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## Chinese President Xi Jinping in Sri Lanka

by Shamindra Ferdinando

(Island.lk)- President Mahinda Rajapaksa, on Tuesday, announced that electricity tariff would be reduced by 25 per cent with immediate effect. He also declared that prices of diesel, petrol and kerosene would be reduced by Rs. 3, Rs. 5 and Rs. 20 respectively from midnight. The announcement was made by President Rajapaksa following the inauguration of the third phase of the Chinese-built Norochcholai Lakvijaya coal-fired power plant. President Rajapaksa and Chinese President Xi Jinping commissioned the project at an event held at the Presidential Secretariat. Appreciating the continuous support provided by the People Republic of China to Sri Lanka over the past several decades, President Rajapaksa said: "The commissioning of second and third phases of the Norochcholai power project will bring down the cost of electricity in our country. I am happy to

announce that this year all households in Sri Lanka will have electricity and this project will ensure a quality supply of electricity to all my people." Turning towards the Chinese leader, President Rajapaksa said he was grateful to China for assistance which had enabled him to realise a pledge given to his people. Referring to a series of agreements finalised earlier in the day, President said that the elevation of bilateral ties between the two countries to that of a Strategic Cooperative Partnership would make a positive contribution to the advancement of relations. The agreements are: \*Plan of action to deepen the Strategic Cooperative Partnership, treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, MoU on launching negotiations for a China - Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement, agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation,



Sri Lankan children present President of China Xi Jinping and First Lady Peng Liyuan bouquets of flowers upon their arrival at the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA). (Pix By : Sudath Silva)

exchange of letters for the outpatient building for the National Hospital, exchange of letters for medical and teaching equipment, framework agreement on provision of concessional loan by China for Hambantota Hub Development Project, framework agreement on provision of concessional loan by China for extension of the Southern Expressway, Section 4 from Mattala to Hambantota via Andarawewa Project, MOU on the technical cooperation for the Norochcholai coal fired project, MOU on China - Sri Lanka Coastal and Marine Joint Research and Development Center, agreement on the Establishment of Confucius Institute at University of Colombo

\*Agreement on Cooperation between the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television of China and the Ministry of Culture and the Arts of Sri Lanka \*Agreement of Cooperation Between the Chinese Academy of Sciences and The Ministry of Higher Education of Sri Lanka \*MOU Between the Ministry of Technology and Research of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China on Science, Technology and Innovation Co-operation \*MOU between the General Administration of Quality Supervision Inspection and ... **SEE P8**

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