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Over Rs. 7,564 mn provided as COVID-19 relief to 1,452,954 families

The Government has spent Rs.7,564.71 million to provide relief to 1,452,954 families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Accordingly, Rs.10,000 worth essential items have been provided to 43,376 families while a sum of Rs.5,000 each has been given to 1,409,578 families, according to

the Government Information Department. Following the re-emergence of COVID-19 virus in Divulapitiya, relief has been provided to 43,376 families while the Treasury has released Rs.7564.71 million to provide relief to the people who were out of work due to restrictions on movement and curfew.

Over 7,500 families in the Colombo District, 7,000 families in the Gampaha District and 4,000 families in the Kalutara District, 2,961 families in the Kurunegala District and 2,378 families in the Batticaloa District have been provided with essential items containing dry rations.

Meanwhile, an allowance of Rs.5,000 was granted to 544,254 families in the Gampaha District, 466,720 families in the Colombo District, 262,000 families in the Kalutara District, 93,914 families in the Kurunegala, 27,550 Batticaloa and 15,140 in Ratnapura Districts.

SPECIAL FOCUS ON NCDs IN ANTI-COVID DRIVE

- Movements to and from Western Province severely restricted
- Persons with NCDs more vulnerable to COVID
- Awareness programmes for NCD patients



CHAMIKARA WEERASINGHE

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa yesterday instructed the health authorities to establish infection prevention and control strategies against COVID-19 with a special focus on protecting persons with Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), such as heart, diabetes and kidney ailments and cancer, a

nerable to COVID-9. The impact of COVID-19 is more significant than reports from across the world. It has been learnt that COVID-19 deaths are



Nineteen day debate for 2021 Appropriation Bill



The Committee on Parliamentary Business has decided upon a 19-day debate for the 2021 Appropriation Bill which will be presented in Parliament on November 17.

Accordingly, the Secretary General of Parliament Dhammika Dasanayake stated that the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill will be debated from November 18 to 21 and the Vote on the Second Reading will be taken on November 21 at 5p.m.

The debate of the Committee Stage will commence on November 23 and is scheduled to conclude on 10th of December. The Vote will be held at 5 p.m on the same day as further stated by the Secretary General Dhammika Dasanayake.

LTTE ban should continue, India tells UK

India has told the United Kingdom that the ban of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) should continue.

New Delhi has "shared information" as to why the ban should remain on the group that was responsible for the 30-year long insurgency in Sri Lanka but also the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

The development comes after Britain's

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PCoI on Easter Sunday terror attacks resumes proceedings today

LAHIRU FERNANDO

Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) probing the Easter Sunday terror attacks will resume its proceedings today after a two-week temporary suspension period due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

The PCoI proceedings were temporarily suspended on Octo-

ber 27 following the sudden outbreak of the second wave and after a Colombo Crimes Division (CCD) officer attached to the Investigation Unit of the Commission tested positive for COVID-19.

"However, today's Commission proceedings will not be open to the media," PCoI sources said.

COVID-19 deaths 45, recoveries top 10,000

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Health Ministry yesterday reported another four fatalities from COVID-19, raising the overall death toll to 45.

According to the Director General of Health Services Dr Asela Gunawardane, a 80-year-old resident of Panadura had died while being admitted to the Police hospital. The post mortem examination had revealed that the deceased had contracted the coronavirus and the cause of death has been reported as a heart attack suffered as a result of COVID-19.

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In the wake of the increasing number of COVID-19 positive cases in the country, random PCR tests were conducted in many parts of the Colombo and Gampaha districts. Here, a PCR test being conducted on a Policeman in Colombo. Picture by Thushara Fernando

Work on Rs.15,183 mn BIA Expansion Project to commence

MAHINDA ALUTHGEDARA

Work on the Katunayake Bandara Naik International Airport (BIA) Expansion Project, the largest development project to be launched this year, is all set to commence on November 18.

The project is being implemented at a cost of Rs.15,183 million with the objective of increasing the annual passenger handling capacity of the International Airport.

Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga says that construction work will commence on the occasion of the first anniversary of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's inauguration as

President and would also coincide with the birthday of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Construction work of this project will take place in two "A" and "B" phases. The cost of the "A" phase will be Rs.108 billion.

It is scheduled to be completed in three years and under the first phase (Phase "A"), the buildings connected to the main terminal building, passenger bridges, storm water drainage system, elevated roads, electricity, water supply and waste disposal system, compact machinery and a five storey car park will also be constructed.

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Guidelines for disposal of face masks, gloves used in isolated areas

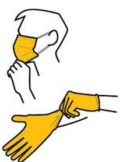
SHAVINI MADHARA AND RIDMI AMODA

The Central Environmental Authority (CEA) has issued a set of guidelines for the disposal of face masks and gloves used in isolated areas, houses and by the public for quarantine purposes, said Central Environmental Authority Chairman S.Samarasinghe.

He expressed these views at a media briefing held at the Central Environmental Authority yesterday (10).

The CEA Chairman said these series of guidelines have been issued to all Local Government bodies.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, PPE such as masks and gloves, which are disposed of by the Government in



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Govt. should do more to contain COVID-19 spread

100,000 rapid antigen test kits to arrive next week
Rapid COVID-19 detection test in Sri Lanka soon

World's longest-serving PM

Mortality rate among COVID-19 patients is 28 per 10,000 patients