



NEWSLANKA



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

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

THURSDAY - 26 OCTOBER 2017

T: 020 7978 9030

E: info@newsLanka.net

ISSUE 1351

UN raps Govt. over delays in SL transitional justice

By Chathuri Dissanayake

(FT.LK) - Delays in delivering transitional justice have led the process to be highly politicised, a United Nations (UN) Rapporteur warned, urging Sri Lanka to move forward with establishing comprehensive programs to redress grievances, warning accountability will be sought abroad if the Government falls short of its commitments at home.

Warning that the criminal case filed against former Army Commander Jagath Jayasuriya was only the "tip of the iceberg", the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, Pablo de Greiff, told reporters that the country could expect further similar action if Sri Lanka did not implement transitional justice programs.

He said this while delivering his concluding remarks at the end of a 14-day visit to the country. De Greiff urged the Government to move forward in establishing comprehensive programs of redress that the country has agreed to, stressing that the failure to do so would "constitute to a denial of justice".

However, the Special Rapporteur appreciated the Government's commitment to deliver justice displayed by its continued engagement with the United Nations since March 2015, only two months after being elected to office. The Government has displayed commitment through its willingness to

engage and share information, extending five invitations for monitoring visits, he said. Nevertheless, he stressed that the ultimate test was in the manifestation of actions and decisions and not in conversations.

"So much remains to be done," he said, stressing the need to act immediately to ensure the delivery of justice.

"Additionally, the delays bear some risks of further politicisation of the discussion of the increasing difficulties in finding consensus around this topic," he warned.

"Delays open up opportunities for the topic to become entangled in partisan politics, as seems to be happening in Sri Lanka. I take the opportunity to reiterate a point that cannot be overstated: transitional justice deals with questions of basic fundamental rights. Hence, it is not to be reduced to a matter of partisan politics," he said.

Stressing that transitional justice in Sri Lanka should not be limited to the incidents that occurred during the last phase of war, de Greiff asserted that the program should have a much broader sweep in a country with a long history of cycles of violence.

The absence of a comprehensive mechanism to deliver transitional justice has led the topic to be politically manipulated and "ethnicised".

"In light of the risks and costs associated with further delays, the lack of an informed debate

proactively supported by the Government, including its top leadership, is difficult to understand," de Greiff stated.

Stressing that the political leadership could not and should not give guarantees that "war heroes" will not be prosecuted for human rights violations, de Greiff said that the move infringes on the independence of the Judiciary as well.

"The promise that war heroes will completely be shielded even from investigation is a promise that strictly speaking has a legal dimension that can only be determined by the appropriate organ in the Judiciary system in Sri Lanka - the Attorney General's (AG) office. Whether to proceed with an indictment or not is a question for the AG to decide. In most cases in which there is a division of power between the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary, promises given by the political leadership about the fate of legal cases constitute to of course a violation of the autonomy of legal powers. It seems to me that it is a promise that will be difficult to keep," he stressed.

"In a context which the discussion is very deeply

politicised and very deeply polarised it ... SEE P12



Pablo de Greiff, UN Special Rapporteur - Pic by Lasantha Kumara

Economy to be based on foreign, domestic private investment

(ColomboGazette.com) - Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe told Parliament that the effort of the Government is to create an economy firmly based on foreign and



domestic private investment, driven by a dynamic and forward - looking private sector.

Wickremesinghe also noted the importance of trade ties with China and India.

He said that people living in developed and developing East Asian and South East Asian countries such as China and Thailand have better jobs and higher living standards than the average Sri Lankans.

Wickremesinghe said that a key part of Sri Lanka's economic policy will be entering into Free Trade Agreements with partner countries around the world.

"We are making great progress towards mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreements with Singapore, China, and

India. These deals will give our economy a massive boost by opening huge new markets to our entrepreneurs," he said. He also said that China and India are Sri Lanka's biggest and most rapidly expanding markets and so Sri Lanka must shift its tourism strategies accordingly.

"We have to expand our connections with the countries from which the well-spending tourists are coming. We have to liberalise access to sea and air services. Therefore action will be taken to develop air access domestically and internationally, while facilitating cruise services and the establishment of yacht marinas," he said.

The Prime Minister said that the government wants to transform Sri Lanka

into the hub of the Indian Ocean, safeguarded by a knowledge-based, highly competitive, social market economy. Our ambition is to make Sri Lanka a prosperous country by 2025. "For this vision to become a reality, our activities should join hands with the external world. Sri Lanka is a small island right in the middle of a large world. For thousands of years we have benefitted from being located strategically. Unfortunately, we seem to have forgotten this competitive advantage of the location. Our vision is to reclaim that mantle of international connectivity. In here, we have to leave behind the decades of inward-looking policies that shrouded our capacity to grow," he said. (Colombo Gazette)

Sri Lanka suffers third 5-0 ODI whitewash in a year

By Sa'adi Thawfeeq

(DailyNews.lk) - Sri Lanka's shambolic batting in the five-match one-day international series was laid to rest at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium yesterday when they were rolled over for a mere 103 runs to lose the fifth and final ODI to Pakistan by nine wickets and with it suffer their third 5-0 whitewash of the series for the year.

Sri Lanka earlier lost by 5-0 margins to South Africa and India. It was Sri Lanka's 12th straight one-day defeat for the year while for Pakistan the Champions Trophy champs it was their ninth consecutive win. The saddest part was that the contest if it can be called that was all over before the dinner break - that is normally taken at the end of the first side batting. In Sri Lanka's case their entire innings lasted just 26.2 overs and Pakistan came back

to commence their run chase because there was plenty of time for the dinner break.

In the event Pakistan knocked the required runs off in a matter of 20.2 overs with nearly 30 overs to spare making 105 for one with Imam-ul-Haq scoring an unbeaten 45 and Fakhar Zaman 48. It was a fine come back by Pakistan after being whitewashed 2-0 in the Test series by Sri Lanka.

The Lankan batting yesterday was destroyed by left-arm seamer Usman Khan Shinwari who finished with a handsome bag of 5 wickets for 34 runs playing in only his second ODI to take the Man of the Match award.

Having made his mark in the fourth ODI at Sharjah with a wicket in his first over Usman repeated that success again with two wickets in his opening over sending

back newcomer Sadeera Samarawickrama for his second duck in his first two innings in ODI cricket (to join Sri Lankans Susil Fernando and Champaka Ramamayake) and the big wicket of Dinesh Chandimal for a first ball duck. Shinwari was all over Sri Lanka in his opening spell adding the wickets of Upul Tharanga (8), Niroshan Dickwella (0) and Milinda Siriwardana (6) taking five wickets in 21 balls before he was rested.

Sri Lanka by then were limping at 20-5, and there seemed to be no end to their misery as Hasan Ali the current no. 1



The destroyer of the Sri Lankan innings Usman Shinwari with five wickets for 34 runs exults after pegging Sadeera Samarawickrama's middle stump in the fifth and final ODI between Sri Lanka and Pakistan at Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Monday.

bowler in ODI rankings ... SEE P31

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



SEE P11
Brightsun
TRAVEL
24x7: 0203 603 2044

Taprobane Travel
Great offers on
flights & hotels.
See page 3.
0207 434 3921

Fly to **Colombo**
for **£393**
Call 0208 748 3535
See back page for more details.

LycaFly
CALL US 24x7 on 0207 132 32 32
Colombo Best offers!
SEE PAGE 9

FAST CASH
MONEY IN MINUTES TO
SRI LANKA
See Page 7

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.

FREE PERSONAL CLASSIFIEDS

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