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**T: 020 7978 9030**

**E: [info@newslanka.net](mailto:info@newslanka.net)**

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## Sri Lanka tops South Asia in Human Development

Sri Lanka has emerged first in South Asia in terms of human development according to the latest Human Development Report issued by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Sri Lanka ranks 97th in the world and first in South Asia in the Human Development Index rankings disclosed on Friday in the Human Development Report 2011 titled "Sustainability and Equity: A Better Future for All". The closest to Sri Lanka in



South Asia was the Maldives which ranked 109. India ranked 134th while Pakistan was 145th. Bangladesh (146), Nepal (157), Bhutan (141) and Afghanistan (172) were the other South Asian countries featured in the comprehensive Report. Significantly, war-torn Afghanistan was only four places lower than lowest-ranked Guinea-Bissau (176th). Norway ranked first in the world while Australia was second and the Netherlands, third. Among Sri

Lanka's non-SAARC regional neighbours, Singapore was ranked 26, Malaysia (61), Thailand (103) and UAE (30). Sri Lanka now belongs to the Medium Human Development range in the report and with the cutoff point to this category at 95, analysts expect the country to migrate the next higher category (High Human Development) in a couple of years. According to the Report, Sri Lanka has recorded commendable indices across the board, with the Human Development Index at 0.691. (Norway's HDI is 0.943). Among the other indices which enabled Sri Lanka to top South Asia are: Life

expectancy at birth (74.9 years); expected years of schooling (12.7) and Gross National Income Per Capita (US\$ 4,943). Sri Lanka has recorded an improvement of several places compared to the previous years. "Human Development, which is about expanding people's choices, builds on shared natural resources. Promoting Human Development requires addressing sustainability—locally, nationally and globally. And this can and should be done in ways that are equitable and empowering," the Report said.

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By Reggie Fernando - OUR MAN IN COLOMBO  
Samataseetha & Lanka Care UK - See p25

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See page 3.

## SriLankan to add Canada, Vietnam to route network; to recommence flights to Melbourne

By Shirajiv SIRIMANE in St. Kitts

SriLankan Airlines is mulling opportunities at flying to two new destinations, Canada and Vietnam and negotiations in this regard will take place next year. The national carrier will once again add Melbourne to their route network from end of this year.

Civil Aviation Ministry Secretary Ranjith De Silva said they already have a code share agreement with Air Canada which has been welcomed by passengers. "We will meet the Canadian counterparts next May to look at a bilateral air service agreement which is the first step towards ... SEE P13



SriLankan Airlines made aviation history by embarking on the longest flight by flying the Commonwealth bid team to St. Kitts from Colombo. The journey with a two-hour technical stop over in London was 23 hours. Here the aircraft at Bradley International airport in St. Kitts. Picture by Shirajiv Sirimane

**Bank of Ceylon (UK) Ltd.**  
opens its doors to clients  
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## Sri Lanka launches 'Refreshingly Sri Lanka 2011' and a major 5 year tourism plan at WTM



pic by Rohan Herath - [www.rohanherath.co.uk](http://www.rohanherath.co.uk)

Sri Lanka Tourism and Sri Lankan airlines held a press briefing in the company of His Excellency Dr. Chris Nonis, Sri Lankan High Commissioner to the UK on Monday 7th November.

The press briefing was held on the upper deck on the Sri Lanka Tourism stand AS370. The briefing included information on the five year Tourism Development Strategy, the Refreshingly Sri Lanka campaign, the launch of Sri Lanka Homestays, and the online ETA system. The High Commissioner, as well as Sri Lanka Tourism Director UK and Ireland, Sanjika Perera answered questions from journalists and guests. Please see next weeks paper for full photo shoot.

## Congratulations to Mr. Saranga Bandara

Winner of Bank of Ceylon (UK) e-CASH RAFFLE DRAW

The winner of the inaugural BOC e-cash raffle draw, Mr Saranga Bandara (far right), received the prize, a return air ticket to Sri Lanka, from Chief Executive Officer, Bank of Ceylon (UK) Ltd, on 28th October 2011. **SEE PAGE 5**

While receiving the prize, Mr. Bandara said that he just wanted to send money to Sri Lanka through a trusted and secured mode and



that winning a return air ticket was a complete surprise. He never thought he would receive such a reward for sending money through the bank. He further said that remitting monies should always be by legal means and the raffle draw was a good incentive for such law-abiding citizens.



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