



Upgrad e-auction gives you the opportunity to experience the sheer luxury of our business class with traditional warmth and hospitality.

For more information, visit www.srilankan.com/upgrad

*Conditions apply



NEWSLANKA



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

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

THURSDAY - DECEMBER 05- 2013

T: 020 7978 9030

E: info@newslanka.net

ISSUE 1148

Dhammika Perera's Master Plan

By Jon Springer

(Forbes.com) - Dhammika Perera didn't become one of Sri Lanka's richest people by luck. It was actually by design. Back in 1999, when he was 32, he developed a 20-year plan for his fledgling businesses with the help of a mentor. His audacious goal: Become the country's leader in each of 12 sectors by 2019. He's already succeeded in 9 of the sectors, building best-in-class companies in tourism, banking, apparel and other industries. Indeed, his Royal Ceramics Lanka appeared in 2010 and last year on FORBES ASIA's list of the best 200 listed Asia-Pacific companies with under \$1 billion in annual sales.

Today his empire boasts 23 listed companies—that's 8% of all companies traded on the Colombo Stock Exchange—and dozens of private ones. His reach extends to Thailand, Indonesia, Japan, the U.K. and elsewhere, and those outfits employ some 62,000 people. He supplies Wal-Marts in Canada, makes blue jeans for Levi's and produces tea that's shipped worldwide. With Sri Lanka growing fast since its 26-year civil war ended four years ago, his companies are taking off. His listed stakes are worth \$190 million. But his three Colombo casinos and other unlisted assets boost his wealth to roughly \$550 million, one of

the country's four biggest fortunes (see below). He says his companies pay 5% of all corporate taxes in Sri Lanka, and his goal is to raise that number to 10% because "more taxes mean [his companies are getting] more business and a bigger market share." Perera, 45, works from a cavernous and spartan office on the 29th floor of the west tower of Colombo's World Trade Center, the country's tallest buildings. But this isn't an executive suite; it's an investment office. He doesn't run his companies—he buys controlling stakes in them. Using mathematical models that he's developed over the years.... **SEE P12**



Taprobane Travel



Great offers on flights & hotels. See page 3.

Fly to Colombo

fr. £451 (including taxes)

Call 020 8748 3535

TRAVEL CENTER AMAZING PRICES
SEE PAGE 11
COLOMBO FLIGHTS
CALL US 0800 368 5098

A fitting tribute to outgoing Diplomat Chaminda Kularatne at British Parliament



Photo by Jayasanka Wijesinghe.

On the panel - L to R - Mr Bernard Silva (President Consular Corp UK), Mrs Christina McDonald (Wallend, Labour Party Chairman), Mr Nalin Perera (Sri Lanka Tourism UK), Councillor Lakmini Shah (Lead member for East Ham), His Excellency Dr Chris Nonis (High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in the UK), Mr Chaminda Kularatne (Minister Counsellor -Consular and Immigration), Rt Hon. Stephen Timms (MP for East Ham). Please see page 18 for more pictures.

YOU CAN SEE ALL EVENTS ONLINE WWW.NEWSLANKA.NET

FAST CASH
MONEY IN MINUTES TO SRI LANKA
See Page 7

LycaFly
Colombo Best Offers...!
SEE PAGE 15

WORLDWIDE FLIGHT OFFERS
CARLTON LEISURE
SEE PAGE 9 or visit www.carltonleisure.com

THE FINEST ADDRESS IN COLOMBO

PLATINUM 1

THE FINEST ADDRESS IN COLOMBO

@

THE ADDRESS.

1, BAGATALLE ROAD

A TRIBUTE TO WHO YOU ARE.

Call: +44 (0) 2085011261
+44 (0) 7894955633

www.platinum1.lk

