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# NEWSLANKA



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**Press Release**

*Sri Lankan Minister of External Affairs meets British Minister of State for Trade and Investment*

## Prof. Peiris discusses trade opportunities with Lord Green

Minister of External Affairs Prof. G.L. Peiris met with Lord Green, Minister of State for Trade and Investment of the UK at the Ministry of Trade and Investment in London on 4th April 2011. Minister Peiris outlined the recent expansion of opportunities in Sri Lanka for broadening business and trade links between the two countries following the end of conflict. He explained that Sri Lanka was engaged in a major programme of infrastructure development while other sectors such as tourism and services have also expanded considerably in recent months. Furthermore, arrangements such as the India-Sri Lanka and the India-Pakistan Free Trade Agreements offered major incentives for foreign companies including from the UK using Sri Lanka as an investment base for

export into the vast South Asian markets. Against the background of strong bilateral links and the mutual familiarity of each others administrative, financial and legal structures it was an opportune moment for strengthening interactions in the trade and business sectors. Lord Green responded that British businesses are keen to strengthen engagement with Sri Lanka. In addition to the significant number of British companies already active in the country, the UK side could encourage in particular the British SME's which are the back-bone of the British business sector. Minister Peiris invited Lord Green to lead a business delegation to Sri Lanka. Minister Peiris also met with Alistair Burt, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London. The meeting was a follow-up to their meeting

in Colombo in February, where avenues for further strengthening bilateral relations were discussed. Prof. Peiris addressed the Annual General Meeting of the Association of Professionals of Sri Lanka in the United Kingdom. He commended the exceedingly useful work which was being done by the Association which consists of more than 400 professionals drawn from a variety of disciplines. The Minister briefed the Sri Lankan professionals about current developments in the country and, in particular, the significant progress achieved by the government in respect of the economy, infrastructure development and reconciliation. He said that the professionals should look upon themselves as ambassadors of goodwill who have a vital role to play in conveying to British



Minister of External Affairs Prof. G.L. Peiris and Lord Green, Minister of State for Trade and Investment of the UK

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A PROJECT BY John Kettle Land

**Events notices on p20 & 21. Also see WWW.NEWSLANKA.NET and just click on 'Events Calendar'**

### Sanga retires as captain from One day and T20

Sri Lanka Cricket Captain Kumar Sangakkara today officially announced his plan to step down as the one day and T20 captain of the Sri Lanka Cricket team in the coming months. The picture shows Kumar Sangakkara during making his announcement at the Sri Lanka Cricket press room. Pix by Pradeep Pathirana. SEE SPORTS

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