

COLOMBO'S LOCKED DOWN FAMILIES TO GET FURTHER RELIEF

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

Colombo District Secretary Pradeep Yasaratne said the government had already provided Rs. 2,476 million to provide essential services to families affected by COVID-19 in the Colombo District. He was participating at the special media briefing of the government held online at the Government Information Department. "It is our responsibility to take care of 2.4 million people in the Colombo District. As the health authorities work to control the COVID-19 epidemic, our biggest challenge is to take care of 600,000 people in the Colombo Divisional Secretariat. Today the epidemic is spreading rapidly within the Municipal Council area," he said. He said that the health authorities cur-



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rently take various measures to control the epidemic and we have to take all necessary measures to provide the necessary facilities to the people in the worst affected areas. Around 12,248 families in the Colombo Divisional Secretariat Division are under cur-

The District secretary further said that at present 13 police divisions in the city of Colombo have been isolated. Eight apartments have also been isolated. We were instructed to provide the people with essential services during the lockdown. We provide essential services through mobile vans through out the city for 14 days. The lockdown will continue for 14 days. According to the District Secretary, in some places there are still some isolated areas. The government is taking steps to this end.



CA quashes Jaffna Magistrate's summons on President

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Court of Appeal yesterday issued an order quashing the Jaffna Magistrate's decision to issue summons on President Gotabaya Rajapaksa requiring him to appear before Jaffna Magistrate's Court as a witness in connection with the Habeas Corpus inquiry. The Court of Appeal President Justice A.H.M.D. Nawaz and Justice Sobhitha Rajakuruna made this order taking into consideration the preliminary objections raised by counsel who appeared on behalf of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. Upholding preliminary objections raised by the petitioner (President Rajapaksa), the Court of Appeal



observed that a Magistrate cannot mechanically issue summons on any person on a request of a party to be present to administer evidence. With the reviewing of Jaffna Magistrate's decision through a writ of certiorari, President Rajapaksa will not be required to attend Jaffna Magistrate's Court in terms of the summons issued to the Petitioner. **TOP PAGE 02**

Pay compensation for lands before irrigation projects begin - Minister



Irrigation Minister and Internal Security, Home Affairs and Disaster Management State Minister Chamal Rajapaksa. State Minister Siripala Gamlath and the Ministry Secretary at the meeting.

Compensation should be paid for lands acquired prior to the commencement of irrigation projects, Irrigation Minister and Internal Security, Home Affairs and Disaster Management State Minister Chamal Rajapaksa said. Addressing the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Irrigation in Parliament on Monday (23), the Minister emphasised that attention should be given to cater to the needs of people who are losing their lands and that they should be justly compensated, to receive their blessings for projects in return. The Minister instructed the relevant divisions to take necessary measures required for this purpose immediately. The Minister made an emphasis on this regard when MP Dilan Perera revealed that 6,000 families who had lost their lands as a result of the Uma Oya Multipurpose Development Project had not yet been compensated. **TOP PAGE 02**

BOOST FOR LOCAL TYRE INDUSTRY



Industries Minister Wimal Weerawansa made an inspection tour of Rigid Tyre Corporation (Pvt.) Ltd. at the BOI Industrial Zone in Horana recently. Following the observation tour, the Minister said 100 per cent locally manufactured high quality tyres will be released to local and foreign markets from January next year. About USD 100 million has been invested for this manufacturing company under Phase I and USD 150 million will be invested for its Phase II. State Minister Jayantha Samaraweera, Ministry Secretary Chulananda Perera and Rigid Tyre Corporation Chairman Namdana Lokuvithana also joined in the observation tour. (Picture by Ingiriya Group Kumari Gamage)

MP Chandrakanthan, four others granted bail

SIVAM PACKIYANATHAN, Batticaloa special corr.



Tamil Makkal Viduthalaipuligal Party (TMVP) leader and Batticaloa District MP Sivanesathurai Chandrakanthan alias Pillaiyan and four others were granted bail yesterday (24). They were in remand for the alleged murder of Batticaloa District TNA Parliamentarian Joseph Pararajasingam in 2005. They were granted bail

by the Batticaloa High Court. The next hearing of this case has been fixed for December 8. **TOP PAGE 02**

Two held with 372 fake US\$ 100 notes



DINULI FRANCISCO

Two suspects have been arrested by the Kantale police with 372 forged US\$ 100 notes on Monday (23), the Police said. Police Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana said 341 fake 100 US dollar notes were seized from one suspect and 31 notes were seized from the other. The Divisional Detec-



tive Bureau of Kantale police had made the arrest on a tip-off. One of the suspects was a resident of Bandarawela and the other was from Ibbagamuwa aged 42 and 48. **TOP PAGE 02**

Planned LTTE commemoration day efforts AG's teams appear in Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi and Jaffna Courts

DILSHAN THARAKA

Attorney General Dappula De Livera had instructed officers of the Attorney General's Department to make submissions at Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi and Jaffna Magistrate's Courts to prevent the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) commemoration day (Mahaviru Dinaya) ceremonies planned to be held this week in the Northern Province. **TOP PAGE 02**



Education trade unions engaged in scare mongering - Media Minister

Schools to continue with health guidelines in 'New Normal' conditions



Mass Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella charged that some trade unions in the education sector were engaged in scare mongering and were fishing in troubled waters. He said the people should condemn attempts made by such trade unions to scuttle the move to re-open schools for those from

Grade 6 to 13. He was speaking at the special media conference held online yesterday at the Government Information Department. He said the decision taken by the Government to re-open schools islandwide apart from those in the Western Province and isolated areas, was to assist students to continue learning providing solutions for all the issues that have arisen due to the pandemic situation.

Education Ministry Secretary Prof. Kapila Perera said that according to Education Ministry statistics, 35% of the students and 85% of the teachers in the North Western Province had attended school on Monday (23). Around 15% of the students and 80 percent of the teachers in the Southern Province, around 55% of the students and 86% of teachers in Sabaragamuwa Province had attended school. **TOP PAGE 02**

Former President presents Singapore Hospital reports Commission says: 'for our eyes only'



LAHIRU FERNANDO

Former President Maithripala Sirisena presented medical reports pertaining to his treatment at a Singapore Hospital during his stay there between April 16 and 21, 2019 to the Presidential Commission of Inquiry

Probing the Easter Sunday attacks yesterday. On a previous occasion the Commission ordered Sirisena to present the documentary evidence to prove that he underwent medications during his visit at the time the bombings took place. **TOP PAGE 02**

Increase allowance for Colombo's lockdown families - Opposition Leader

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI
Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa requested the Government to increase the monetary relief provided for the people in

lockdown areas in Colombo. Raising a question under Standing Order 27/2 in Parliament, Premadasa said the Rs. 5000 allowance was not sufficient for a family to survive for a month. **TOP PAGE 02**

