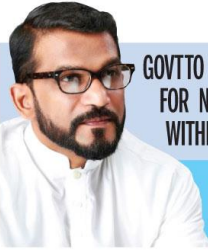


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SRI LANKA'S ENGLISH NEWSPAPER WITH THE LARGEST CIRCULATION

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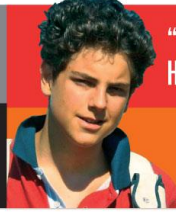
GOVT TO INTRODUCE DRAFT FOR NEW CONSTITUTION WITHIN SIX MONTHS

PAGE 4

JUDGE BARRETT'S APPOINTMENT SHOWS 20TH AMENDMENT WAS DEMOCRATIC



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"THE EUCHARIST IS MY HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN"

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Youth OBSERVER
KUMAR DHARMASENA

BRINGS GLORY TO MOTHER LANKA



PRESENT COVID-19 VIRUS SIMILAR TO THAT IN EUROPE - STUDY

SECOND WAVE MORE CONTAGIOUS

By Aanya Wipulasena and Maneshka Borham

The Covid-19 virus that has infected over 6,000 people up to now is similar to that in Europe, according to a new study by scientists of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. This rules out that the new cluster originated from India. The second wave of infections, with the first patient detected in a

Brandix facility in Minuwangoda early this month, is considered to be a result of a virus strain more contagious than that detected earlier. Since then, the number of Covid-19 patients has passed 10,000. The World Health Organization funded Sri Jayewardenepura University study presented to the Ministry of Health yesterday (31), found that the strain that had in-

fecting and sharing in 1 severe strategy, nep



LANKA'S COVID-19 DEATH RATE 0.2 PERCENT

GMOA presents nine strategies to tackle Covid-19 - Dr. Padeniya



By Nadira Gunatilleke

The Covid-19 death rate in Sri Lanka is 0.2 percent while it is to four percent in the world, said, Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) Consultant Paediatric Neurologist Andha Padeniya said. Dr. Padeniya said other countries such as the US ignored the elderly population who suffered from Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and other chronic diseases while managing Covid-19 which led to a large number of

deaths reported from those countries. However, in Sri Lanka, priority was given to protect the elderly and the sick. Dr. Padeniya said the GMOA has presented nine strategies to manage the current situation. The highest risk of a further spread in Covid-19 is in the supply chain. Therefore, the same system implemented for supply systems of the health sector and Security Forces should be applied promptly to all other supply chains in the country, he said. **SEE PAGE 2**

Cabraal dispels undue fears on debt service capacity

The following statement was issued by State Minister of Money and Capital Markets and State Enterprise Reforms Ajith Nivard Cabraal on October 30, 2020

"With the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, all countries including Sri Lanka, observed a contraction in economic activity, reduction in foreign exchange earnings, decrease in revenue collection, and increase in health and welfare related expenditure.

However, the prompt and measured policy support provided by the Government and the Central Bank enabled Sri Lanka to contain the unfavourable effects of Covid-19 to a great extent and return the economy to near-normalcy by mid-May 2020.

In fact, most economic activities have displayed a notable revival from May, and this recovery is on-going.

The recent detection of a new Covid-19 cluster is now being decisively addressed by the Government, and this wave is also expected to be short-lived.

SEE PAGE 2



The rehabilitation of the Neluwa-Lankagama road, which has been a long-standing need for the people in the isolated village of Lankagama in the Sinharaja Forest range, is in its final lap. The road will be completed within 90 days under President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's directive. President Rajapaksa reiterated his intention to fulfill the needs of the people without harming the environment when he visited the village late August. Hence, 2,100 new saplings will be added to the reserve following the opening of the new road that will also replace a rickety hanging-bridge with a permanent one. **More pictures on page 12.**

QUARANTINE FOR THOSE WHO LEFT WP AHEAD OF CURFEW

Legal action against violators

By Maneshka Borham

Police Spokesman, DIG Ajith Rohana said that at least 454 people who left the Western Province (WP) ahead of the quarantine curfew imposed on Friday (30) have been identified and will be quarantined. The public had been instructed to refrain from leaving the West-

ways on Thursday (29).

The Hattton-Dikoya PHI office had identified five people who had left the Western Province and had been found in estate areas. According to sources, they had been working in Wellawatte and Mattakuliya in Colombo. Officials have taken steps to quarantine them along with their families.

Earthquake: 26 people dead in Turkey and Greece

At least 26 people died in Turkey and Greece when a powerful earthquake hit the Aegean Sea on Friday afternoon, sending buildings crashing down and triggering what authorities have called a "mini tsunami."

Officials said 24 people died in coastal areas in Turkey's west, while two teenagers - a boy and a girl - died on the Greek island of Samos after a wall collapsed on them.

In Turkey, at least 20 buildings in the city of Izmir were destroyed, Mayor Tunçsoyer told CNN Turk. Images showed vehicles crushed



jured in Turkey, said the country's disaster agency.

Dozens were saved by rescue teams using diggers and helicopters to search for survivors

in 17 buildings, four of which have collapsed, said Turkey's Environment and Urbanisation Minister, Murat Kurum. Turkish President Recep

Fish stocks to check drop in demand

- Devananda

By Wasantha Ramanayake

Minister of Fisheries, Douglas Devananda has directed Ministry officials to use all cold storage facilities of the Ceylon Fisheries Harbour Corporation and the private sector to store fish stocks to check the pres-