



Security Forces personnel parade at the Independence Day celebrations.



President Mahinda Rajapaksa and First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa being received by Prime Minister D.M. Jayaratne and Public Administration and Home Affairs Minister W. D. J. Seneviratne on arrival.

PIX BY
SUDATH
SILVA



66th Independence Day celebrations



President Rajapaksa hoists the National Flag



Prime Minister D.M. Jayaratne, First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa, Parliamentarian Namal Rajapaksa, Lieutenant Yoshitha Rajapaksa and Rohitha Rajapaksa



Observing a minute's silence in honour of fallen War Heroes



Uva Province Chief Minister Shashendra Rajapaksa, Western Province Governor Alavi Mowlana, Southern Province Governor Kumari Balasuriya and other special guests.



A section of the crowd.



The President being escorted to the special dais by the Chief of Defence Staff, Three Service Commanders and the Inspector General of Police.



Secretary to the President Lalith Weeraratunga, Defence and Urban Development Ministry Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa and other special guests.



Massive crowds gathered to witness the march past by services personnel.



A section of the foreign diplomats.



Security Forces personnel participating in the march past.