Strategy & Digital Transformation of the Academy on 23 April 2026 at the New Media Academy in Dubai and discussed opportunities to promote Sri Lanka tourism and attract investments to Sri Lanka through global digital media.

The New Media Academy (NMA) in the UAE is a government backed digital media and content creation training institution based in Dubai launched in June 2020 by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.



Consulate General of Sri Lanka to Dubai and Northern Emirates Participates in London American City College Graduation

Alexi Gunasekera, Consul General of Sri Lanka to Dubai and Northern Emirates accompanied by Subhashini Silva, Counsellor, attended the 23rd graduation ceremony of the London American City College in Dubai, the UAE as a Special Guests of Honor. The Consul General addressed the graduates, offering words of encouragement and inspiration.

