

## CLOSELY MONITOR SELF-QUARANTINE PROCESS ONCE CURFEW IS LIFTED - PRESIDENT

**ECONOMIC CENTRES RESTRICTED TO WHOLESALE TRADE ONLY**

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa instructed officials to strictly monitor the self-quarantine process now under way to contain the spread of COVID-19 virus even after the curfew is lifted.

All families identified as having close contacts with COVID infected were directed to self-quarantine at their homes. Their number is closer to

84,000 in 31,457 houses islandwide. In the Western Province 40,676 belong to 13,911 families are currently undergoing self-quarantine.

President Rajapaksa issued these directives during the daily meeting with the members of the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 Prevention held at the Presidential Secretariat yesterday (5).

While paying special attention to close associates and the areas they belong to in the event infected persons are found in the community, and if necessary, President advised to declare those areas as isolated. Importance of concentrating on estates and flats was discussed in length.

It was decided to restrict the economic centres to wholesale trade only.

President noted that trade activities should continue while strictly adhering to health guidelines and continuously conducting PCR tests.

There is no need to obtain curfew passes for lorries transporting essential goods such as vegetables and fruits between districts.

Every step has been taken to continue operations at the Free Trade Zone

in Katunayake. The President also instructed to carry out random and continuous PCR tests in the trade zone under the supervision of the Health Ministry and Sri Lanka Navy with the assistance of private hospitals.

Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi, MP Madura Wickramage, Secretary to the President P. B. Jayasundera, Principal Advisor to the President Lalith



Wickramage and members of the Presidential Task Force were present during the meeting.

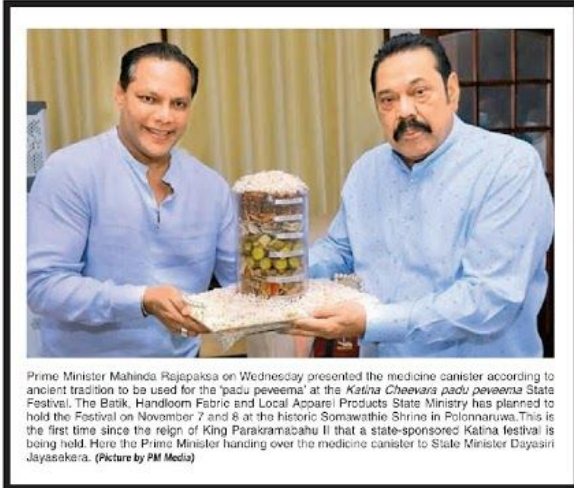
### Five COVID deaths yesterday

**Death toll rises to 29**

the overall death toll to 29, the Government Information Department said.

Director General of Health Services Asela Gunawardena confirmed the four deaths reported from Colombo and the other death reported from Wollampitiya. Accordingly, a 45-year-old resident of Colombo 2 died while receiving treatment at the Pimbara Base Hospital. He had tested positive for the coronavirus and was also a kidney patient.

ISHARA MUJUGAMUWA  
Another five persons were reported dead due to COVID-19 virus yesterday, raising



Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa on Wednesday presented the medicine canister according to ancient tradition to be used for the 'pacu peveema' at the Katina Chawara pacu peveema State Festival. The Batik Handloom Fabric and Local Apparel Products State Ministry has planned to hold the Festival on November 7 and 8 at the historic Somawathi Shrine in Polonnaruwa. This is the first time since the reign of King Parakramabahu II that a state-sponsored Katina festival is being held. Here the Prime Minister handing over the medicine canister to State Minister Dayasiri Jayasekera. (Picture by PM Media)

### High possibility of lifting curfew - Army Commander

Army Commander Lt. Gen. Shavendra Silva, yesterday said there is a high possibility of lifting the quarantine curfew currently in place in the Western Province on Monday.

Silva who also holds the positions of Chief of Defence Staff and Chief of the National Operations Centre for the Prevention of the spread of COVID-19 said, the measures adopted to control the virus spread under the instructions of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had yielded success.

He told the media that the President had imposed a 10-day curfew to prevent the spread of the virus in the most populous Western Province.



SUBASHINI SENANAYAKE

### Biden edges closer to White House

Former Vice President Joe Biden is just six electoral votes to reaching 270 in the presidential race after he was named the winner in Wisconsin and Michigan.

The race is now down to Pennsylvania, Georgia, Nevada, and North Carolina, while interesting numbers also emerge from Arizona.



### Maximum retail price for rice gazetted

**Legal action against rice mafia assured**

DILSHAN THARAKA

Trade Minister Dr. Bandula Gunawardena said that stern action would be taken against businessmen who sell rice in excess of the maximum retail price (MRP) imposed on rice by gazette effective from Wednesday.

Speaking to the media Minister Gunawardena yesterday stressed that all businessmen should act according to the guidelines given by the government, otherwise legal actions will be taken against unscrupulous traders who sell rice exceeding the MRP.



The *Sukva Dhavani* ayurvedic herbal medicine and several other Ayurvedic products which can help boost immunity against the COVID-19 virus presented to Trade Minister Dr. Bandula Gunawardena. The Ayurvedic medicine has been produced by the Pranasiewa Ayurveda headed by Sujesha Vihangan with the approval of the Ayurveda Department under the direction of the Indigenous Medicine Promotion, Rural and Ayurvedic Hospital Development and Community Health State Ministry. State Minister Sisira Jayakody was present. (Picture by Hiranthi Gunathilaka).

### Delay in probing Brandix Cluster: AG tells Acting IGP to act fast

DILSHAN THARAKA

Attorney General Dappula De Livera directed the Acting IGP to inform him immediately about the investigating team appointed to probe the spread of COVID-19 from the Minuwangoda Brandix cluster.

Attorney General's Coordinating Officer State Counsel Nishara Jayaratne said the AG had requested for information, as it appears that no police investigation had commenced yet.

On October 27, the Attorney General gave instructions to the Acting IGP

to transfer the criminal investigation probe into the Brandix cluster from the Colombo Crime Division (CCD) and to appoint a special investigating team from other units to investigate as certain CCD officers were recently tested positive for COVID-19.

On October 28, the Attorney General directed the Acting IGP to immediately begin a criminal investigation into the Brandix cluster and ordered to submit a preliminary progress report on the investigation on or before November 15.



**Work Capacity**

**CLICK**

The core first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Power Plant in Sri Lanka has been inaugurated at the Ceylon Electricity Corporation premises.

**Central Mail Exchange closed**

The Central Mail Exchange in Colombo was temporarily closed yesterday after a staff member had tested positive for COVID-19.

Post Master General Ranjith Ariyaratne in a statement said that all operations at the CME were temporarily halted yesterday following the detection. He said the CME will be disinfected and the resumption of services will be notified later.

**Public transport to be given additional benefits**

The Government has decided to unveil several transport-related measures next week to help maintain safe transport for public during the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures also include compensation measures for public transport operators.

Transport State Minister Dilan Amunugama said according to new measures only one passenger will be allowed to travel in a double seat.

### Report on illegal capture, trade of wild elephants

**Research team documents 55 cases from 2008 to 2018**

DISNA MUDALIGE  
Corruption of some wildlife officers and undue political and other interference are major challenges to overcome the illegal capture and domestic trade

of wild elephants in Sri Lanka, a recent study has highlighted. The Research paper titled "Illegal capture and internal trade of wild Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) in Sri Lanka" was published on November 3 in the 'Nature Conservation' Journal.



### Six Welikada inmates, jailor test COVID positive

DILSHAN THARAKA

Six Welikada Prison inmates and a jailor had tested positive for COVID-19, Prisons Commissioner and Spokesperson, Chandana Ekanayake said. Two convicted inmates, four remanded females and a jailor had tested positive for

COVID-19 during random PCR tests carried out in the prison. The convicted duo arrived at the Welikada prison on October 21 and 23 while the infected jailor had reported back for duty after four days off, he said.

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