

## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION ORDERED INTO MINUWANGODA COVID-19 CLUSTER

NEGLIGENCE OF ADMINISTRATORS, OFFICIALS TO BE PROBED

**DILSHAN THARAKA**  
Attorney General Dappula De Livera has directed the Acting IGP to immediately commence a criminal investigation into the spread of COVID-19 from the Minuwangoda Brandix Cluster.

She has stated that attention should be paid through the investigation to the direct

negligence of the administrators and agents of the institution as well as the negligence of any related government official or officials in contributing to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, the Attorney General instructed

her ordered to submit a preliminary progress report on the investigation on or before November 13.



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**US Secretary of State Pompeo arrives**

United States (U.S.) Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo arrived in Sri Lanka yesterday (27) for a brief visit.

Pompeo is traveling to New Delhi, India; Colombo, Sri Lanka; Malé, Maldives; and Jakarta, Indonesia between October 25 and 30, in the days leading up to the U.S. presidential election.

The U.S. delegation led by the State Secretary landed in India on Monday (26).



The Army conducted road checks in the Colombo city and checked the temperature of those living in the city as part of the programme to control the spread of COVID-19 yesterday. Pictures by Rohan Gamage.

## Three COVID-19 deaths reported yesterday

**ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA**  
Three COVID-19 deaths were reported from the country yesterday at the time of going to press.

The 17th COVID-19 death was of a 41-year old male from Ja-Ela who was treated at the IDH Intensive Care Unit (ICU). The 18th and 19th deaths are also said to be COVID-19 related according to the Health Ministry.

The Health Promotion Bureau confirmed that the victims were a 19-year-old youth from Keselwatta, and a 87-year-old woman from Slave Island.



The National Operations Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO) yesterday stated that a total of 541 more persons were confirmed positive to COVID-19 on Monday and all of them were from locally-identified persons.

**Private sector directed to pay employee salaries upto December**

**ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA**  
The Government has decided to extend the agreed grace period for the payment of salaries of private-sector employees until December due to the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

Co-cabinet Spokesman Energy Minister Udaya Gammanpala said.

Speaking at the weekly Cabinet media briefing held yesterday at the Government Information Department, Minister Gammanpala said a Task Force representing Employers, Trade Unions, the National Labour Advisory Council, the Labour Ministry and the Labour Department was appointed to look into the payment of salaries to private sector employees in the wake of the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

The Cabinet of Ministers approved a proposal made by the Labour Minister to continue proposals made by the Task Force till December this year.

Accordingly the Task Force agreed to act as follows and took measures according to them.



## Medical faculty intake to increase by 371 this year - Minister Peiris

An additional 371 students will be accommodated in State University Medical Facilities this year, Education Minister Prof.G.L. Peiris said.

Speaking at a ceremony at the Sabaragamuwa University Medical Facility, "There is a shortage of medical practitioners in this country. Last year only 70 students were enrolled to the Medical Faculty of the Sabaragamuwa University. This number will be increased to 100," he said adding that the government



has taken necessary measures to increase the intake to the Faculty of Medical and Allied Sciences of the Rajarata University.

The decision to increase the enrollment into local universities reflects the National Policy Framework in 'Visas of Prosperity and Splendour' of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in which it spells out aims to increase

## Foreigner visas extended upto December 5

The validity period of all types of visas issued to foreigners currently in Sri Lanka will be extended for a period of 60 days upto December 5, 2020, the Immigration and Emigration Department said.

Accordingly, the validity period of all types of visas will be extended from October 7 to December 5, 2020. The Department advised all applicants to refrain from visiting the visa Division of the Immigration



## Rishad dropped phone before arrest - DSG

**SUBHASHINI SENANAYAKE and SHAVINI MADHARA**  
MP Rishad Bathiudeen had arrived in a highly irresponsible manner prior to his arrest, Deputy Solicitor General Dileepa Peiris said today.

Appearing on behalf of the Criminal Investigation Department yesterday he informed the

## Rishad further remanded

**SHAVINI MADHARA**  
Ceylon Makkal Congress MP Rishad Bathiudeen, who was arrested by the Criminal



**Dr. Asela Gunawardena appointed Head**

Dr. Asela Gunawardena has been appointed as the new Director General of Health Services, Health Ministry sources said.

He was serving as the Director of the Kalubowila Teaching Hospital, prior to his appointment as Director General of Health.

Anil Jasginghe was promoted to Environment Ministry and the post of Director General of Health Services became vacant.

Deputy Director General Dr. S. Sriharan was acting Director General following the promotion of Dr. Jasginghe.



THE HONOURABLE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HEALTH PAVITRA WANNIARACHCHI at the Ministry of Health yesterday (27), World Bank Sri Lanka Resident Manager, Chyo Kanda, World Bank Project's Public Health Services Senior Specialist Dr. Deepika Aringala, Health Ministry Secretary Major General Dr. Sanjewa Munasinghe and officials were present.

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