



NEWSLANKA



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

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

THURSDAY - 27 JULY 2017

T: 020 7978 9030

E: info@newsLanka.net

ISSUE 1338

Drought devastates North and six other districts

(SundayTimes.lk) - The entire Northern Province and six other districts have been hit by a prolonged drought, the worst in recent times, causing an acute water shortage. In some areas, drinking water is being sold at a premium averaging Rs 300 for 500 litres. "We are taking steps to deploy district level disaster management units to liaise with the local authorities in the affected areas to cope with the shortage," Disaster Management Ministry Secretary S.S. Miyanawala told the Sunday Times. He said it would be an enormous task since water resources were not available to cope with an unprecedented drought in many areas.

Besides the Northern Province, the districts

affected are Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Ampara, Anuradhapura, Kurunegala and Puttalam. In the Northern Province, where the water crisis has hit all five districts, the Jaffna district is the worst hit. More than 120,000 people have been affected. In the districts of Kilinochchi, Vavuniya and Mullaithivu, some 80,000 have been hit. "The situation has been worsening gradually for months since our country received less rain last year. We have taken every possible step to address the issues of the affected people, particularly, ensuring that everyone gets access to drinking water," he said. Disaster Management Minister Anura Priyadarshana Yapa visited the North this week to assess the drought crisis in the

worst affected areas. Residents in Pungudutivu, one of the northern islands in Jaffna, said they were paying Rs 300 for 500 litres of water to local authorities who were supposed to distribute drinking water free. A high level meeting was held at the Kilinochchi District Secretariat yesterday with heads of various departments taking part. They discussed the steps that needed to be taken urgently to provide relief to the people. Kilinochchi's District Secretary S. Arumainayagam told the Sunday Times he had called for detailed reports from heads of departments such as fisheries, livestock and agriculture for a comprehensive assessment on the drought

situation. Puttalam District DMC's Deputy Director W.D.S.Rodrigo said that so far 13 of the 16 divisional secretariat areas were severely affected and people were finding it difficult to get water for drinking or basic sanitation. The Kurunegala district is also among the worst-hit areas. According to the DMC, some 150,000 people from 45,000 families have been severely affected, with Galgamuwa suffering the most. In Anuradhapura more than 50,000 persons have been affected and most of the paddy fields withering without water.

Fresh restructuring plan for SriLankan Airlines

(FT.LK) - SriLankan Airlines has come up with a fresh restructuring plan to operate better, with some recent measures helping the National Carrier to improve financial performance. The latest restructuring focuses on several issues,

including price of aviation fuel, aircraft leases; debt servicing cost, no adverse new taxation and realignment of human resources.

The airline is awaiting Government backing for the new restructuring effort which if approved will be rolled out from second half of the current 2017/18 financial year. This is amidst parallel plans by the Government to seek a strategic investor under a



SriLankan Airlines CEO Capt. Suren Ratwatte

Public-Private Partnership model. The new Board of Directors and management team since the election of new Government in 2015 had taken a host of measures to reduce losses as well as improve operational efficiency. SriLankan Airlines CEO Capt. Suren Ratwatte says if not for the partial closure of the Bandaranaike International Airport for three months this year, the National Carrier could have achieved break even. As per provisional estimates the airline recorded a Group net loss (before finance and one-off charges) of Rs. 6.49 billion for

financial year 2016/17. The loss arising the partial closure of airport between January and March is estimated at \$ 45 million with SriLankan cancelling over 600 flights.

With regard to leases, the CEO claimed that rates negotiated by previous managements were at least 20-30% more expensive.

"In the new restructuring plan, we have made

our position very clear and suggested remedial measures," Capt. Ratwatte added.

A proposed move is converting Engineering... SEE P12

Sri Lanka Islamic (UK) Association donates to Sri Lankan flood victims

Sri Lanka Islamic (UK) Association held an Eid dinner to raise funds for victims of the floods in Sri Lanka. Our picture shows, Presidt, SLIA, Mr. Jazal Marzook, handing over the funds to HE. Amari Wijewardene. Please see pages 18/19 for full photoshoot of the event.



SLFO UK SPORTS FIESTA

Congratulations to Jolly Boys and UK FC winners of Cricket and Football

Congratulations goes to the winners of the SLFO UK Sports Fiesta Cricket Champions 2017, Jolly Boys(left) with Cricket Captain Nipul Thewarapperuma and Mailanga Suresh. On the right are SLFO UK Sports Fiesta Champions 2017, UK FC with best player Mr Prasaanna Premendra and Captain UK FC, Sooriyacumar Gopinath. Please see next weeks paper for full picture spreads.



2017 Winner of Cricket Jolly Boys



2017 Winner of Football UK FC

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



Fly to Colombo
£387
Call 0208 748 3535
See back page for more details.

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

FAST CASH
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

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