

MINISTRY COMMITTEE TO PROBE RECENT COVID DEATHS

GMOA WANTS THOROUGH REVIEW INTO HOME CASUALTIES

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Health Ministry has taken measures to conduct a probe into the recent COVID-19 deaths in Colombo amidst the second wave of infections, Health Services Deputy Director General Dr. Hemantha Herath said yesterday.

Accordingly a three-member committee comprising the Primary Health Services Director Dr. Priyantha Atapattu, Consultant Dr. Hasitha Tissera of the Epidemiology Unit and Consultant Dr. Ajith Tennakoon has been appointed to conduct a scientific review into the COVID 19 related home deaths reported recently.

Dr Herath stated that eight out of the 22 deaths with the onset of the second corona wave were reported as home

deaths. Some of them died while undergoing quarantine and certain deaths were reported from isolated areas.

"There had been several reports of coronavirus patients dying at home in the Colombo district. Investigations were underway to determine whether there was an epidemiological or health cause for the deaths at home. Coronavirus infection could lead to pneumonia or other complications and we want to see whether the COVID-19 virus had directly or indirectly contributed to the recent deaths," he said.

Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) Secretary Dr. Senal Fernando said the Director General of Health Services has appointed a committee to review recent COVID related

deaths following a request made by the GMOA.

"We believe that this committee would be able to conduct a more thorough review on deaths caused by the COVID-19 virus," The GMOA Secretary said.

Dr. Fernando told the media yesterday that about 50 percent of recent COVID-19 deaths have occurred at home and that these conditions need to be reviewed.

Health Ministry Media Spokesman Dr. Jayaruwan Bandara yesterday said that the COVID-19 pandemic has made people reluctant to visit hospitals due to fear of catching the coronavirus.

"There is no reason to panic or get stressed."



GMOA Secretary Dr. Senal Fernando

Parliamentary Council approves six Judges to SC

JUSTICE ARJUNA OBEYSEKERE NAMED APPEAL COURT PRESIDENT

SUPREME COURT TO HAVE 17 JUDGES, APPEAL COURT 20 UNDER 20A

DISNA MUDALIGE

The Parliamentary Council which met yesterday cleared the names of six nominees as Supreme Court Judges and Justice Arjuna Obeyesekere as the Appeal Court President, Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena told the Daily News.

Speaker Abeywardena chaired the meeting and it was attended by all members of the Council. The meeting, which commenced at 10 am, continued for about an hour.

The Speaker said the new appointments would be made by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa shortly.

Court of Appeal President Justice A.M.D. Nawaz and Justices Kumudini

Wickremesinghe, Shiran Gunaratne, Achala Wengappuli, Mahinda Samayawardana and Janak de Silva were President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's nominees to the Supreme Court.

Asked whether Attorney General (AG) Dappula de Livera PC had submitted any observation with regard to the nominees, the Speaker said that the Council received no such submissions from the AG.

A member of the Council told the Daily News that all the above names were cleared after scrutinising their profiles. In addition, the President had proposed to appoint Appeal Court Judge Justice Arjuna Obeyesekere as the Appeal Court President and the

No change in decision to cremate COVID victims - Ministry

There is no change to the Health Ministry's decision to cremate COVID-19 victims who pass away, Health Ministry spokesperson Dr. Jayaruwan Bandara said.

Dr. Bandara told the media yesterday that there was no truth to the social media reports lately that the Health Ministry had decided to allow the burial of those who died after contracting COVID-19.



FIVE COVID DEATHS YESTERDAY, TOTAL 41

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

Another five coronavirus linked deaths were reported yesterday bringing the pandemic death toll to 41.

Government Information Director General Nalaka Kaluhewa said Health Services Director General Dr. Asela Gunawardena confirmed the five deaths reported from Colombo and Gampaha districts.



PCR tests were carried testing process to identify

trywide



Pharma making zone in Ham! 200 acres for 20 companies in

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The government has decided to establish a pharmaceutical manufacturing zone at Arabokka estate in Hambantota.

The Information Director General stated that it has been planned to establish a special pharmaceutical manufacturing zone with modern

facilities within an extent Arabokka estate in Hambantota. The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal submitted by the Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi to

No objection to burial of COVID dead - Minister

The Government will not object if the health authorities approve the burial of those who died after contracting COVID-19, Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera said. He said this matter was extensively discussed at the Cabinet meeting on Monday.

"This decision will be taken by the health authorities," the Minister told journalists at a media briefing yesterday.

Bus fares revised to meet COVID restrictions

IRANGIKA RANGE

The Government has authorised a 1.2% increase in the bus fares in areas where the number of passengers in a bus has been restricted to the number of seats available. The minimum bus fare

More than 250 mm of rainfall has been reported in several areas in the Mullaitivu district, the Meteorology Department said yesterday.

The Department forecast showers or thundershowers will occur at times in Northern, Eastern, North Central and North Western province.

Heavy showers above 300 mm can be expected at some places in Northern, North Central and



Stocks in State granaries to be sold at gazetted prices

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The government has decided to sell the paddy stocks in the possession of the District Secretaries and paddy stocks owned by the Paddy Marketing Board through Sathosa outlets by threshing them into rice. The Director General of Information said Cabinet approval

has been granted to sell these rice stocks to consumers under the gazetted price.

This decision was reached after considering the current rice shortage in the market and the owners of rice mills being unable to supply sufficient rice stocks under the controlled price.

Elephant twins stillborn in Polonnaruwa

AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

The carcasses of stillborn elephant twins were found by the wildlife authorities in Mahasenpura, Polonnaruwa recently.

According to the Wildlife Department this is the same area where Sri Lanka witnessed its first recorded twin elephant birth in July, 2020. According to the DWC



Elephant twins, a rarity.

Relief for inter-provincial buses to continue

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Cabinet of Ministers approved a proposal made by Transport Minister Gamini Lokuge to further extend relief previously granted to the inter-provincial passenger bus owners till the end of this year.

A decision had been taken to release the permit updating charges, delay charges (penalty charges), tender

Rise in COVID recoveries, 4,712 under medical care

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The number of coronavirus recoveries of the country has increased to 9,537 with 657 recoveries reported yesterday, Health Ministry Epidemiology Unit stated.

Accordingly, the country's confirmed COVID-19 positive cases stands at 14,590 and 4,712 of them are still under medical care.

The National Operations Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCP-CO) yesterday stated that the total number of COVID-19 positive cases reported from Mimuwangoda garment factory

Court bars Mawanella PS from holding meeting

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

A restraining order has been issued preventing the Mawanella Pradeshiya Sabha from holding its sessions for seven days.

Acting Police Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana said that as the area was placed under lockdown such a meeting could not be held. However, measures had been taken to hold the Pradeshiya Sabha meeting yesterday morning despite the prohibition of such gatherings under quarantine laws.

"The Mawanella Police had received information about the monthly session of the Mawanella Pradeshiya Sabha being scheduled to be held yesterday morning. Police gathered soon