

**Prime Minister's Secretariat (Public)**  
**BOARD OF INVESTMENT**  
**- Media Section -**

\*\*\*

**PRESS RELEASE**

Subject: **BoI Chief visit to Srilanka as Special Representative of Government of Pakistan**

**Islamabad 17, November 2010:** Minister of State/Chairman Board of Investment visited Srilanka as special representative of Government of Pakistan to attend the Oath taking ceremony of President of Srilanka, H.E. Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa as the second term President. He attended the ceremony to show the gesture of friendship from the People of Pakistan. He also delivered the special felicitation of Government of Pakistan and people of Pakistan to assume the second term of president ship of Srilanka. He also appreciated the economic reforms being introduced by the President to turn the economy of Srilanka to the levels of highest growth. The president of Maldives, Speaker of Bhutan and diplomats from all over the world also graced the ceremony.

During a meeting with Economic Development Minister Mr. Basil Rajataksa, Mr. Saleem H. Mandviwalla, Minister of State/ Chairman Board of Investment discussed that our cordial relations could be further strengthened in the shape of increased trade and investment. He highly praised the amplification in bilateral trade over the past few years but remarked that it was far below the real potential. He expressed desire to make the economic ties between the two brotherly countries a regular and a frequent feature on alternate basis.

While talking to the Srilankan media, MOS/Chairman Board of Investment expressed gratitude to the Srilankan Government and media for warm welcome to Pakistani delegates. He said that the initiative by the governments of both the countries and well-prepared facts symbolized a shift of interest in Sri Lanka, particularly at the highest level, to expand country's close economic and commercial linkage with the regional countries. He said that this is a highly welcome development, which we may exploit / utilize to our maximize advantage. He has expressed that Pakistan and Sri Lanka have enjoyed historically close friendly relations. However, there is a need to channelize the warmth about Pakistan in the political and commercial spheres of Sri Lanka to more meaningful economic interactions for both countries.

During dinner hosted by the embassy of Pakistan in Srilanka , Chairman BOI suggested organizing a comprehensive and useful visit programme for the Sri Lanka Minister for Investment and his delegation, which will include leading businessmen beside the Chairman of Sri Lankan Board of Investment. He has further suggested that BOI may extend a formal invitation to Sri Lankan Minister to visit Pakistan. The Senior Minister Urban Affairs, Mr A.H.M Fowze and Law and Justice Minister Mr. Rauf were also invited to the occasion.

\* \* \* \* \*