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SRI LANKA'S ENGLISH NEWSPAPER WITH THE LARGEST CIRCULATION
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UPWARDS**



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**BUDGET 2021, A RELIEF
TO PEOPLE WHILE
CONTROLLING COVID-19**

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**THE VELLALA STRUGGLE TO RETAIN
POWER IN POST-COLONIAL PERIOD**

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**Youth
OBSERVER**

**SAILING THROUGH
ADVERSITY FOR A
BETTER CAUSE**



**PROF. VAJIRA DISSANAYAKE
APPOINTED SLMC
PRESIDENT**

Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Prof. Vajira Dissanayake has been appointed President, Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC), as recommended by the five-member Committee of Experts appointed by Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi.

Prof. Dissanayake is a pioneer in Genetic and Genomic Medicine, Biomedical Informatics and Bioethics in Sri Lanka. He holds the positions of Head and Chair, Prof of Anatomy; Director,



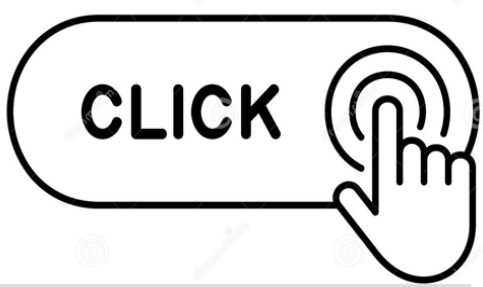
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“TESTING REGIME NEEDS TO BE LAUNCHED SOON”

AIR CORRIDORS WILL HELP REVIVE TOURISM INDUSTRY

By Aanya Wipulasena

Air corridors between key business and leisure destinations will help the tourism industry to recover and provide an economic boost but testing is the key, World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) Managing Director Virginia Messina told the *Sunday Observer* yesterday. She said more losses would be incurred in the tourism industry travel barriers such as quarantine



nothing changes, 106.7 million jobs could be lost. “Additionally, travel and tourism GDP losses in 2020 have already amounted to US\$1,475 billion in the Asian region and could grow to US\$1,801 billion if barriers to travel, such as quarantine remain,” the official said.

The recovery time of tourism was 19.4 months on an average during the previous diseases. According to the WTTC Crisis Report, travel and tourism is becoming

more resilient and could recover faster and specific recommendations such as public-private cooperation are essential.

The WTTC hopes that there will be a new normal in the post-pandemic world. Messina said the Council has identified four emerging trends for the future of the sector, such as, demand evolution, health and hygiene, innovation and digitisation and sustainability.

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Global Covid-19 cases top 62 million

The number of worldwide coronavirus cases topped 62 million yesterday as a vaccine to counter the Covid-19 is awaiting official approval in the United States.

As of yesterday afternoon, the number of worldwide cases reported were over 62,100,000.

The United States accounted for the highest number with over 13,460,000 affected people, while

India was second with around 9,360,000 reported cases. Sri

Lanka was 98th in the global list of affected countries with almost 23,000 cases of which

16,300 people have recovered and 107 deaths.



India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval who arrived in Colombo to participate in the high level trilateral maritime cooperation meeting between Sri Lanka, India and the Maldives called on Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa on Friday. The top Indian envoy also met the Defence Secretary retired Major General Kamal Gunaratne where they discussed matters pertaining to the growing defence and security partnership between the two countries and agreed on several steps to further strengthen defence ties; the Indian High Commission tweeted.

New tourist destinations identified to reach target

- Ranatunga



By Uditha Kumarasinghe

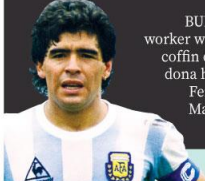
Minister of Tourism Prasanna Ranatunga said if we successfully control the second wave of

Covid-19 and open the country to tourists, it would help uplift the tourism sector within six months.

If we don't face any natural calamity next year, we...

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Funeral worker apologises over Maradona's coffin photos



BUENOS AIRES, Nov. 28 (BBC) - A funeral worker who took a photograph next to the open coffin of Argentine football icon Diego Maradona has asked fans for forgiveness. Claudio Fernández was pictured standing next to Maradona's body, alongside his son, who made a thumbs-up gesture.

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Maradona graphic story on page 14

Prompt solution to check illegal Indian fishing - Devananda

Minister of Fisheries Douglas Devananda told the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Fisheries in the Parliament complex recently that a prompt solution will be reached to prevent Indian fishermen fish illegally, crossing the territorial waters of Sri Lanka after

terrestrial Affairs Ministry in New Delhi. State Minister Kanchana Wijesekera said that the Indian fishermen have been fishing illegally not only in the Northern and Eastern territorial waters but also in the Southern territorial waters and that prompt action should be taken to end such illegal activities

Lanka hosts trilateral dialogue on maritime security cooperation

India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Maldivian Defence Minister Maria Didi arrived in Colombo on Friday to participate in the high-level trilateral dialogue on maritime security cooperation

between India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Sri Lanka is hosting the fourth trilateral meeting on maritime security cooperation with its two neighbouring states, India and the Maldives. The dialogue this

year is after a lapse of six years. The last meeting was held in New Delhi in 2014. The top Indian envoy called on Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and met Defence Secretary Major General (Rtd.)

Kamal Gunaratne on Friday. "NSA conveyed greetings from PM@narendramodi and recalled the contribution of the successful Virtual Bilateral Summit between the two leaders..."

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Presidential pardon for around 600 prisoners