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Pavithra requests political parties, key stakeholders

Support Govt's COVID-19 prevention programme

CAMELIA NATHANIEL AND AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi yesterday (13) called on all political parties and key stakeholders to support the Government to control the COVID-19 pandemic and save the country's economy from collapsing.

The Health Minister was delivering the winding up speech concluding the Adjournment Debate on the COVID-19 pandemic prevailing in the country, as moved by the Opposition.

Health Minister Wanniarachchi pointed out that the role of the Government is to control the COVID-19 pandemic while not allowing the country to collapse economically.

Health Minister Wanniarachchi stated that she has full confidence in health and military authorities to fully control the second wave of the pandemic in the country. "Special mention should be made of the Secretary of Health Ministry, Dr. Sanjeeva Munasinghe, who leads the administration of the Ministry as a very capable officer. Similarly, the Director General of Health has obtained the highest marks from the selection interview for the DG post. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Army Chief assures

SECOND WAVE UNDER CONTAINMENT

● Minimum impact on economy public

● PCR tests continue apace

Army Chief General Anura Kumara Dissanayake yesterday (13) assured that the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic is under containment and the impact on the economy will be minimal. He said that the Government is fully committed to controlling the pandemic and ensuring the safety of the public. He also mentioned that the PCR tests are being conducted at a rapid pace. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Chief General Anura Kumara Dissanayake



DEEPAVALI MESSAGES

Deepavali helps dispel darkness of ignorance - President



Hindu devotees across the globe light lamps and engage in religious observances with the expectation of dispelling darkness of ignorance and illuminating wisdom today, states President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in a Deepavali Message.

The message: "Deepavali festival is a renowned cultural celebration where the devotees extend wishes of enlightenment and share greetings with love and compassion. In my view, cultural festivals of this nature provide a great opportunity to build communal reconciliation and mutual understanding among the people and empower ethnic and religious harmony.

"At a time when the entire world is facing unprecedented difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic, such an opportunity to observe and celebrate one's own religious beliefs is, indeed, a consolation. I believe Hindu devotees living in the country and overseas would jointly commit themselves to God to seek solace during this Deepavali festive season. I believe it would be a blessing for our objective to establish a righteous society and a healthy country. I wish all those who celebrate this festival of enlightenment would attain the inner peace they expect".

Deepavali symbolizes the spiritual victory of light over darkness - PM

I would like to wish a very Happy Deepavali to all those celebrating the Festival of Lights in Sri Lanka and around the world. Lighting a lamp at this joyous occasion, symbolizes the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance, states Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa in a Deepavali Message.



The message: "Deepavali is also a reminder that we must dedicate ourselves to overcome every challenge together as a community. It is through unity that we can defeat ignorance and ensure that compassion prevails in our heart. As a nation that defeated the evils of ignorance and separation time and time again, may the radiance of lamps lit, continue to bring peace and unity to our land.

"As we strive to overcome the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic together, we must also strive to uplift each other and ensure our shared quest of a bright and peaceful future for Sri Lanka is realized. I wish all Hindu devotees in Sri Lanka and world over, a very happy, safe and peaceful Deepavali".

Kalutara JVP PS member announces sudden resignation

H.L. SUNIL SHANTHA - Kalutara Central special Corr.

Kalutara Pradeshiya Sabha (PS) JVP member Textan Samarathna who represented the party for 18 years resigned from the PS on November 12 citing personal reasons.

Samarathna who entered politics from the JVP and represented the Kalutara Pradeshiya Sabha continuously since 2002 announced his 'sudden' resignation. He rendered a yeoman service as a graduate teacher and was attached to the IT Section of Tissa Central College. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Specialist health authorities decided on cremation - Wimal

DILSHAN THARAKA and RAKSHANA SRIVANTHA

Industries Minister Wimal Weerawansa said that it was decided by specialist health authorities that the bodies of those who died due to the COVID-19 epidemic should not be buried and only cremated.

He further said the Cabinet was not the place to make decisions about burying or cremating anyone who died from COVID-19 and the Cabinet had not decided to change that decision at all. He was speaking to the media after providing an allowance of Rs.5,000 to the people affected by the COVID-19 epidemic in several Grama Niladhari Divisions in Malabe in the Kaduwela Divisional Secretariat area yesterday.

"Four hundred and fifty thousand affected families in the Colombo district have been given an allowance of Rs. 5,000 and 9000 families who have been quarantined have been given relief bags of worth Rs.10,000 so far," he added. He further said that all Sri Lankans should join hands to help contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic at this juncture leaving aside the debate on what should be done to separate, MP Pradeep Udugoda and Colombo Government Agent Pradeep Yasaratne was present.

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Imprisoned MPs not allowed to attend Parliament sessions

CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

As a part of strict health regulations followed during the COVID-19 pandemic the Committee on Parliamentary Affairs has decided not to allow Members of Parliament who are presently at the Borella

Prison and the Magazine Prison to attend sittings. Accordingly, Batticaloa District Development Committee Chairman and Tamil Makkal Vidithalai Pulikal Party (TMVP) leader Sivanesathurai Chandrakanthan, All Ceylon Makkal Congress leader **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Over 11,000 COVID-19 patients recover

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country surpassed the 11,000 mark yesterday.

According to the statistics of the Epidemiology Unit of the Health Ministry, the total recoveries from the infection reached 11,031 with active cases standing at 4,644.

The total number of COVID-19 positive cases detected from the country reached 15,723 by yesterday morning.



The National Operations Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 (NOCOPCO) yesterday stated that the total number of COVID-19 positive cases reported from Minuwangoda garment factory employees and Peliyagoda Fish Market stands at 12,226 and around 3106 of them are from the Minuwangoda cluster and all other 9,120 were from Peliyagoda Fish Market cluster. By yesterday morning (13), about 30,000 persons of first and second **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Lankan King Coconut water takes UK by storm

A new Coconut tea product that combines King coconut water with Sri Lankan green tea and natural fruit flavourings under the "Raja" (King) brand has created a buzz in the UK.

The King Coconut ingredient at the heart of the range is well-known in its native Sri Lanka, and has been used for centuries in Ayurvedic health treatments, but is mostly unfamiliar to those in the West.

London-based brand design agency Lewis Moberly has created the identity for organic King Coconut water drinks range Coconuta.

The range was created by entrepreneurs Sanjiv Rai and Calvin Lobendhan, who briefed the agency to create a holistic design system that looked to "disrupt the luxury health drink market." Lewis Moberly worked on the naming, brand identity and packaging for the range, which will be sold online through the Coconuta website—also designed by the agency—and on Amazon.

Rishad further remanded

SHAVINI MADHARA

Colombo Fort Magistrate Priyanka Liyanage yesterday rejected the bail application submitted by former Minister Rishad Bathiudeen and ordered the MP to be further remanded until November 25.

The Ex-Minister is charged with Criminal Misappropriation of Public Funds to the tune of Rs.9.5

million and violation of Election laws with regard to the Transport of IDPs in CTB buses to vote at the 2019 Presidential Election.

Former Minister Rishad Bathiudeen, the director of the project Mohomed Yaseen Samsudeen and the project accountant Alagarathnam Manoranjan are accused of violating Article 82(1) of Presidential Election Act, No 15 of 1981 by misappropriating public funds.

Prosecution Mohamed Yazin was granted bail by the Colombo Fort Magistrate's court. The magistrate ordered the suspect **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Speaker requested to seat Opposition MPs who supported 20A on Govt. side