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Modi-Mahinda meet likely at UN Assembly in New York

(FT.lk) - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Mahinda Rajapaksa are likely to meet on the sidelines of the 69th UN General Assembly session in New York in the third week of September, Lankan officials told Express.



"Whether Modi will meet a particular head of government or not will depend on the number of requests made and the availability of time. The Indian PM is expected to be in New York for three days when he will be having bilateral meetings with select Heads of Government among other engagements, apart from addressing the Assembly," an official said. While the Lankan President will address the General Assembly on 25 September,

the Indian PM will do so on 27 September. Rajapaksa is believed to be keen on meeting Modi following the latter's much-publicised session with the Tamil National Alliance, at which the Indian PM had expressed his commitment to

the Tamil cause and to the 13th Amendment as the basis for power devolution to the Tamil-speaking provinces. He had also backed the TNA's demand that bilateral talks between the Lankan Government and the TNA should be resumed, irrespective of the fate of the Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC). The Rajapaksa Government is uneasy with the TNA's tendency to seek Indian

and other foreign help instead of joining the PSC. In this context, President Rajapaksa will certainly be eager to know Modi's mind firsthand. Modi himself is believed to be eager to convey to Rajapaksa his take on the situation in Sri Lanka after his interaction with the TNA. That the Lankan Tamil issue has become important for the BJP is evident in the meeting the TNA had with the BJP's Tamil Nadu unit at Chennai on their way back to Lanka from New Delhi.

Japanese PM Abe in Lanka on Sunday

Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe has planned to undertake an official visit to Sri Lanka from 7 to 8 September, at the invitation of President Mahinda Rajapaksa. President Rajapaksa paid an official visit to Japan in March 2013 to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and Japan.

It is 24 years since the last visit of a Japanese Prime Minister to Sri Lanka. The Government of Sri Lanka is confident that this visit will enable both countries to further consolidate and expand the existing robust relations, particularly in trade and economic cooperation. Prime Minister Abe will be accompanied by a high level delegation, which also includes business leaders from several Japanese companies, notably small and medium sized enterprises, ranging from infrastructure to food industries. Japan has been a key partner in Sri Lanka's socio-economic development and the forthcoming official visit of Prime Minister Abe will be an important milestone in further enhancing bilateral relations.



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PRESS RELEASE

Mum's the word when it comes to shopping for the family

For many time-poor mums shopping is a key part of their daily lives. Undoubtedly it's easy to feel irritated on a shopping trip where many factors conspire against mums to make an afternoon of shopping seem less preferable than pulling teeth. The heat, the queues, the children running around and even the couple in front, blocking up the aisle with their trolley, as they deliberate over natural or Greek yoghurt, can make shopping sheer hell.

So unquestionably mums need a supermarket that pretty much offers everything they need in one trip and also includes great quality at low prices. "For me, Asda offers both of those things," says mum Sangeetha Perera from Leyton, London. "As a full-time working mother, wife, mother to two children (ages eight and three) and, as my husband will

tell you, someone who likes to "do it all," every day is a constant juggle and quest to create more time. And I have realized over the years that time and convenience is of the essence when it comes to doing the family grocery shopping."

Some mums have gone on to use supermarket shopping to also teach children about money, simple maths and budgeting. Full time working mum to two children, eleven-year-old boy and nine year old girl, Damitha Tharanga from Wembley shares how she juggles time between her children, shopping and giving life lessons to her children. "I think it's good for children to see you go to a supermarket so they learn about budgets

and so they don't think a fridge has magically appeared with food in it. I make sure to get my kids involved with the shopping and make them very much part of the decision making."

According to Damitha, she says her daughter loves using the self-scanning machines and paying for items herself. "It gives her a sense of independence," she said.

With many reports detailing how shopping consumes up the bulk of mums time, with one such study reporting that shopping took up a massive 4,155 hours 49 minutes in the waking lives of mums there's no wonder there is so much prominence on shopping.



"It sounds such a mumsy thing to say, but anything that makes my life easier gets a big tick in the box from me. From everyday items like bread to milk and rice, to snacks and even a packet of Haribo, I shop for convenience and need my local supermarket to have pretty much everything I would need for my whole family," said Geetha Ranawana a full time working mum of three girls from Birmingham.

With the continuous growing needs for mums to save time, money and angst, and anything that helps mums to do that is being enthusiastically received, Asda have added 50 new products for mums. From bulk rice, flour and oil products in the 2 for £10 'Mix & Match' to a selection of 500g TRS pulses at £1 and new snack and drinks, there is something for everyone in the family.