



# NEWSLANKA



WE CARRY THE BROADEST SELECTION OF SL NEWS FOR THE BROADEST CROSS-SECTION OF SRI LANKANS

Established since **1991**. FREE, WEEKLY NEWSPAPER.

THURSDAY - 08 SEPTEMBER 2016

T: 020 7978 9030

E: info@newslanka.net

ISSUE 1292

## Opportunities are there waiting to be exploited-PM



(News.lk) - Indian Ocean has emerged as one of the world's busiest and most critical trade corridors, rapidly surpassing the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. Covering a vast global expanse - extending to East Africa in the West, Australia in the East, South Africa in the South, the Indian Ocean is well poised to regain its influence in world politics and the global economy said Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe making the inaugural address at the Indian Ocean Conference themed Global Power Transition and the Indian Ocean in Singapore.

The Indian Ocean Region has always been a significant playing field for big powers. Historically it has also been a bridge between the East and West.

Today the region is acquiring an intrinsic significance of its own. The Atlantic basin is declining. Central Asia and Africa have yet to

evolve into mature political economies. The Middle East is in turmoil and Latin America is also undergoing a somewhat troubled growth. The Pacific basin - particularly the Eastern Pacific is very dynamic but it has its own latent instabilities such as the South China Sea and East China Sea disputes, developments in North Korea, increasing militarization of disputes and the absence as yet of regional institutions to bring coherence to the political economy of the area. So it is possible to argue that the Indian Ocean Region has an extraordinary opportunity to create something new in the global context and something historically uniquely beneficial to its people, said the Prime Minister.

Our responses will shape our destiny in the 21st Century. The cooperation and coordination between ASEAN and SAARC including the Ramayana Connection have

given us strong cultural affinities. We have similar Governmental institutions and commercial practices. The English language is a link language. We have a huge cohort of youth more regionally conscious than their parents. We also have a lot of work to do in bringing these two groups together. More frank in-depth discussions; Ongoing dialogue at the highest levels. We must not allow the internal disputes and differences of these multilateral organizations to impede the collective relationships between the two groups. It also challenges SAARC to reach a higher level of cooperation than what we have been able to achieve so far added Prime Minister Wickremesinghe.

The opportunities are there - waiting to be exploited - and with ingenuity we should be able to forge ahead.

### Ban's bombshell compares Lanka with Rwanda and Srebrenica

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon caused controversy this week by categorising Sri Lanka alongside Rwanda and Srebrenica to make a case for increased intervention by the United Nations in internal conflicts.

Mr Ban's comments were a departure from the prepared text of his speech 'Sustainable Peace and Achieving Sustainable Development Goals' delivered in Colombo at the invitation of the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute. It is widely accepted that the massacres that took place in Rwanda in 1994 and in Srebrenica the following year were genocides: the first targeted against the Tutsis by Hutus and the other against Muslim Bosnians by the Bosnian Serb Army.

The conflict in Sri Lanka has never been categorised as genocide (for obvious reason), despite a vehement campaign by fringe, pro-LTTE diaspora and Tamil extremist groups to have it defined as such. Some are now using the Secretary-General's remarks to validate their claims of ethnic cleansing in Sri Lanka.



Looking up from his speech, Mr Ban told the audience that, "Something more terrible, serious happened in the past. In 1994, in Rwanda, there was a massacre. More than one million people were massacred. United Nations felt responsible for that." "Of course," he continued, "it was their war and massacres. But the United Nations was not able to act on it. We said repeatedly, 'Never again, never again'." **SEE PAGE 13**

### Prof. Wijesinha alleges, comment on genocide, another silly statement from UNSG

(Island.lk) - Former Peace Secretariat chief and ex-Minister Prof. Rajiva Wijesinha said that UNSG's assertion that Sri Lanka's war against terrorism could be compared with Rwanda and Srebrenica genocide was truly shocking.

Responding to a query by The Island, Prof. Wijesinha has sent us the following statement: "To compare what happened in Sri Lanka to Rwanda and Srebrenica violates one of the first principles of justice, as laid down by Aristotle. But, as I said seven years back about another silly statement from him, a little learning is a very dangerous thing.


The prejudice Mr Ban has displayed against Sri Lanka was apparent in his accepting the Darusman report and then searching desperately for a stool pigeon to attack decent UN officials through the subsequent Petrie report, which was a knife job on the traditional UN system - which Helen Clark seems to have noticed, which is why those who have controlled Mr Ban will not allow her to become the next Secretary General. I will give you one example, which I brought to his attention, though of course there was no response." **SEE PAGE 13**



**REGGIE FERNANDO - IS NOW IN COLOMBO**  
Give him a call on 00 94 11 2 500 124



**Taprobane Travel**  
Great offers on flights & hotels. See page 3.



**DUKE'S COURT TRAVEL**  
1st Colombo fr. £449  
Call 0208 748 3535

**FAST CASH**  
MONEY IN MINUTES TO SRI LANKA

**LycaFly**  
CALL US 24x7 on 0207 132 32 32  
Colombo Best offers!

**CARLTON LEISURE**  
020 8100 0000  
www.carltonleisure.com

**NEWSLANKA COLOMBO OFFICE: + 94 77 446 40 90**  
CALL CHANDIKA NOW  
We can accept payment in SL rupees & we can help with artwork. Tell your friends.

### New constitution within united, undivided Lanka, says Opposition Leader in Matara

Opposition Leader Rajawarothiam Sampanthan reached out to the southern constituency in a conciliatory speech in Matara last week, saying the country's new constitution would be drafted within the framework of a united and undivided Sri Lanka.

"The country will be one united, undivided, indivisible country

which cannot ever be divided. I convey that message to you as the democratically elected leader of the Tamil people," Sampanthan told crowds at a Samurdhi event in the southern town.

The Opposition Leader said this was the first time an effort was being made to draft a constitution that would be acceptable to all of Sri Lanka's people, asserting that if the new constitution is enacted, it will bring about a new country within a decade.

"We are not looking to divide the country. We are only trying to share power," the 83 year old leader of the country's largest Tamil party said at the event. Sampanthan was attending a passing out ceremony for candidates who had undergone skills training at the Samurdhi Development .... **SEE PAGE 13**



**90th Anniversary Exhibition London Buddhist Vihara (1926 - 2016)**

SEE P17

## FREE PERSONAL CLASSIFIEDS

NOW YOU CAN ADVERTISE YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY RENTALS IN UK & SRI LANKA, TUITION, ECT...

**FREE OF CHARGE**

AND IF YOU ARE A BUSINESS, IT ONLY COSTS £6 PER WEEK. FOR FULL DETAILS GO TO PAGE 26 OR WWW.NEWSLANKA.NET