



NEWSLANKA



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

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

THURSDAY - 17 AUGUST 2017

T: 020 7978 9030

E: info@newslanka.net

ISSUE 1341

Tilak Marapana appointed Foreign Affairs Minister



(FT.LK) - Tilak Marapana was sworn in as the Minister of Foreign Affairs before President Maithripala Sirisena on Monday. Marapana, a President's Counsel, is a former Attorney General who retired prematurely with the change of Government in 1994. He thereafter practised on the unofficial bar and enjoyed an extensive and lucrative practice when in 2001 he was appointed the Minister of Defence in the UNP Government headed by Ranil Wickremesinghe. Later, with the demise of Gamini Atukorale,

he was also appointed the Minister of Highways, Transport and Civil Aviation. In 2015, following the last General Election, Marapana was appointed as the Minister of Law and Order. Consequent to a speech made by him in Parliament in which he explained the use of firearms stored in a ship chartered by Avant Garde and following allegations that he could interfere with the ongoing investigations against Avant Garde, he resigned from his portfolio until the conclusion of the investigation. In May this year Marapana was once again

appointed to the Cabinet as the Minister of Development Assignments, a new ministry set up to monitor all ongoing development projects, both foreign and local. Marapana as the Attorney General led the Sri Lanka delegation to the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva on successive sessions from 1992-1994 and successfully prevented the passage of a resolution against Sri Lanka on human rights issues.

By Ashwin Hemmathagama (FT.LK) - Delivering a climactic twist to the controversial bond saga, former Foreign Affairs Minister Ravi Karunanayake tendered his resignation in a hard-hitting parliamentary statement and sat with party backbenchers after insisting he was proud to be part of a Government which has delivered good governance. Addressing the House yesterday on a personal privilege issue, Minister Karunanayake stated that despite his innocence, he was compelled to take the bold decision to step down from his ministerial post to protect the Yahapalana Government, the United



National Party (UNP) and the country. "We will not let these power-hungry elements attack the United National Party. We will not let these power-hungry elements dismantle the Yahapalana Government. We cannot let them make use of the allegations against me to attack my party,

Ravi resigns; resolute to return

my Government and our work for democracy. Therefore, I decided to resign from my post, setting an example. History will decide my place," said Karunanayake. Karunanayake met with Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe over the weekend and again on Tuesday before meeting with both the Prime Minister and President Maithripala Sirisena on Wednesday. "During my career, I never earned anything through illegal means. I only lost my money because of politics. I didn't earn from politics but spent my private money," he told Parliament. Karunanayake charged that individuals who had even the slightest connection to a Minister were not summoned before a commission previously. He alleged that key ministers and the President acted with "swollen heads" in the previous administration. However, he said he would respect the law and bow before it. Karunanayake pointed out that the task of the presidential commission was to

investigate the alleged bond scam but instead it had made "renting a house" the talk of the town. Nonetheless, he expressed confidence the commission would complete its task competently and assured he would continue to keep a close eye on the proceedings. "We hope the Attorney General's department will show the same efficiency with regard to the 87 files submitted to the department by the Financial Crimes Investigations Division against the members of the former government." Karunanayake dwelt extensively on his services to the party and efforts to win the... SEE P12



A380 lands at BIA

An Emirates A380 aircraft landed at Bandaranaikie International Airport (BIA) Katunayake, helping Sri Lanka and the airport achieve an aviation milestone. Arranged to celebrate the BIA's recently resurfaced and upgraded runway, the special one-off A380 flight operated as EK654 from Dubai, replacing the B777 aircraft usually deployed by Emirates on flights to Sri Lanka. The iconic aircraft was on ground for more than six hours to enable airport executives, VIPs, trade partners and media to enjoy guided static tours of its cabins and unique amenities like the First Class Suites, Shower Spas and the On-board lounge.

Debunking the real estate bubble

By Uditha Jayasinghe (FT.LK) - Amid concerns of a real estate bubble forming in the high-end segment, Indocean Developers Director Pradeep Moraes spoke to Daily FT on industry prospects, possible policy assistance and rejected concerns of unsustainable growth. Given below are excerpts of the interview: Q: What are your reasons for saying there is no property bubble? A: A property bubble occurs when there is a profusion of credit, when credit is easily obtainable and when credit is cheap. None of these are true where Sri Lanka is concerned. Getting credit is very difficult because our banks are very prudent, and thankfully so, and all of us know that credit is not cheap at all. What happened in places like UK post-Northern Rock is not something that can happen here, neither is there the frenetic euphoria about the real estate market that happened in Dubai where people were literally queuing to purchase and in

certain instances reselling while still in the queue. In Dubai, most of the buyers were foreign and developers were local, in Sri Lanka the reverse is reality. Those are the type of phenomena that lead to a bubble. Another example is the toxic credit that was very easily available in the US; none of those things are here. When you look at the data, less than 10% of the luxury apartment market in Colombo is financed through loans. It is over 90% equity financed. So there is no pressure of financial payments, there is no case of immediate resale, and it is not speculative purchasing. To give a small example, we have sold 270 apartments, from 404, to our knowledge, (and we would be involved in such a process), only two have changed hands so far. Moreover, about 60% of the buyers are domiciled Sri Lankans, about 30% are expatriate Sri Lankans, and only the rest for foreign buyers. This has a dual advantage because the buyers are far more rooted in Sri Lanka and SEE P8



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 £426 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, 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