

# Daily News



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State Minister Ajith Nivard Cabraal discloses

## YAHAPALANA GOVT. IMPORTED COPPER WORTH RS. 63,807 M

■ Copper imports stopped by present Govt

■ Copper recycling encouraged

■ Copper to be extracted from Seruwawila deposits

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

The Yahapalana Government has allowed Rs. 63,807 million worth copper to be imported into the country during its rule, State Minister Ajith Nivard Cabraal yesterday revealed in Parliament.

State Minister Cabraal made this revelation in reply to a question Government MP Mohamed Muzammil asked during the oral questions round.

It was observed that during the Yahapalana regime, a copper factory owner who has direct links to Easter Sunday terror attacks, has been allowed to export copper as well.

MP Muzammil pointed out that copper should be recycled and used within the country, without exporting. However, while the Yahapalana government allowed the

said factory owner to export copper, they have imported copper wasting millions of rupees, he added. State Minister Cabraal said that the present Government has taken a decision to stop copper imports while encouraging copper recycling.

He also said the Government is planning to extract copper from natural copper deposits in Seruwawila. Samagi Jana Balawegaya MP Lakshman Kiriella requested the Government to cater to the needs of people who are involved in the traditional copperware industry, if it is completely stopping copper imports.



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa called on the newly appointed Chief Prelate of the Sri Lanka Ramanna Maha Nikaya, Most Ven. Makulewe Wimala Nayaka Thera and received the Chief Prelate's blessings. Picture courtesy President's Media Division

## President calls on new Chief Prelate of Sri Lanka Ramanna Maha Nikaya

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

The President who visited the Vidyawasa Pirivena in Minioluwa, Mirigama where the Nayaka Thera resides extended his best wishes to the newly appointed Chief Prelate.

Appreciating the unparalleled service rendered by the Ramanna Maha Nikaya for the Sambuddha Sasana and to the Nation, President Rajapaksa said that he and the Government

## Indian NSA urges PM to initiate dialogue on COVID recovery

National Security Adviser (NSA) of India Ajit Doval yesterday told Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa that a dialogue among countries in the region would be helpful to find solutions and strategies to overcome economic difficulties created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

To this end, the Indian National Security Adviser suggested that the Prime Minister Rajapaksa take the lead in building a dialogue between other countries in the region with the aim of finding a solution to the recession and develop strategies to revive the economies affected due

to the region's situation. Doval made these remarks



Visiting National Security Adviser of India Ajit Doval called on Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa at the latter's official residence at Wijerama Mawatha in Colombo yesterday. Picture courtesy Prime Minister's Media Unit



Finance and fiscal policy far

## Batticaloa Sharia Campus will not operate as a private institution - G.L.



SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

The Batticaloa Sharia Campus will not be allowed to operate as a private institution under its present management board, Education Minister Professor G.L. Peiris told Parliament yesterday.

Professor Peiris also said that the Batticaloa Sharia Campus will be absorbed by the Government and it shall be linked with a major university so that the campus's facilities could be utilized by the students.

"The present Government will never allow extremist forces to operate in the country unlike the Yahapalana Government," Prof. Peiris also assured.

Prof. Peiris made these observations responding to a question raised by Parliamentarian

It was revealed during the meeting of the Committee on Public Finance that 74 per cent of the 2020 fiscal revenue has been received so far.

Secretary to the Ministry of Finance and the Treasury S.R. Attgalle in response to a question raised by the Chairman of the Committee Parliamentary Anura Priyadarshana Yapa regarding Government Revenue for the year 2020, said Rs.1,124 billion out of the expected total Government Revenue of Rs.1,580 billion has been received.

The Committee on Public Finance met in Parliament on Thursday under the Chairmanship of Parliamentary Anura Priyadarshana Yapa and Members of the Committee, State Minister Susil Premajayantha and Members of Parliament M. A. Sumanthiran, Dr. Harsha de Silva, Dilan Perera and A. Pasqual, the Parliament Communication Division said in a statement.

The Committee met to review the

## COVID-19 recoveries top 16,000 mark

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The number of people who have recovered from COVID-19 in Sri Lanka crossed the 16,000 mark yesterday.

According to the statistics of the Epidemiology Unit, the total number of coronavirus recoveries reported in the country increased to 16,226 with 410 recoveries reported yesterday.

The total number of COVID-19 positive cases detected from the country reached 22,028 and 5,703 of them are still under medical care.

The National Operations Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO) stated that the total number of COVID-19 positive cases reported from the Minuwangoda garment factory and Peliyagoda Fish Market clusters stand at 18,487. Of them, 3,059 were from the Minuwangoda cluster and 15,428 were from the Peliyagoda Fish Market cluster.

## Due to import restrictions

# Country saves US\$ 3.3 bn in first 10 months

## Sharp drop in import costs

MAHINDA ALUTHGEDERA

The Central Bank of Sri Lanka says that due to the import restrictions aimed at strengthening the Sri Lankan economy, the country has been able to save US\$ 3.3 billion in the first 10 months of this year.

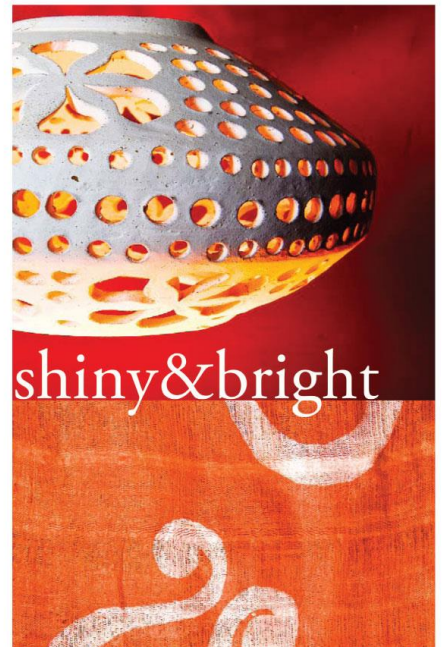
The Director General of the Economic Research Department of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Dr. C. Amarasekera, said that the restriction on imports as well as the reduction in world oil prices has had



a direct impact on this and that it is a huge boost to the Sri Lankan economy and provides an opportunity to repay loans without any additional pressure.

He pointed out that the cost of imports in Sri Lanka had fallen sharply in the first 10 months of this year compared to the same period last

year. He said the cost of imports which was US\$ 16.6 billion during the first 10 months



## Sri Lankans evacuated from Ethiopia's Tigray war zone

The Sri Lanka Embassy in Ethiopia, in consultation with the Foreign Ministry of Sri Lanka and the United Nations in Ethiopia, successfully facilitated the evacuation of thirty-eight (38) Sri Lankan nationals from the war

The Sri Lankan nationals, along with foreign nationals belonging to a number of countries, were evacuated by United Nations convoys from Tigray to the Afar region of Ethiopia and have been transported to the capital Addis

## Formulate National Land Policy - Gayantha

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI



Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) Member of Parliament Gayantha Karunathilake requested the Gov-