

ONE INMATE DEAD, THREE INJURED IN MAHARA PRISON UNREST

Another botched prison escape at Bogambara

LAHIRU FERNANDO

Prison officials at the Old Bogambara Prison apprehended four inmates who attempted to escape from the Quarantine Centre set up at the prison premises in the wee hours of yesterday. The escapees had been

● Prison guards, Police, STF bring situation under control

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

Officers of the Mahara Prison had used force in order to bring under control an unrest which had arisen at the Mahara Prison last evening, said Police Media Spokesperson DIG Ajith Rohana.

He said according to reports, one prisoner had died and three other inmates had been injured in the incident. In addition, four police teams

headed by the Kelaniya and Ragama OICs have been deployed to bring the situation under control. Teams of Special Task Force personnel had also been deployed to bring the situation under control.

These teams have been deployed in order to provide security to the outer perimeter of the Mahara Prison.

A tense situation had arisen at the Mahara Prison due to a clash between

the prison guards and the inmates. With several of the prison inmates being infected with the Coronavirus, another group of prisoners had attempted to escape from prison. This situation had led to a tense situation arising at the Mahara Prison and the prison authorities had to use force to bring the situation under control and prevent the prisoners from escaping. Meanwhile, the number

● Prisoners' escape attempts thwarted

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No room to commemorate terrorists - Keheliya



ASELA KURULUWANSA AND S.K. SAMARANAYAKE

Mass Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella said that no opportunity will be given to commemorate the terrorists in an organized and large scale manner.

He further said that even though they are terrorists, there are no obstacles for the parents of the terrorists who died during the war to personally perform alms and remember their children.

He was speaking to the media after laying the foundation stone for the establishment of a Girls' School in the Digana-Rajawella area in Kandy based on the concept of 'Green and Smart School'.

He emphasized that allowing celebrations in the

Independence of judiciary should be safeguarded - Justice Minister



SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

Referring to various statements being made regarding court verdicts in the country in the recent past, Justice Minister Ali Sabry, PC, said that the independence of the judiciary should be safeguarded.

"The independence of the judiciary should be protected not for the Government or the Opposition, it should be safeguarded for the people of this country. Eventually the only place a person could go to seek justice is the Courts. Therefore, while safeguarding the independence of the judiciary, we must also remember that the judiciary is not bound to give their verdicts to suit the whims and fancies of anyone," he told the House.

He noted that in the past many Court verdicts had been given to satisfy certain groups. "There are reasons for that. In the Civil Appellate Courts alone last Thursday, 60 verdicts were given and the Court of Appeal had given 30 verdicts. In between that several other Court verdicts were also given."

However, he said the judiciary was under severe pressure during the last five years. He said the PCID was established in violation of the Police Ordinance. Sabry said it was very evident how this



National Security Advisor of India Ajit Doval called on President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the Presidential Secretariat on Saturday evening. Picture courtesy President's Media Division

Pres

The National Security Advisor of India called on the President at the Presidential Secretariat on Saturday evening. The President's Advisor engaged in further relations.



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UGC to provide computers to new entrants on easy payment terms



ASELA KURULUWANSA

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has intended to provide computers to all the students that enter the universities this year.

UGC Chairman Prof. Sampath Amarantunga said that the People's Bank has agreed to provide a loan to every student to purchase a computer, and only the interest on that amount will have to be paid monthly during their university education.

He was speaking to the media after the launch of Research Papers for the year 2020 at the Postgraduate Institute of Science, at the University of Peradeniya on Thursday (26).

The UGC Chairman said that the monthly interest for the loan of purchasing a computer is Rs.500 and after systematically paying it during the university period students will get the opportunity to pay the loan after being employed.

He said this decision was taken as a separate amount was charged additionally apart from the interest by the previous loan given and students found it difficult to pay Rs.2,500 from the Rs.5,000 Mahapala Scholarship Fund.

Prof. Amarantunga emphasized that computer

Separate unit at CNH to conduct PCR tests on COVID dead

MOHAMMED RASOOLDEEN

The Ministry of Health is to set up a separate unit at the Colombo National Hospital (CNH) to conduct PCR tests on remains of persons who die in their homes.

The Health Consultative Committee, chaired by Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi made this decision at the Committee meeting held at the Parliamentary Complex on Saturday.

The proposed unit will conduct the PCR tests on bodies that are taken to the morgue from homes due to the existing quarantine regulations. The unit will release the respective clinical reports of the PCR within 24 hours to enable the families to perform their religious rites accordingly if the PCR reports are negative. In the event of a positive report, the hospital would make its own arrangements

Peradeniya University developing kit for PCR tests

ASELA KURULUWANSA

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya Prof. Upul Dissanayake said that the University of Peradeniya is developing a test kit that can perform a PCR test for less than Rs.15,000.

He said that the team of experts conducting research on the new test kit has now conducted a

large number of sample tests and obtained successful results.

He further said that the University Grants Commission is financially assisting the research and the research team is focused on developing a new set of rules that would allow quick results from field trials. Prof. Dissanayake also said the university is conduct-

ing PCR tests as required by the Health Authorities. The university is capable of conducting around 400 PCR tests per day.

Moreover, he added that the PCR machines received by the university as an appreciation for the research reports by University lecturers were donated to the Government hospitals.



Colombo HC to deliver order in Divi Neguma case today

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Colombo High Court is to deliver its order today (30) regarding an application filed on behalf of former Minister Basil Rajapaksa and three others requesting to acquit them from the Divi Neguma case, without calling defence evidence.

The former Minister and three others had filed this application through their lawyers on the basis that the prosecution evidence has failed to establish the Commission of the offence charges against the accused in the indictment.

This order will be delivered by High Court Judge R. Gurusinghe. The Attorney General had filed indictments against former

Ruwan urges Opposition to unite

SHIROMI ABEYSINGHE

United National Party (UNP) deputy leader Ruwan Wijewardene said that steps will be taken to bring all forces to the same platform against the "repressive and destructive programme being carried out by the Government".

He further said that all Opposition forces should unite unconditionally and fight against the rule of the Government.



He was addressing a meeting of party members in Monaragala on Friday (28), the third in a series of district level island-wide programmes under the auspices of the UNP reorganization programme led by him.

Wijewardene pointed out that the hope and objective of all should be to prevent the misuse of the power by the present Government through

Tipper driver who intentionally ran over PC arrested

DILSHAN THARAKA

The tipper driver who intentionally ran over a Police Constable during a raid on an illegal sand mining operation in Kobbegama was arrested by the Nikaweratiya Police yesterday.

Police Media Spokesperson DIG Ajith Rohana said that the Police Constable attached to the Kobbegama Police Station was killed while he attempted to stop the tipper during a raid on an illegal sand mining racket near the Deduru Oya.

The 27-year-old tipper driver had ignored the command of the Police Constable and

fled from the area while intentionally running over the Police Constable.

The suspected driver was subsequently arrested in the Nikaweratiya area by the Nikaweratiya Police yesterday and the Police were also able to discover the tipper which was used to transport illegal sand from the Kuliyapitiya area. The Magistrate's Inquest of the deceased Constable was carried out by the Nikaweratiya Magistrate and the post-mortem was conducted by the Judicial Medical Officer yesterday. DIG Rohana said that the Police Constable's funeral will be conducted with full Police honours.