



# NEWSLANKA



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

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

THURSDAY – 25 MAY 2017

T: 020 7978 9030

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

ISSUE 1329

## President changes 9 ministerial portfolios in cabinet reshuffle

(FT.LK) - President Maithripala Sirisena on Monday effected a mini yet decisive reshuffle of the Cabinet of Ministers, reinforcing his authority in the Coalition Government despite reservations from UNP leader and Premier Ranil Wickremesinghe.

Contrary to expectations of a wide-scale change, what the country saw yesterday was a revision of the status quo of nine Ministers, most notably the swap of portfolios between the Ministers of Finance and Foreign Affairs.

The controversial yet hands-on Ravi Karunanayake was removed from his Finance portfolio and given the Foreign Minister title while his predecessor Mangala Samaraweera, widely perceived as being "Mr. Clean" and "apolitical", was handed the mantle of managing the country's finances along with the media. Furthermore, 1996 World Cup-winning Captain



Cool Arjuna Rantunga was stripped off his Ports and Shipping Minister portfolio and put in charge of Petroleum with the amiable Mahinda Samarasinghe taking over the Ports and Shipping Ministry. These were the major surprises apart from Fisheries Minister Mahinda Amaraweera being

given additional duties as State Minister of Mahaweli Development. He is also the General Secretary of the UPFA. In other changes, S.B. Dissanayake was appointed Minister of Social Empowerment, Welfare and Kandyan Heritage, W.D.J. Seneviratne was made Minister of Labour, Trade Union Relations and Sabaragamuwa Development, Gayantha Karunathilake became Minister of Land and Parliamentary Reforms and Chandima Weerakkody was named Minister of Skills Development and Vocational Training. Deputy Ministers to the relevant new Ministers will be announced after President Sirisena returns from a three-day state visit to Australia. The move to bring back Thilak Marapana, who was forced to resign from his portfolio as the Law and Order Minister last year amidst dubious

circumstances, drew much criticism as an action which went against the good governance principles of the current Government.

Expressing confidence in his appointments through a message on Twitter, President Sirisena said: "This Cabinet reshuffle will provide a new impetus to Sri Lanka's development." However, civil society groups have strongly criticised the move to bring Marapana back. "There was a demand by civil society groups for the Government to respond to the Avant Garde case and remove the ministers who defended company blocked action being taken against it. But instead the President has brought the Minister back to the

SEE P12

- Reinforces his control by reshuffling nine portfolios
- Swaps Finance and Foreign Ministers - Mangala as Finance and Media and Ravi K as Foreign
- Captain Cool Arjuna moved out of Ports and Shipping to oversee Petroleum
- Mahinda Sam gets crucial Ports and Shipping portfolio
- Tilak Marapana makes a comeback with portfolio of Minister of Development Assignments
- Deputy Ministers to be appointed after Sirisena returns from trip Down Under
- Sirisena says Cabinet reshuffle will provide new impetus for Sri Lanka's development
- Mixed reactions to reshuffle from civil society leaders

## Sangakkara to bid farewell to first class cricket

(Cricbuzz.com) - Kumar Sangakkara will retire from first-class cricket at the end of the current English county season, he announced on Monday (May 22). The former Sri Lankan international, now playing county cricket for Surrey, went past 20,000 first-class runs in the county's latest County Championship match at Lord's against Middlesex this week. Those runs, the first Sri Lankan to reach the milestone, have come at an average of 51.18. He will play in the Caribbean Premier League and finish his county

season, but that will then be it. "You try to fight the inevitable but you need to get out while you're ahead," he told BBC Sport. "It's the last time I'll play a four-day game here [at Lord's]. I'll be 40 in a few months, this is about the end of my time in county cricket." Despite his advancing years, Sangakkara's batting powers have showed no signs of slowing down and he registered a hundred in each innings against Middlesex to ensure Surrey escaped with a draw against the Champions. His last four first-class innings have yielded centuries and he also scored one hundred and two half-centuries in eight Royal London One-Day Cup games. Yet he is wary of staying on too long, finishing a shadow of his former self. "The biggest mistake that sometimes you can make is that you think you're

better than you really are," he said. "Cricketers, or any sort of sports person, have an expiry date and you need to walk away. I have been very lucky to play for as long as I did so but there's a lot more life to be lived away from the game." Sangakkara has two young children and the inference was clear.

It was fitting that he announced his decision after such a stunning performance at Lord's, the ground where he scored a brilliant Test century in 2014



during Sri Lanka's famous series win. It was only last week that a portrait of him, as well as one of his great friend and fellow Sri Lankan batting giant Mahela Jayawardene, was unveiled ...SEE P29



## Executive Officials – FoC 2017



Secretary  
Mr. Siano Perera



President  
Mr. Ravi Ravindran



Treasurer  
Mr. Prabath Warusavithana



PLEASE SEE PAGE 5 FOR FULL COMMITTEE

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



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

**FAST CASH**  
SEND TODAY - COLLECT TODAY  
MONEY IN MINUTES TO SRI LANKA

SEE P11  
**Brightsun**  
TRAVEL  
24x7: 0203 603 2044

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

**DUKE'S COURT TRAVEL**  
Fly to Colombo £426  
Call 0208 748 3535

**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, 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](http://WWW.NEWSLANKA.NET)