

## A GREAT DISCIPLE OF BUDDHA WITH UNMATCHED WISDOM AND VIRTUE - PRESIDENT



The funeral of the Mahanayake Thera of the Ramannaya Maha Nikaya Most Ven. Napane Pemasiri Thera took place yesterday afternoon at the SWRD Bandaranaike National College grounds with state honours. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa paying his last respects to the late Mahanayake Thera.

DINULI FRANCISCO

The wisdom, virtues and humane qualities of the former Chief Prelate of Sri Lanka Ramanna Maha Nikaya Aggamaha Panditha Most Ven. Napane Pemasiri Mahanayake Thera were a great blessing and example to society, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said yesterday.

President Rajapaksa said that the demise of the Most Ven. Thera is a great loss to the Buddha Sasana, to the nation as well as to Buddhists all over the world and personally unbearable loss for him too.

The President was speaking at cremation ceremony of the Aggamaha Panditha Most Ven. Napane Pemasiri Mahanayake Thera which was held at the Bandaranaike National School Grounds in Warapitiya, Kundasale

of Buddhism and being the backbone in cultivating a cultured, pious society.



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in conversation with new Mahanayake of the Ramannaya Maha Nikaya, Most Ven. Makulewe Wimala Thera. Former MP Ven Dr. Omalpe Sobhitha Thera was also present. (Pictures by Jeevan Chandimal, Presidential Media Division).

l con-  
gha g  
eth-  
agate  
ighly  
02



# WEBSITE REGISTRATION PROCESS SUON

**CURBS ON FANNING RACISM THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA**

Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella attending the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Mass Media on Saturday had stated that a proper mechanism for the regulation of local websites is needed and will be implemented within the next two weeks.

MP Dr. Suren Raghavan commenting on the matter stated that attempts to incite racism through social media should be curbed. Adding to his remarks, Education Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris said that

a new law has been passed in Singapore to control such matters and having studied such laws, the formulation of a new mechanism should be made.

Minister Rambukwella stressed that the Press Council Act should be amended in a way that would protect the dignity of the citizens. He also said that the rights of all citizens should be protected by the media.

The Minister also pointed out that defamation which is unjust should have some con-

**PARLIAMENT PROCEEDINGS ON CHANNEL EYE AGAIN**

trol and that media regulation is required.

Speaking at the event, MP Prof. Charitha Herath, said that having discussed the amendments to the Press Council Act at the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Mass Media would make its progress more convenient. He also said that a proper mechanism should be formulated to regulate television and radio broadcasts as well.

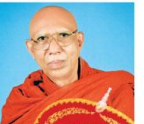
Minister of Education Prof. G. L. Peiris stated that it is convenient to refer the

**PROFITABILITY TARGETED FOR STATE-OWNED CHANNELS**



relevant amendments to the legal Drafting Committee after having it referred by the Ministerial Consultative Committee.

## Makulewe Wimala Thera elected of the Ramanna Maha Nikaya



ASELA KURULUWANSA

Chief Incumbent of Vidyavasa Privena in Minnioluwa, Mirigama and Anunayake of the Ramanna Maha Nikaya, Most Ven. Makulewe Wimala Thera has been elected Mahanayake Thera of Sri Lanka Ramanna Maha Nikaya unanimously yesterday.

The new Mahanayake Thera was elected at a Special Sangha Sabha meeting held at the Central Provincial Council auditorium in Pallekelle yesterday, under the patronage of the Registrar of the Sri Lanka Ramannaya Maha Nikaya, Most Ven. Attangane Sasana Rathana Thera.

The Thera had held a number of positions in Sri Lanka Ramannaya Maha Nikaya including Adhikarana Sanghanayake and Sangha Lekakadhikari. Most Ven. Wimala Thera (72), was appointed Anunayake of the Chapter on September 25, 2020.

## Isolation lifted in Borella, Wellampitiya, Colombo Fort and Slave Island areas

No lift for Wekanda, Wanathamulla

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

The isolation status in selected areas in the Colombo and Gampaha districts has been lifted from today (23), acting Police Media Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana said.

He said as per the directives of the National Operation Centre for the Prevention of COVID-19, the isolation status imposed in Borella, Wellampitiya, Colombo Fort, and Slave Island in the Colombo District has been lifted from 5 am today (23).

But, the Wekanda Grama Niladari Division in the Slave Island Police Area and Wanathamulla Grama Niladari

## COPE unravels major irregularities in Central Expressway construction

Delay on first section from 2015 to 2019, caused loss of Rs. 8 billion

The Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE) held in Parliament last Friday disclosed that the construction of the Central Expressway has been surrounded by several irregularities.

Accordingly, it was revealed that the more than Rs. 1.7 billion had been spent on the feasibility study of this road alone, a statement issued by the Parliamentary Communication Division said on Saturday.

It was revealed that the delay in the commencement of work on the first section of the Central Expressway extending from Kadawatha



to Mirigama during from 2015 to 2019, has caused a financial loss of Rs. 8 billion.

It was also revealed that the selection of SMEC for the first feasibility study took place without a procurement process. Furthermore, the project which was under three phases as the Northern Expressway in 2012 had been changed to four phases as the Central Expressway by 2015.

## Rishad to file petition in SC against CA verdict

SUBHASHINI SENANAYAKE and DILSHAN THARAKA

Former Minister Rishad Bathudeen told the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) probing the Easter Sunday attacks that he will file a petition in the Supreme Court against the decision of the Court of Appeal regarding the deforestation of the sanctuary adjacent to the Wilpattu National Park.



He said this while testifying before the Commission through Skype technology from the Magazine Prison on Saturday.

## Someone above Zahran behind Easter attacks - Former CID SDIG

SUBHASHINI SENANAYAKE and DILSHAN THARAKA

CID's former Senior DIG Ravi Seneviratne testifying for the first time before the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) probing Easter Sunday attacks said that according to the investigation carried out by the CID, he suspects that there should be someone above Easter Sunday attacks mastermind Zahran Hashim.

Testifying further he said that investigations had revealed that the suicide



bombers including Zahran Hashim had planned to carry out this attack in 2020.

Testifying before the Commission regarding incidents where the CID conducted investigations

## COVID dead: Cremations to continue

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Committee of Experts appointed by the government to make recommendations on whether the bodies of COVID dead persons should be cremated or buried informed their initial decision to the Director General of Health Services yesterday.

Sources said the Committee has instructed to cremate bodies till they make their final decision with regard to the issue. A committee of epidemiological and medical experts was appointed to conduct a review to decide the appropriate methods of disposal of deceased COVID-19 victims and conclude whether it is acceptable to allow for burial as well.

## COVID recoveries increase to 14,069

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The number of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 in the country has increased to 14,069 with 479 more recoveries reported yesterday.

According to the statistics of the Health Ministry's Epidemiology Unit, 5,619 patients are under medical observation. The total number of COVID-19 positive cases detected from the country reached 19,771 by yesterday morning.