

# Daily News

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## STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF WP QUARANTINE CURFEW

**RESIDENTS URGED TO STAY HOME**

**WP BOUNDARIES CLOSED EXCEPT TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES**

**STERN LEGAL ACTION AGAINST CURFEW VIOLATORS**

DINULI MUDALIGE

Health authorities and the Police urged the public in Western Province to stay at home suspending all non-essential travelling, gatherings, meetings and other activities to help contain the spread of COVID-19.

This is with the Quarantine Curfew being imposed in the entire Western Province with effect from midnight yesterday.

Chief Epidemiologist Dr. Sudath Samaraweera observed that there was a danger of the COVID-19 virus spreading fast in the Province and he urged the public to support the efforts to bring the situation under control. The public have been strongly advised to cancel any excursions or pilgrimages they had planned for the long weekend.

All shops, service centres and economic centres within the Province

will be closed in the Province during the Curfew.

The Police said the Vehicular movement along the Expressways have also been restricted during the period of the curfew. However, such restrictions will not apply to essential services. Vehicles traveling from Kadawatha and Kottawa will be stopped at Welipenna and no vehicle will be permitted to enter Colombo via the Southern Expressway from Mataara and Hambantota.

The quarantine curfew will be lifted at 5am on Monday (2) for areas which are not placed under quarantine curfew, before it came into effect on October 29. The timetable to open pharmacies and grocery stores as announced on Tuesday will resume again after November 2.

The health authorities also made a request to limit the number of people

at religious activities to less than 50 even in areas where the Curfew is not imposed.

Nuwara Eliya District Secretary Rohana Pushpakumara requested the public to refrain from making visits to the Nuwara Eliya area during the long weekend.

He said 30 people have contracted the COVID-19 virus in the district and therefore, it was not wise to make trips to the area, adding that all tourist attractions in the district have been closed considering the prevailing situation.

Police Media Spokesperson DIG Ajith Rohana said that no person other than those involved in essential services will be allowed to cross the district boundary during the curfew period. He said roadblocks have been set up at the exit and entrance points in the Western Province.



## CCF allocates Rs.3,400 mn for development

DINULI FRANCISCO

The Board of Central Cultural Fund (CCF) has allocated Rs. 3,400 million for development projects for the year 2021 under the directives of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa.

A meeting of the CCF Board was held yesterday (29) at Temple Trees under the patronage of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa who is also the Buddha Sasana Religious and Cultural Affairs Minister.



Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa chairing the meeting. (Picture by PM's Media).

## New App to collect data on COVID-19

A new app has been introduced by the Western Province Health Services Office to collect and access data pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Presidential Media Division said in a press release yesterday.



The new app was introduced at a regular meeting of the COVID-19 Prevention Task Force chaired by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the Presidential Secretariat.

The app is useful to all stakeholders involved in COVID-19 prevention activities to obtain

required information fast and easy. The COVID-19 infected persons, their close associates, PCR tests, observations, decisions and risk areas can be traced from the app.

## Budget 2020 on Nov. 12, vote on same day

Party Leaders who met for a special meeting at the Parliament Complex yesterday, decided to take up the Budget 2020 on November 12 and pass it on the same day, the Parliament Communication Department said in a press release yesterday.

The Government will present the Budget for 2021 on November 17. The Appropriation Bills for both this year and the next year were presented to Parliament by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa for the first reading on October 20.

The Budget 2020 will be taken up for debate from 10 am on November 12 and its vote will be taken on the same day. The schedule for the debate of Budget 2021 will be notified later.



Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena placed his signature on the 20th Amendment to the Constitution at his Office in Parliament yesterday. Accordingly its provisions are now in effect. Parliament's Secretary General Dhammika Dassanayake and his Deputy Neil Iddawela look on.

## AVM Sudarshana new SLAF Commander

Air Vice Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana has been appointed as the 18th Commander of the Sri Lanka Air Force.



His appointment will come into effect from November 2. Air Vice Marshal Pathirana is an old boy of Dharmaraja College, Kandy. He was one of the three pilots who was selected

for advanced flying training in Pakistan Air Force and secured the award for the Best Allied Flight Cadet by the Pakistan Air Force.

He is a qualified Fighter Pilot, Flying Instructor and an active operational flyer who has flown over 3500 flying hours in over 15 types of aircraft.

## Over 1,200 curfew violators arrested

177 vehicles taken into custody



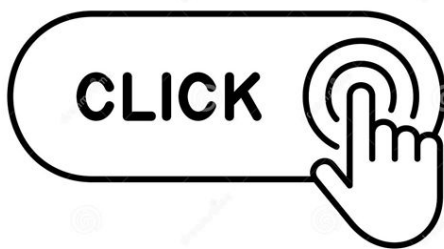
DINULI FRANCISCO

Over 1,200 persons have been arrested and 177 vehicles taken into police custody for violating the quarantine curfew and quarantine rules and regulations up to yesterday (29), Police Media Spokesperson

DIG Ajith Rohana said 73 have been arrested three vehicles have been into police custody during the last 24 hours.

The DIG further said a special police team been

## Government won't sign MCC Agreement - NFF leader



Peru-randoun-Chau-ans that

DILSHANA THARAKA



Attorney General Dipu de Silva has instructed the Acting IGP to transfer the criminal investigation probe over the spread of COVID-19 from the Minuwangoda Branch cluster from the Colombo Crimes Division (CCD) and to appoint a special investigating team from other units.

The Attorney General's coordinating officer, State Counsel Nishara Jayaratne said that it was reported to the Attorney General yesterday that the Acting IGP had only referred the investigation to the Colombo Crimes Division and following that a team of officers comprising an Assistant Superintendent of Police had been appointed for the purpose.

However, the Colombo Crimes Division informed that it is difficult to investigate this situation

## SJB disowns nine

Tells Speal

ASELA KURULUWANSA

The Samagi Jana Balawegaya yesterday wrote to Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena requesting to accommodate nine Opposition MPs, who voted in support of the

Chief Opposition Whip MP Lakshman Kiriella, in a letter addressed to the Speaker.

## Lockdowns in France, Germany

Surging coronavirus cases across Europe are triggering new national lockdowns as the continent again shows clear signs of becoming COVID-19's global epicenter.

After appearing to deal with the virus better than the United States

for most of the summer, the European Union and its neighbours are now seeing more new cases per capita than the US, average. Daily recorded deaths per capita have caught up with the US, too, according to the European CDC.

## House meets only on Tuesday next week, scribes barred

Party Leaders in Parliament who met for a special meeting at the Parliament Complex yesterday decided to limit next week's sittings of Parliament to one day due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Parliament Communication Department said in a press release yesterday.

Parliament will convene on Tuesday, November 3 from 10 am to 12 noon only and on that day two Regulations under the Medical Ordinance will be taken up for debate.

## Waste containers arrive in England

A consignment of 21 containers illegally exported to Sri Lanka has arrived back in England yesterday, the British Government website Gov.Uk reported.

The containers, which were shipped to Sri Lanka in 2017,

described as mattresses and carpets which had been exported for reuse.

With the shipment now back on English soil, EA enforcement officers will seek to confirm the types of waste illegally shipped and who exported it. Those responsible could face a custodial sentence of up to two years, an unlim-



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