

# Daily News

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## SPECIAL RELIEF PROGRAMME FOR FAMILIES UNDER SELF-QUARANTINE

Rs.10,000 worth essential food items to be provided

6,807 families receive essential food items with Army assistance

DHANUSHKA GODAKUMBURA

The Government has launched a programme to provide Rs.10,000 worth of essential food items to families under self-quarantine in their respective homes due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

recipients with the assistance of the Army. Essential food items such as rice, oil, sugar and dry rations, valued at Rs.10,000, were delivered to families on separate occasions.



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa yesterday presented threads according to ancient tradition to prepare the Katina Chevvara for the State Katina Festival. The State Ministry of Batik, Handloom Fabric and Local Apparel Products plans to hold the Festival on November 7 and 8 at the historic Somawathiya Shrine. This is the first time since the reign of King Parakramabahu II that a State-sponsored Katina Festival is being held. Here the President handing over the threads to State Minister Dayasiri Jayasekera. Picture courtesy President's Media Division

## Cardinal tells Catholics: Pray to Our Lady to protect country, people from pandemic

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

Archbishop of Colombo His Holiness Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith in an appeal to the country in the face of the fast spreading COVID-19 pandemic urged all Catholics to turn to Our Lady in prayer seeking her blessings to protect the country and its people from this pandemic.



tion, the public cannot let their guard down as the virus has come back in a more virulent form and many are afflicted. "Therefore, it is our responsibility to cooperate with the authorities as much as possible in order to curtail the spread of this disaster. We can't afford to let this situation drag on or deteriorate," he said, requesting people to adhere to all the health guidelines.

The Head of the Catholic Church noted, "We have already lost a lot of lives and also a lot of people are afflicted by this. Their life patterns have been shattered and there is economic crisis all over the world and many people have lost their jobs and it has brought about much suffering to people all over the world."

He said that while the Government authorities had put in a great effort in controlling the situation, the public cannot let their guard down as the virus has come back in a more virulent form and many are afflicted. "Therefore, it is our responsibility to cooperate with the authorities as much as possible in order to curtail the spread of this disaster. We can't afford to let this situation drag on or deteriorate," he said, requesting people to adhere to all the health guidelines.

The Cardinal also invites all Catholics to return to prayer as this is the most powerful tool in trying times such as this.



## Work From Home back in Western Province

As a measure to contain the prevailing wave of COVID-19 Coronavirus spread, all public institutions in the Western Province and other major townships are required to adopt the "Work From Home (WFH)" mechanism again.



Using experience gained during April - May 2020 under WFH, Heads of Institutions are instructed to adopt alternative work plans to deliver essential services and other public services.

## No one can enter or leave WP during quarantine curfew



No one will be allowed to enter or leave the Western Province during the quarantine curfew hours Police Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana said.

However, those engaged in essential services would be permitted to perform their duties as required. Also, travel from one Province to another through the Western Province at any time when the quarantine curfew has been imposed too has been banned.



The Police and the Security Forces strictly enforcing the quarantine curfew regulations in the Western Province yesterday. Pictures by Sulochana Gamage and Dushantha Mayadunne

## COVID-19 cases reported only from Katunayake and Biyagama Zones - BOI DG

Out of the 14 Investment Promotion Zones in the country, COVID-19 cases have only been reported from the Katunayake and Biyagama Zones, states Board of Investment (BOI) of Sri Lanka Director General (DG) Sanjaya Mohottala.



"Apart from the Katunayake and Biyagama Investment Promotion Zones, no cases have been reported thus far from the other 12 Zones in the country," he added. Issuing a statement Mohottala said that more than 26,500 PCR tests have been carried out in the factories under the purview of BOI between 8th and 28th of this month.

Over 16,520 PCRs has been done in the 14 Investment Promotion Zones and awaiting results of another 495 tests, 423 COVID

## Legal action against hotel for holding wedding ceremony

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

Police Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana said that legal action would be taken against the management of a star class hotel in the Kollupitiya Police area at Galle Face for having a wedding ceremony at the hotel despite a quarantine curfew being imposed in the Western Province.

## Three bogus PHIs rob gold jewellery

DILSHAN THARAKA

Three persons disguised as PHIs stole about 3 1/2 gold sovereigns from a house in the Ketapahulla area in the Mahawa Police Division. Police Spokesperson, DIG Ajith Rohana said that, according to the residents of the robbed house, three persons arrived at their home at around 3.30 pm last Thursday as PHIs to carry out PCR tests on the residents. Following that the robbers gave the residents a pill before the PCR test. After taking the pill, the residents felt dizzy and some of them went into a deep sleep. The residents of this

## New Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka arrives

New Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Qi Zhenhong arrived in Colombo yesterday evening.



The new Chinese envoy who arrived on China Eastern Airlines flight MU231 passed a PCR test for COVID 19 prior to the flight and will enter self-quarantine for two weeks. The Chinese Embassy said in a statement. Considering the current difficult situation in the island, Ambassador Qi politely declined all welcoming arrangements at the airport and only a minimized number of diplomats from the Embassy were at the BIA to receive him," the Embassy said.

Chinese Ambassador Qi Zhenhong also issued the following written message of greetings to the Sri Lankan public after his arrival at the BIA. "Dear Sri Lankan friends and my Chinese fellow citizens, The minute I landed on the land of Sri Lanka, 'the Pearl of the Indian Ocean', its beauty, hospitality and kindness have made me feel very touched and heart-warmed. 'Entrusted by the Government and the people of China, I assume my office as the new Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka with deep honour in my heart and great responsibility on my shoulder."

## COVID-19 patients top 10,000; 4,282 recoveries

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

According to the statistics of the Epidemiology Unit of the Health Ministry, the total number of COVID-19 positive patients detected in the country has been increased to 10,105 by 8 p.m. yesterday.

NOPCO sources, 584 quarantined individuals left for their homes after PCR tests. Of them, 71 persons are from the Norochohola QC, five persons from Hotel Green Paradise QC, four persons from Hotel Jetwing Blue QC, seven persons from Hotel Jetwing Beach QC, 161 persons from the Punani QC, 125 persons from the Bingiri

## Two dead in fuel bowser, three wheeler collision

RASULA DILHARA North Special Corr.

A mother and her son were killed when a fuel bowser collided head-on with a three wheeler in the Elephant Pass area in Jaffna.

The son was driving the three wheeler towards Kilinochchi with

## Yoshitha Rajapaksa political victimization case: Former Minister's wife calls on government

## Possible future COVID-19 community spread if situation not brought under control: DUJA President