

Sri Lanka minister praises Mahathir

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka needs leaders like Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Singapore Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew whose "fairly tough" leadership has done their countries a lot of good.

Commerce and Consumer Affairs Minister Ravi Karunanayake said Sri Lanka certainly needed a complete reorientation of its political system because largely politicking and politicians had done "immeasurable" damage to the country.

"We need leaders like Mahathir and Lee Kuan Yew who govern in a fairly tough manner but which is benevolently good for the country," he told a group of visiting Malaysian journalists at his residence here yesterday.

He spoke of how the entire country had been mismanaged through wrong political directions.