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Towards promoting closer Malaysia, Sri Lanka ties

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - The Sri Lankan Minister of Ports Development, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation M.H.M. Ashraff met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Prime Minister's Department yesterday and discussed promoting closer economic and cultural relations between the two countries.

The Sri Lankan Minister who is also the leader of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, a party in alliance with the ruling People's Alliance Party of President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, was accompanied by Member of Parliament and Member of the Presidential Committee on Anti-Harassment M.M. Zuhair, director of national savings bank M.D.M. Rizvi, director Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation Hafiz Nazeer Ahamed and former chairman of the National Apprentice Board of Sri Lanka A.J.M. Muzammil.

The Sri Lankan delegation exchanged views with the Prime Minister on the situation in the two countries and on the need for greater co-operation and improved trade relations.

A spokesman for the delegation told the New Straits Times today that the talks were very encouraging and fruitful.

The delegation earlier met with Umno secretary-general Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik who is also Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister and exchanged views and information regarding mutual co-operation between Umno and the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress.

The delegation leaves for Sri Lanka tomorrow.

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