## Historic milestone...



External Affairs Minister G. L. Peiris signing an MoU with His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa, Emir of the State of Qutar

is Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar visited Sri Lanka on an invitation extended by President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

During a two-day State visit that strengthened the bonds of friendship between the two countries, Sri Lanka and Qatar signed nine bilateral MoUs and agreements covering investment, economic cooperation, tourism, education, agriculture and legal fields in addition to the agreement signed for the formation of a joint committee between Qatar and Sri Lanka.

Being the first ever state visit by a ruling Qatari Emir to Sri Lanka, this was a landmark in the history of diplomatic relations between the two nations. A business delegation that came with the Emir also had fruitful discussions with the Sri Lankan business community. A large number of Sri Lankans live and work in Qatar, which is one of the most highly developed countries in the Gulf.

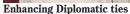




The Qatari delegation meets President Mahinda Rajapaksa and MP Namal Rajapaksa at Temple Trees









With Media Minister Lakshman Yapa Abeyawardena



Justice Minister Rauff Hakeem signing an agreement



Meeting Higher Education Minister S. B. Dissanayake