

# SUNDAY OBSERVER

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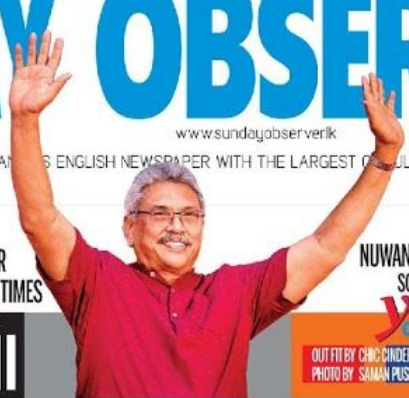
**GOVT CONFIDENT OF IMPLEMENTING BUDGET PROPOSALS**

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**A LEADER FOR ALL TIMES**

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**NUWANGI BANDARA SOUTHERN BELLE Youth Observer**

OUT FIT BY CHINO CINDERELLA  
PHOTO BY SAMAN PUSHPANJARA

## PRIORITIES WILL BE IDENTIFIED

# INVESTMENT-DRIVEN BUDGET 2021 - CABRAAL

By Uditha Kumarasinghe

State Minister of Money and Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms, Ajith Nivard Cabraal said there are several new ventures that will be promoted through Budget 2021 to ensure that the people will make investments and that it will be an investment-driven Budget.

The Government has about 289 ongoing projects, each more than billions of

rupees. We will ensure that those projects are completed fast and the growth momentum maintained. These avenues are open to the Government and the country, which we will promote, the State Minister told the Sunday Observer yesterday.

We also wish to ensure that the macro fundamentals remain stable. That is, the rupee to be stable and interest rates to be stable at lower rates. We must ensure that

the reserves are built and unemployment is kept in check, which will help take the country forward in the next five years, he said. State Minister Cabraal said several priorities will be identified in the Budget. One is the water-based projects to ensure that the people will enjoy pipe borne water in the future.

At present, nearly 42 to 43 percent of the people have pipe borne water and we wish to increase that to 93 percent.

During the tenure of President Mahinda Rajapaksa, only 70 percent of the population had electricity, but the Government increased the coverage to 99 percent. We will also be looking at 100,000 kilometres of road projects which are supported by the Government.

He said Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) should flow into the country, for which we are arranging new pockets of sources. **SEE PAGE 2**

Birthday of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and also, it is one year since he became the Prime Minister for the fourth time

A successful but difficult journey, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. It has been a year since he became President

**Memorable NOVEMBER**

**Best wishes**

by the Sunday Observer on a successful journey forward

### 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour'

Today's Sunday Observer will carry an eight-page supplement to mark the special anniversaries and celebrations in November titled 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour'. It is in Roman numerals, instead of the normal pages 33 to 40.

**PRESIDENT'S FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE**

## NO STATE CEREMONIES



No state ceremonies or events will be held to mark President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's first year anniversary in office on November 18, in keeping with the policy set out by the President. Since his assuming office, the President has instructed officials to desist from extravagant celebrations spending state funds for publicity stunts, a senior official

said. The President has also called upon those willing to wish him not to organise special events incurring unnecessary expenditure.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa was elected as the seventh Executive President of the country securing a landslide victory at the Presidential Election on...

**SEE PAGE 2**

## PCR tests on dead bodies not mandatory

By Aanya Wipulasena

The Ministry of Health (MoH) is taking steps to reverse a recent decision by the Registrar General making it mandatory for family members of a deceased to take a PCR test before the final rites are performed.

A source from the MoH said the reversed decision will be announced soon. The Registrar General has told



officials to immediately halt the notification of deaths in high-risk areas and release the body only if PCR is performed. **SEE PAGE 2**



The Diwali Festival of Light was celebrated by Hindus in Sri Lanka on a subdued note yesterday due to the pandemic. Hindu devotees across the country participated in the Diwali message yesterday. **SEE PAGE 2**

**BUDGET ON NOVEMBER 17**

**Budget**

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Mahinda Rajapaksa will present the maiden Budget of the SLPP Government in Parliament on November 17.

The Second Reading debate on Budget 2021 is scheduled from November 18 to 21. The Second Reading vote will be taken on November 21.

The Third Reading debate will continue from November 23 to December 10, and the Third Reading vote will be on December 10.

The Committee on Parliamentary Business which met at the parliamentary complex on Wednesday (November 11) decided to fix 21 days for the Budget debate including the date of presentation of the Budget Speech. **SEE PAGE 2**



**GMOA cautions Covid-19 'wildfire spread' in Colombo**

The Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) warned that the Covid-19 pandemic in Colombo could further aggravate if strict measures are not imposed to contain the wildfire spread of the virus within the district, especially the Colombo Municipal Council (CMC) area.

GMOA General Secretary, Dr Haritha Alarage said that the Colombo district had reported 1,083 positive cases within five days. **SEE PAGE 2**

**Some institutions instructed**

By Nadira Gunatilleke

The Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) has received communications from certain heads of institutions who defy instructions given by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and the health authorities on restricting the number of employees permitted to work in offices, GMOA Editor Dr. Haritha Alarage said.

Some heads of institutions and departments demanded all or most employees to report to duty. In one instance, an employee who was under

lockdown was sent to work. **SEE PAGE 2**

**TESTIFYING BEFORE THE COMMISSION**

No protection for Ismath yet

By a Staff Reporter

Justice Silva issued this order on October 27, following an incident where Ismath was threatened within the Commission premises.

Ismath, an ex-Muslim who testified before the Parliamentary Committee to investigate the Easter Sunday attacks and the current Presidential Commission on the attack, is a key witness testifying against the terrorists. According to Ismath, he had received threats from Zahran and other extremists since 2016. **SEE PAGE 2**

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